

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ANDRÉ ASHBY AND *WILD AND MIGHTY FIRE*

André Ashby is a humble follower of Jesus and a seeker of His presence. His life is devoted to loving, worshipping, and walking with the Creator of the universe. He is a living example of someone set afire for the Lord. In this wonderful book, *Wild and Mighty Fire*, André invites you to step out of the status quo and enter into the glory of God. I highly recommend this book to all who are hungry and thirsty to experience a deeper relationship with Holy Spirit!

—Dr. Ché Ahn

Apostle, Harvest Apostolic Center
Founding pastor, HRock Church, Pasadena, CA
President, Harvest International Ministry

Friends of André Ashby have been trying to get him to write about his history with God for years, and you're about to find out why. For many years, I've admired André's honest wrestling with God, and the profound ways God has demonstrated His love through André, and to him as well. This book will challenge and provoke you to greater intimacy with God, and co-laboring with Him to see His glory revealed in the earth.

—William Ford III

Director, Marketplace Leadership
Christ for the Nations Institute
Author, *Created for Influence: Transforming Culture From
Where You Are*

As I read this book by my friend, prophet André Ashby, two things were evident, both of which were ingredients for success during the birth of the church in Acts 4:33: God's great power and God's great grace. André draws our attention to both topics through his passion for the church to grow in first the knowledge, second the reception, and last the dispensing of these non-negotiable attributes. It was through these vehicles that the church gave effective witness to the resurrection of our Lord. This is something this book helps us to relearn.

—Glenn Dunlop

Senior leader, Karmel City Church, Belfast, Northern Ireland

André Ashby is uniquely qualified to write this book! He is a friend of the Holy Spirit and a carrier of God's glory. Andre writes with firsthand knowledge of the way of the Holy Spirit. You will laugh and maybe cry as you read this enlightening book. Enjoy it, drink it in, and then pray that powerful prayer over yourself and your family: "Come, Holy Spirit!" Watch what will happen to you after reading this book. Then make sure you share it with a friend!

—Brian Simmons

Lead translator, The Passion Translation Project

André Ashby's book, *Wild and Mighty Fire*, will whet your appetite to move in the power of the Holy Spirit, make you hungry for radical encounters that take you deeper into the heart of Jesus, and challenge you to a lifestyle of doing the greater works promised us through the Holy Spirit! If these are the longings of your heart, then this is a book you must read!

I had the privilege of serving and walking alongside Jill Austin for almost seventeen years. For a few years, André traveled with us to many cities and nations. I was struck by his humility, his extraordinary vocal gifting, the passionate prophetic songs the Lord gave him that would break open a room and change lives, his teaching and preaching gifts, the fiery anointing on his life, and his friendship with the Holy Spirit.

We need the Word of God and the Spirit of God to powerfully impact this world! André's book couples biblical truths with his radical adventures with the Holy Spirit, which can ignite your heart and set you on fire so you can also blaze a trail in God for others to follow!

—Linda Valen

Ministry director, Master Potter Ministries

André Ashby's book, *Wild and Mighty Fire*, contains simple but powerful revelation and wisdom from God that the body of Christ will appreciate. In a day when there is so much confusion and hype, André Ashby brings clarity and simplicity to how we are to follow the Lord. It is great to see a book come along that stirs up hunger for more of Holy Spirit. I truly believe this book will strengthen the faith and create a greater desire for Holy Spirit. André's insight that comes from his personal encounters with the Lord will definitely bless the reader.

—Ryan C. Lee

Lead pastor, Blessed International Revival Center, Anaheim, CA

I have known André since 1993 and have never met anyone like him. His story comes from a passion for Jesus that is both sovereign but transferable, as I have seen in so many meetings in which he has taught, ministered, and sung. His relationship with our dear friend, the prophet and spiritual mother Jill Austin, impacted him in a way that marked his own journey, which will now mark yours. André has one of the most unique operations of the manifest presence of God on the planet. His book tells stories that will provoke you to ask God for a lifestyle of friendship with the Holy Spirit. I was so excited to relive some of these experiences and also hear new stories.

Even more, I was so glad that André teaches out of these experiences some really fresh revelation so that we can have this anointing and friendship with the Holy Spirit that he does. In a time when the body of Christ needs a great awakening, a new “Jesus people” movement, André is releasing a book with one of the most important keys: visitation of the Holy Spirit.

—Shawn Bolz

Senior pastor, Expression58

Author, *Keys to Heavens Economy* and *Translating God*

We have been privileged to know André Ashby over the past twenty years and consider him part of our family. We can honestly say that because of the level of intimacy that André walks in with God, he carries His presence wherever he goes. Although his life has been filled with struggles, he has experienced God's faithfulness over and over again, and has chosen to be an overcomer.

André is accustomed to the presence of the Lord, and while he has shared some extraordinary stories with us in this book, these experiences only leave him longing for more. We highly recommend *Wild and Mighty Fire*, and believe that it will not only encourage you, but challenge you in your walk with Jesus. We hope that reading this book will inspire you to press in to know God in a deeper way and experience the power of His presence!

—Craig and Suzy Nelson

Founders, Miracles in the Marketplace International and the
School of Miracles & Ministry

WILD &
MIGHTY
FIRE

WILD & MIGHTY FIRE

Encounter the Power of the Holy Spirit

ANDRÉ ASHBY



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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WILD AND MIGHTY FIRE:
Encounter the Power of the Holy Spirit

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DEDICATION

While many leaders have taught me how to walk and minister with the Holy Spirit, two who have poured most profoundly into the foundation of my ministry are James Goll and Jill Austin. The first class I took at Grace Training Center was James Goll's. He was the one who called me out to minister through prophetic song. Jill Austin, my spiritual mother, followed the cloud and the fire of the Spirit like no one else I have known. Her entire life was about getting out of the way and simply inviting the Holy Spirit to come and do what He does. Her heart's cry, and mine, is that an entire generation of believers would sign up for the same adventure.

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FOREWORD

For over forty years, as I have traveled the globe in full-time vocational ministry, I have observed, partaken of, and eventually been a leader in various movements of the Holy Spirit. Each wave of Holy Spirit carries a distinct quality or characteristic of God the Father, but is always centered on the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is an honor to be an ambassador for Christ whether before a small group of three people or a large gathering of over one hundred thousand people. What a great privilege it is to represent the Creator of the universe. But as no two snowflakes are identical, so also are the movements and messengers God raises up.

At times, having been in so many meetings for so many years, things start to become a bit of a blur for me, with all the details fading in the background. On the other hand, there are those divine moments that are etched in my mind that I carry as treasures close to my heart. My first encounter with André Ashby fits into this latter category.

I was ministering at one of the six congregational locations within the Kansas City Fellowship on a Sunday morning, completing a three-week series on “Varieties of Prophetic Anointings.” I really did not know the members of this particular location, so I called out a young black man and invited him to do what I did. I spoke in tongues and then interpreted the gift into English. I told

him to do the same. After that, I said we were going to sing in the Spirit and then sing the interpretation in English. I sang forth in the Spirit in my full baritone voice and then this humble gentleman opened wide his mouth and out came this angelic prophetic sound that pierced the atmosphere. So André and I met by prophetically singing together.

Well, that started our relationship, which continues twenty-five years later! Funny thing, he was a visitor that day. But he is not a visitor any more to the things of Holy Spirit. André is one of the premier prophetic singers in the land. He carries a mantle of fire that is the most similar to Jill Austin's than anyone on the planet. Now I can say that because it's the truth and I know. I was there as a part of this gentle giant's beginning and I will continue cheering him on into the new things that God has for him—like composing this book you now hold in your hand.

It is my great honor and delight to commend to you both the consecrated life of this gentle, fiery giant in Christ Jesus and the prophetic grace that rests upon him. Well done, André! Well done!

—*Dr. James W. Goll*

International best-selling author
Founder, Encounters Network Prayer Storm | GET eSchool

INTRODUCTION

Over three years ago, the Lord began speaking to me about the message of this book. “I’m looking for a church that will be led by My Spirit,” He told me, “just as Israel was led through the wilderness by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.”

The people of Israel camped around the presence of God. When the presence moved, they moved. God had complete access to rearrange their lives in order to get them where He wanted them to go.

Romans 8:14 declares, “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*” The proof we have given the Holy Spirit His rightful place in our lives is that when He shows up and begins to move—we follow. We trust Him to rearrange our lives.

The Spirit has one primary agenda: to lead us into the fullness of living as beloved sons and daughters who look and act like Jesus. Many believers have a hard time grasping the idea that Jesus’s intimacy with the Father, His purity, passion, and character, and His works of power, authority, and compassion are not an unattainable ideal, but are the very Christian life available to us through the Holy Spirit. This is why we must give the Holy Spirit full access to all that we are.

In the pages ahead, I offer what I have learned about how to move with the Holy Spirit when He comes. I've seen Him come in so many ways over the past twenty years in ministry, and yet I know there is so much more to see in the years ahead. May we be the generation who invites Him to lead us into realms of intimacy and transformation that will meet the cry of His heart and ours. May we make a place for Him to move.

Come, Holy Spirit.

1

THE FIRE LADY

In 1992, while studying at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory of Music, I began attending a prayer meeting focused on Israel at Metro Christian Fellowship, the church where the International House of Prayer was born. One Friday night in December, I came to the meeting and was surprised to learn that we had a guest ministering to us that night, a woman I had never heard of before.

Instead of launching into a message, this woman merely said three words.

“Come, Holy Spirit.”

It was as if a firebomb exploded in the room. People began to have encounters with the God of heaven that astounded me. There was no question in my mind that God was real and He was there in our midst. Angels began to move in the room as the Holy Spirit gripped people and released their destinies.

The woman didn’t really touch or lay hands on anybody. God Himself was encountering His people. I immediately recognized that the relationship she had with the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, was very rare, but I also knew in my heart that I was created to do what she was doing. I knew I was called to move

in the supernatural realms of the Holy Spirit, where all things are possible.

That woman was Jill Austin, and she became my spiritual mother. Everything I have learned about how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and move with His power stems from my time ministering with Jill. Thus, the best way I know to introduce you to the Holy Spirit is to tell you about the woman who immersed me in Him.

THE POTTER HEARS GOD

Jill Austin came to the Lord during the height of the Jesus People movement, which swept the country in the late sixties and early seventies. In that movement, God visited the youth of the United States with life-altering revival. Many of our church leaders today came into the body of Christ during that time. It is my prayer that God will do it again. Father God, release another Jesus People movement, for Your holy name's sake!

Jill's first career was as an award-winning professional potter. As a recognized fine artist, she was invited to participate in a Christian art festival. Thousands of people attended, but all of the "messy" artists, like the potters, were set up on the lower field away from the main action and seemed to attract less attention. Jill began to create. When she looked up from the wheel, she saw that her meager audience had all left. She began to cry and prayed, "Lord, if this has no life in it, I don't want to do it anymore." As far as she was concerned, she was done making pottery at the festival.

Then a couple of kids came along and kept bugging her to make a pot. She finally relented and told them she would do it on the last day. The last day rolled around and the kids hadn't forgotten. Reluctantly, she agreed to make the pot.

As she centered the clay on the wheel, Jill heard the voice of the Lord. He began to say things like, "Before you were formed in

your mother's womb, I knew you. I have a plan for your life. I will strengthen you. I will build you up."

She said to the Lord, "Wow, that's good."

"Well, if it's so good, why don't you repeat it?" He said.

So that's what she did. Then, when she finished making the vessel, she looked up. A crowd had gathered, and many were weeping. She knew then God had given her a gift, but she didn't know it was called prophecy. All she knew was that God had spoken and she had repeated His words.

NO SCRIPT—"JUST FOLLOW ME"

With the explosion of the Jesus People movement, the church Jill attended went from a couple of hundred to over a thousand in a very short period of time. They started bringing in bands on Saturday nights, and were looking for opening acts. The pastor called Jill into his office and said, "I hear you are doing stories on the potter's wheel."

"I've done one," she said.

"Well, I want you to do one this Saturday before the band performs."

Jill agreed. On Saturday, she showed up at church in her overalls, while the band was decked out in shiny black jackets. She later told me they looked at her like, "Where did you come from?"

When she walked over to the pastor, he asked, "Are you ready?"

"Yes, pastor, I'm ready."

"Do you have your script?"

"Script? What's a script?"

"The words you wrote down and memorized," he said. "The words you speak while you are making the pot."

She said, "Well, God speaks to me and I just repeat it."

The pastor shook his head. "No, you can't do it that way."

Suddenly stripped of confidence, she exclaimed, "You're right! I can't do it that way!"

Jill ran out of the office, found a broom closet, and put her face up against the mops. "Lord, I didn't know I needed a script, but I guess I do," she prayed. "I need a script." But no matter how hard she tried, nothing would come out—she later described it as a kind of spiritual constipation.

After a bit, she heard the pastor asking, "Where did she go?"

One of the band members said, "I think she's down the hall in the closet."

She heard them approach the closet door, and then they knocked.

"Yes, come in," she replied.

"No, you come out."

Nervously, Jill came out. The pastor and band member pushed her toward the stage, where she saw her wheel standing ready on the other side. She stepped up on stage and froze. Everything began to fade in and out. She said, "Oh no, Lord! I'm about to pass out!"

The Lord spoke to her. "You know Me, right?"

"Yes, Lord. I know You."

"And you know you're clay, right?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Just follow Me."

So she followed the Lord across the stage and sat down at the wheel. As she centered the clay, the Lord began to speak to her and she simply repeated what He said. Then and there, Master Potter

Ministries was born. Jill took Jeremiah 18:2–5 as the ministry’s key verses:

“Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

RELEASING THE FIRE OF GOD

As the ministry grew, Jill raised up an acting troupe who interpreted the stories she told while creating pieces on the wheel. They began to notice that as they performed, God would come and grip people. Men would weep in each other’s arms. Some would get delivered, while others would have open visions. But it didn’t happen everywhere. God began to teach Jill why He moved the way He did, and how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He moved.

There is a principle in life and in the Scriptures that something first occurs in the natural and then in the spiritual. (See 1 Corinthians 15:46.) That is exactly the way it worked with the beloved Jill Austin. Because Jill worked with kilns as a potter, God began to teach her about His fire. John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire (see Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16), but His is not the fire of destruction—it is the fire that empowers us to be who He created us to be.

Have you ever been in a worship service and felt electrified, as if every cell of your body vibrated in worship to our King? If so, then you’ve experienced the fire of God in worship. Other times, the glory fire is released when God invades a place with His manifest presence. People begin to see angels and encounter heaven in a way that ruins them for anything else.



*The glory fire is released
when God invades a place with
His manifest presence.*

After a while, God instructed Jill to lay down her potter's wheel and just preach and release the fire of God. So Jill became a fiery preacher and prophetic minister. Eventually, she joined the prophetic movement in Kansas City at Metro Christian Fellowship. This move coincided with a heavenly sign.

In 1993, Bob Jones, an amazing "fatherly seer prophet" within this highly gifted group, prophesied that there would be a new voice assigned to the movement, and an actual comet in the natural would confirm its arrival. When Jill arrived in Kansas City, the sky was indeed lit up by a comet. Aptly, it was named the Austin Comet. Anyone who ever witnessed Jill ministering would agree it was a perfect metaphor. The raw power released by the Holy Spirit was like a fiery comet colliding with the earthly realm.

Night after night, Jill ministered for hours, desperate for everyone to encounter the raw fire of God. When I ministered alongside her, my role was to sing prophetically on the themes she would call out to me. I remember ministering in meetings with Jill until one and two o'clock in the morning, and each time she would leave asking, "What else could we have done? How could we have helped more people experience Him?" Her consuming desire was to see all His people moving in the power of the Holy Spirit. She wanted every church where she ministered to be not just a place of visitation by the Spirit, but a place truly inhabited by Him.

I could tell countless stories about people encountering the fire of God at Jill's meetings, but one in particular, which I witnessed personally, still amazes me. A young man walked into one of the meetings and was instantaneously lifted off the floor, then slammed to the ground. He wrestled with this unseen force for about three hours. I recall seeing him crawling to the wall to try to pull himself up, only to be snatched right back down.

When he was interviewed later, he said that on the way to the meeting, his friends had asked him if he was afraid to go, knowing he was somewhat rebellious at the time. He had answered, "No.

I've been around some of the top prophetic leaders, Bob Jones and Paul Cain. Nothing ever happens to me." Yet as soon as he entered the room, he felt two large hands grab him around the waist, and he heard a voice whisper in his ear, "I thought you said nothing ever happens to you." That's when he was thrown to the floor—and when he was radically changed.

HEARING "HOLY GHOST STORIES"

Jill modeled dependence on the Holy Spirit like no one I have seen before or since. She had a childlike faith. Willing to risk her own failure and embarrassment and take chances, Jill lived to see Him minister to every individual she encountered. As a woman in ministry, especially one who walked in the level of anointing she had, Jill was a pioneer. She frequently experienced rejection and ridicule for what the Holy Spirit did through her, but she didn't care. She loved Jesus with her whole heart and the Holy Spirit was her Friend. She spoke to Him, calling out, "Holy Spirit," rather than *about* Him, saying "*the* Holy Spirit." The simple act of addressing Him by name revealed her level of intimacy with Him.

Jill also had a very accurate prophetic gift born of this intimacy. She spoke razor-sharp truth to individuals and leaders all over the world. She didn't just save it for meetings and formal events. Jill would walk right up to people in the course of everyday life and give them a timely word free from religious jargon so they could understand it and use it right away.

I loved to sit and listen to her "Holy Ghost stories," as she called them. One of my favorites was about the time Jill and the troupe of actors with whom she traveled were on a plane, heading out on a ministry trip. Jill was sitting by the aisle, her friend and team member Naomi was in the middle seat, and a man they didn't know had the window seat. As the plane took off, Jill's eyes met the stranger's.

"You have a spirit of murder on you," she said to him.

"Not now, Jill," Naomi urged.

Jill pressed on. "But he does. He wants to kill his wife."

The guy made a kind of growl.

Unperturbed, Jill continued. "You're also afraid of narcotics agents because you are a cocaine dealer."

I don't know what happened during the rest of the flight, but I do know that when the plane landed, Jill and Naomi had a three-hour layover. Instead of getting away from them as fast as he could, this guy followed them around the airport asking question after question. By the time they made their connecting flight, he'd given his life to Christ. Now isn't that what the true prophetic ministry is supposed to be about? "*The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10).

Another of my favorite stories is about the day Jill had to go to traffic court. (Consider this proof she was still human like the rest of us.) Knowing there was a long, boring day of sitting ahead of her, she showed up prepared to work on correspondence for the ministry. She arranged her work on the desk where she was seated, and everyone else did the same. Just as they were settled, the judge announced, "Everyone needs to clear their desks or they won't get credit for this." You can imagine the collective sighs and grumbles.

Jill remembered thinking, *Oh no, Lord, this is going to be a boring day. Can You just give me words of knowledge for people?*

The Lord began to speak to her about various people in the room. He told her the judge was going through a midlife crisis and had just bought a red sports car. He told her that another guy, also there for traffic court, was a lawyer. Jill thought he looked more like a criminal, but the Lord insisted he was an attorney.

A moment later, the judge asked, "Is there an attorney here?"



*Intimacy with God is
just the beginning. What He is
really after is divine union.*

No one responded. The man the Lord had said was an attorney had his head down, clearly not planning to come clean. Jill pointed at him and said, “Well, he is.” The judge asked how she knew and she said, “God told me.” The judge then asked the man if this was true, and he admitted that yes, he was an attorney.

Later during a break, Jill approached the man.

“Are you a psychic?” he asked.

She said, “No. I love Jesus,” and began to prophesy over him. He hung on every word.

If I told all of Jill’s Holy Ghost stories, it would take an entire book. Long before anyone had heard of “treasure hunts”—in which you ask God to help you identify specific people to pray for—God used a childlike woman from California to model what it might look like to simply hear God in everyday life and love people with His heart.

“ALL I HAVE IS HIM”

There is so much more I could say about Jill Austin. She was a prophet who saw into the spirit realm. She was an ambassador of the King who moved in the raw power of God. But most of all, she was a daughter of God, a friend of the Holy Spirit, and a lover of Jesus. She will be remembered not just for her incredible exploits, but for the intimacy she had with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Her willingness to go and do whatever He told her to do—simply because she loved Him—humbles me. As a single woman in ministry, she moved in places where many men lack the courage to go. And she was never afraid to confront the religious order for shutting down the movement of God.

When asked why the Holy Spirit came so powerfully when she ministered, her response was, “Well, you all have wives or husbands. All I have is Him.”

The Lord once said to me that I thought intimacy with Him was the ultimate goal, but He wanted me to understand that intimacy is just the beginning. What He is really after is *divine union*. Jill demonstrated this union with her life of obedience to Him, and I'm deeply honored to call her my spiritual mother. I pray her heart's cry becomes ours: "Lord, all I have is You, and You are more than enough for me." Truly, His presence is the only thing that satisfies. Nothing but more of Him will do.

"UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS..."

Two weeks before Jill went home to be with the Lord, I heard the Lord saying Jill was not going to be with us much longer. In denial, I told myself it was just me, brushed it off, and didn't think about it anymore. The possibility of Jill's death made no sense to me because I knew she had some big promises yet to be fulfilled. She had great things she wanted to do for God, and like her, I really believed her desires were from Him.

Then, on January 8, 2009, I received a call telling me Jill was in critical condition and I needed to pray. Every time I prayed, I heard John 12:24 in my mind: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."*

"Lord, what does it mean?" I asked. I didn't want to accept that I already knew what it meant—the Lord was calling her home. On January 9, at about 7:45 p.m. California time, I had a vision of Jill before the throne of God, her hands lifted as she worshipped her King. I knew she was gone. I later learned that, indeed, Jill had died in Kansas City at 9:48 p.m. on January 9, 2009.

The Lord began to speak to me about John 12:24. He said Jill had fallen into the ground like a seed, and as a result, the anointing that was on her life was about to be released to the body of Christ. All the promises she carried and the works she did would

be passed to the next generation. I was reminded of a conversation I'd had with Jill years before while on a flight to a ministry engagement. I don't even remember what we had been discussing, but at one point, she looked at me and said, "André, one day I am going to be in the great cloud of witnesses cheering you on, saying, 'André, go for it! Run with everything in you!'"

As I recalled her words, I began to understand: her baton had been passed to us, and we must now run our part in the race. I have picked up the baton in this relay race and am running my lap with Holy Spirit. Are you?

After Jill died, I dreamed about her on many occasions. In one symbolic dream, I walked into a room and Jill was sitting in a chair. She didn't look up at me, but I started talking to her anyway. I wanted to tell her how sad I was that she had passed. When she did not acknowledge me, I decided to try another tactic, and began telling her of the dream I'd had right after she died. In that dream, I was sitting in the front row of a church. Jill entered the church, walked up to me, and laid hands on me. The anointing was so heavy, it felt as though I was being pressed into the chair. She then walked behind me and sat down. She put her right hand on my right shoulder and sat there for a few minutes. Finally, she said, "You will be fine now. I have to leave." Then she got up and left the room.

In my new dream, as I was telling her about the earlier dream, she interrupted me. "André, what I lived my life for is about to happen," she said. "And whether it was with me or whether it is with you, it does not matter." I then woke up.

I knew immediately what the Lord was saying to me because I knew what Jill had lived for—to see a generation of people encounter the Holy Spirit and embark on the glorious journey of learning to walk with Him in intimacy, dependence, power, and joy. There is a coming outpouring of the Spirit that will be far greater than anything we've ever seen before. And so, in the pages ahead, I offer

some of what I have learned about who He is, how He moves, and how we can move with Him. Nothing is worth more than divine union with Him.