

# Life's Journey: Directed by God

by  
Ilze Henderson

Copyright 2009  
All rights reserved – Ilze Henderson

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the permission, in writing, from the author.

First published & printed by Eloquent Books  
New York, NY 10022  
[www.eloquentbooks.com](http://www.eloquentbooks.com)  
ISBN: 978-1-60693-295-7

Book Design: Roger Hayes

Re-printed in South Africa August 2009  
a project by New Voices Publishing, Cape Town, RSA  
[www.newvoices.co.za](http://www.newvoices.co.za)



ISBN: 978-1-920094-95-9

Cover: Photography by Hannes Thiart - Swartland, Cape

## **Dedication**

To my beautiful son, Jonathan.

May you learn from this book and may the Spirit of the Lord be nestled deep within your heart, so that you can clearly hear His Voice and respond to His guidance on your life's journey. I love you very much.



## **Acknowledgements**

To the Lord, my loving Creator and Friend, all the praise and glory be unto You! Thank you for unveiling Your warm devoted heart to me and giving me this opportunity to present Your love to the world.

To my parents, I would like to thank you for all your time that you dedicated to proof read my manuscript, as well as for your valuable input. I truly appreciate it.



# Table of Contents

Preface	9
CHAPTER ONE	11
CHAPTER TWO	21
CHAPTER THREE	43
CHAPTER FOUR	55
CHAPTER FIVE	65
CHAPTER SIX	73
CHAPTER SEVEN	83
CHAPTER EIGHT	105
CHAPTER NINE	123
CHAPTER TEN	141
CHAPTER ELEVEN	155
CHAPTER TWELVE	169





## Preface

Jonathan is an up and coming young business executive. He is ruthless in all his business dealings and he always gets what he wants. Until one day when tragedy strikes and he finds himself in a coma in hospital. His loyal mother is devastated! Her only son was on the brink of death. The thought of the possibility that he might die was almost too much to bear. As a dedicated Christian she started pleading for his life, praying day and night for his recovery.

Meanwhile Jonathan finds himself in a fantasy world. His soul was transferred to a world no one knew, a world named Xorbia. Upon arrival he was welcomed by two fairy sisters who assist him in settling into his new circumstances. They lead him to a special golden pathway and provide him with special tools to assist him on his journey. They instruct him to follow the golden pathway in order to reach the One. The One is the one with all the answers, the One that could provide him with a new destiny and direction for his life. Upon starting out on the journey, several trials and tribulations followed. Jonathan was bombarded with choices and if the wrong choice was made, he could be in serious danger. Throughout the journey Jonathan learns valuable lessons and struggles through the battle between good and evil.

The deeper meaning behind this fiction is to portray the daily decisions we have to make during our life's journey, and the effect that our decisions could have on the ultimate course

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

of our life. Fortunately we are armed by the Word of God to help us make these decisions; however are we prepared to listen to it? Or even consult Him for that matter?

The book also highlights the importance of prayer. The Lord listens to our prayers; we just need to keep on asking. He will answer us, His timing might not be our timing, but His timing is always perfect.

Take a journey with me through the intricacies of this book and understand certain things in your life better. Come and take the journey with me, it will be worth the risk.

# Chapter 1

“And the award for the best investor in 2009 goes to....” The elegant presenter turned to the auditor presenting him with the secret white envelope. He carefully opened it and continued. The suspense was unbearable.

A smile crossed his face as he glanced over the audience.

“Yes, you guessed it... Jonathan Pringle!”

A loud roar of applause filled the dining hall as young Jonathan carefully made his way to the stage in front. He shook hands with the presenter as well as his boss and received his cup of honor. After a few personal words of congratulations from his boss, he turned to the microphone in order to thank the audience.

“Wow. Five years in a row. I don’t know what to say, except thank you. Thank you for your confidence in me. Thank you for supporting me. Hold thumbs for the probable big deal on Wednesday! I hope I make you proud.” He paused, looked over the vast audience and suddenly revealed a softer side to him that nobody really knew.

“And then, I cannot receive a reward like this and not thank my mother. She is my support and my pillar of strength. Thank you Ma, I would not be here today if it wasn’t for you.” He looked towards where his mother sat and gently smiled.

He raised the cup in the direction of the audience and walked off the stage. Another round of applause followed. Everyone admired him, they admired his skills and his business

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

initiatives, but not all liked him. He could be ruthless in his dealings, he could walk all over you if you stand in his way and he could use you in whichever way he chose to. He was unpredictable, but no one could deny his success. He was brilliant.



“Congratulations boss.”

Sophia felt it was the right thing to personally congratulate him upon winning his award the previous night. Jonathan briefly looked up from behind the pile of paperwork settling on his desk. His three computer screens flashed the world markets in front of him and currencies were changing by the second. He was always on top of everything.

“Yes, yes thank you.”

He immediately focused his attention back on the paper in front of him and continued with his work. Sophia knew him all too well by now and knew that he was a man of few words. She was past the stage where she felt offended by his short, almost rude answers.

“Do you need anything else? Or can I be on my way?”

Irritated he looked up and glanced at his platinum watch.

“Do you want to go home already?”

“Well, everyone is gone already and my son....”

Jonathan just waved his hand in her direction, not really interested in her family matters.

“Fine, fine, just go.”

Hurt she looked at him. She has never met anyone like him before. He was married to his work. Oblivious to her reaction he continued working. He had a very important day tomorrow. This was one day that he would like to be prepared more than 100%. Tomorrow could be the break he was hoping for.



Dressed in his dark blue pinstriped suit and matching tie, handsome Jonathan was gathering the last of the papers he

worked on last night. Carefully he placed it in a neat folder and took one last look in the mirror. He smoothed away his dark hair with some hot water, turned around and grabbed his black leather briefcase. The big day has arrived. He was on his way to probably the biggest presentation of his life. He was so preoccupied he didn't even notice Anna standing next to the kitchen door. She has been his faithful housekeeper for the past ten years and has catered after his every need.

"Mr Pringle, I have a favor to ask before you go...." Anna started to say.

"Not now Anna, I have to leave." He did not even glance in her direction and looked around the kitchen in search for his car keys.

"Here it is." Anna knew he had left it on the sink counter when he returned from work last night and gently gave it to him.

"Thanks." He grabbed it out of her hand and headed for the back door. But Anna was persistent and tried to draw his attention before he left.

"But Mr Pringle, I really do need to ask you for an advance on my salary, you see they broke into my house and stole all my...."

Jonathan impatiently stopped before going out.

"You know what Anna, we all have problems, and I really don't have time or patience for yours right now."

"Yes Mr Pringle," was all she could say. She realized it is futile to try and reason with him now.

Without looking in her direction he brushed past her on the way to the garage. He didn't even notice the tears in her eyes. Within seconds she could hear him speeding away in his new silver CLS Mercedes Benz. Perplexed she just stood there. She still believes he is a good man, but unfortunately his career is his god.



A traffic jam was not what Jonathan needed, especially not on an important day like this. As far as his eyes could see it

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

was one huge pile up of cars. For a split second he thought of reversing back to the previous off ramp, but several cars were already piling up behind him.

“Great, this is just great!” A frustrated Jonathan muttered.

He immediately lit a cigarette to try and calm his nerves. “Luckily the Mercedes is a company car”, he thought to himself, “otherwise I might have considered leaving the cigarette altogether.”

Slowly the car in front of him began to move and before he could even move an inch forward, a taxi swerved in right in front of him breaking his trail of thought. Slamming on his brakes he almost bumped into it. The cigarette fell out of his hand.

“You stupid idiot!” He desperately stepped on it to prevent it from burning a hole on the floor of the car.

Irritated he looked up and the bumper sticker on the rear of the clapped out taxi caught his eye.

*“May the Lord of peace Himself always give you His peace no matter what happens” - 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

“What a joke! How should I have peace sitting here in a traffic jam with an imminent probability of being late for my own meeting? Plus almost burning myself with my cigarette! Really, just get a move on!” Jonathan was beside himself. He hated not being productive, hated sitting around doing nothing and most of all, hated to be late!



Stylishly dressed with a visible softness surrounding her, Grace Pringle was sipping her freshly brewed cup of coffee to start off her day in the same manner she has done for the past 40 years. Her devotional time with the Lord is her first priority early every morning. The Lord has carried her through some very difficult times in her life and He was always true to His Word, the Living Bible.

Today her devotional time was a bit different. Since sitting down on her comfortable couch she had a special urge to pray

for her son, Jonathan. Just the thought of him made her smile. She was so proud of him. Jonathan, given of God, is what his name means. And indeed he was. The Lord gave Grace a promise that she would have a son. Like Sarah, she would wait, but the Lord will bless her with a son. There were difficult times and doctors tried to discourage her and state the facts that she would never become a mother, but Grace stood strong. The Lord had never broken one of His Promises.

A pregnancy test was a frequent item on Grace's shopping list. Each time she hoped the results would be different. Maybe this time she will see two stripes, and sometimes she even tried to fool herself into thinking that she saw a faint second stripe. But it was all her imagination. Until one day more than 35 years ago, there was indeed a second stripe! The Lord was good, He has kept His Promise. She was ecstatic and elated and... scared. It is a huge responsibility to raise a child! What if she didn't do a good job, what if he doesn't turn out as well as she dreamt, what if... what if. But the Lord is so good and trustworthy! He gives the strength, He provides the insight, He gives the protection... you just need to ask! And today she can look back and see that He has helped her quite a bit. Her son was now big and strong, standing on his own two feet. She was immensely proud of him. He has scaled the corporate ladder at a terrific speed and was well on his way to the top. But what actually made her more proud than anything was how deep his love for her was. She could always count on him and he was always there for her. Their relationship grew throughout the years and was rock solid. He was her everything here on earth. She prayed for him every day but today she has an extra sense of urgency to ask the Lord to protect her son.

Whilst sitting in her stylish lounge, glorious angels were looking down on her from far away. They were her regular companions, always helping her where they could and where they were allowed to by their Master. Her prayers gave them strength to act and strength to continue with the Lord's work. But today they came with an urgent message.

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

Oblivious to what was happening in the spiritual realm; she quietly opened her favorite Bible and breathed in the fresh morning air. Her tranquility was in stark contrast to the urgency the angels were experiencing.

“Urge Grace to pray! Jonathan is in trouble!” The one Angel prompted Grace’s Guardian Angel. “You have to hurry!”

“I know, but the Lord hasn’t instructed me yet. You know I cannot act without His permission.”

“I know. I know. I wonder what His Plan is.”

“Well, you know we don’t know His Ways, but His Ways are always just and right, we....”

“Go and urge Grace to pray for her son Jonathan. Go!”

The Lord’s voice suddenly echoed within Grace’s Guardian Angel and he knew there was no time to waste. It was time to visit Grace.

With speed surpassing lightning, he was next to Grace in an instant. Grace was still settling in for her morning devotional time. She was relaxed as usual and had her cup of coffee in her hand. Gracefully she started preparing for her time with God with her Bible open on her lap.

“Pray for Jonathan! He is in trouble.” The Angel ‘spoke’ to her, not audibly of course, but he knew from past experience that she felt his presence and could sense what he was saying.

“Pray that the Lord will keep Him safe! Read Psalm 91 out loud.” The Angel urged her. As if by instinct she paged through her Bible and opened it at Psalm 91. Psalm 91:14-15 caught her eye.

*“Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on High, because he hath known My Name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.”*

Wondering what it all meant and how the Lord will deliver them she paged to Ps 91:11.

*“For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”*



Sitting back she pondered on the verses. It became clear to her that the Lord will be with us in trouble and that He would deliver us and honor us, but we must do a few things as well. We as humans have to set our love upon the Lord, we have to know the Name of the Lord and we have to call on Him for help.

“Interesting,” She muttered. She loved learning more and more of the intricate ways of the Lord illustrated through His Word.

“Don’t you see?” The Angel was still by her side. “Jonathan is in trouble. The Lord wants to help him, but Jonathan does not love Him, he does not know the Name of the Lord and he will not call on the Lord in times of trouble. Therefore the Lord sent me to you, His devoted bride in order to pray on behalf of your son. You have to intercede for him.”

Disturbing her sacred time, Violet, Grace’s domestic worker, leaned around the corner of the lounge.

“Sorry Mrs. Pringle, there is a telephone call for you; it is your banker that you tried to reach yesterday. Can you speak to him quickly?”

Grace was so focused on what the angel was trying to say to her, it took her a few seconds to return to the present world.

“Sorry Violet, what did you say?” She hates being disrupted during her devotional time and Violet knew this.

“Sorry Mrs. Pringle.” She started again. “But your banker needs to speak to you quickly. He is in meetings the rest of the day and can only talk now.”

Frowning Grace sighed. She really hated a disruption; it broke her whole spiritual experience.

“But maybe this will take only a few minutes and then I can continue,” she thought. She gently placed her Bible on the coffee table and stood up.

“No! You don’t have time for this now, you must pray for Jonathan!” The Angel tried to warn her, but he knew he could not interfere with her choices.

She hesitated for a second as she sensed that maybe she should return his call later, but before she thought about it

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

carefully, she was on the phone. The angel was still in the lounge when something suddenly caught his eye. An eerie dark figure swiftly appeared from behind the telephone table and disappeared again as quickly as it had come.

“Him again! When will the powers of darkness realize that this house is the Lord’s and dedicated to the Lord! When will he leave her alone?”

The Angel was fuming, but he knew the answer already... never! Till a human dies, the powers of darkness will always try and do everything in its power to disrupt their lives and steal their joy! Even worse than that, they would try to lure them away from their only life-giving source, Jesus Christ their Saviour! The spiritual battle will never cease till the Father decides to claim the victory of His Son and come and claim His Bride....

“But until then we have to fight!” The Guardian Angel was beside the phone within a blink of the eye. The dark figure was gone, but his purpose of distracting Grace was accomplished.

“Get off the phone Grace! You have to pray now! We don’t have much time!” He tried to urge her.

Meanwhile the banker was rambling on and the conversation was not going in the right direction. Grace realized that this could take much more time than she anticipated. She was getting a bit irritated because she sensed a special urgency in her devotional time today and felt the need to pray for her son. She has been through so much during her spiritual life and by this time she knew that when she feels this type of urgency, she needs to pay attention to it and pray right away.

“You know what Jim; I actually don’t have time for all the details right now. Can you call me back a bit later please? We can sort this out then.” She finally relented and decided to rather go with her gut feeling. This can wait.

“Yes tomorrow would also be fine.”

“Great, thanks.”

A sigh of relief could be heard throughout the spiritual realm! She gently replaced the receiver and made her way back to her sofa and carefully placed her Bible on her lap again. A prayer for Jonathan welled up inside of her and without knowing what she was praying she continued in a language she didn't understand. Time was of no object. Her Guardian Angel was relieved. Without realizing it, her prayers ordered him to leave and equipped him to go and protect her son. Within seconds he was gone.

She didn't know how long she has been praying, but she spontaneously stopped. The urgency was gone and she could continue with her normal devotional time. Relaxed, she looked out on her beautiful lush garden. The tranquility was something she treasured. She could just stare out of the window and see Her Lord and Savior everywhere. She was so blessed to live in a house with a big garden. She felt far away from the hustle and bustle of city life and could enjoy nature all around her.

A knock on the door disturbed her once again. Violet appeared in the door. This time Grace was visibly disturbed, but as usual she was never rude. Grace is always, as her name states, graceful.

"Mrs Pringle, there is telephone for you." Violet forced herself to speak. She would never ever have disturbed Grace again, but this... this is serious.

"Is it really that urgent Violet?" She really did not want to get up again.

"I am afraid it is."

The look on Violet's face disturbed Grace. She hasn't seen that look in her eye ever since... oh she doesn't even want to think back to that time! Hesitantly Grace stood up and walked over to the telephone.

"Grace Pringle... hello... yes... that is right... a silver Mercedes... yes...." A long silence followed. "NO! It can't be!! It can't be!! Not my Jonathan! Not my Jonathan!" She turned deathly pale and couldn't continue speaking. She slumped into the chair next to the phone, totally distraught. Shocked by her

## Life's Journey: Directed by God

employers' reaction Violet quickly took the phone out of her hand and finished the conversation. Upon finishing she immediately tended to Grace who was totally devastated.