



Who Needs a Jumpstart of Hope?

Doug Addison with Brenda Epperson [Episode 24]

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Welcome, everybody, to another Spirit Connection Podcast. So many people need hope today. So many people need to be encouraged. You know, God is restoring hope.

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." If you need a jumpstart of hope, or maybe you know someone who needs a jumpstart of hope right now, I know that you are in the right place at the right time. This is a divine moment for you in the Spirit.

I have a special guest with me and she is a good friend of mine, Brenda Epperson. Now, she is an actress, a musician and author and she is the real deal in Hollywood. She spent eight years in a main role on *The Young and the Restless* as Ashley Abbott. Sorry, I do not know who that is, but I know *The Young and the Restless*, and she also starred in films on HBO and Lifetime. She was featured on Oprah, CNN, CBS and TBN. Boy, you name it, she has them all here. E! Entertainment, 700 Club, and now on Spirit Connection Podcast. Here she is, all the way from Hollywood.

Doug: Brenda, welcome!

Brenda: Hello. Thank you so much for having me, Doug T. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Doug: Yes. Wow! So, just tell us a little bit about yourself, Brenda.

Brenda: Well, first of all, thank you so much for having me. Thank you for what you do and thank you for the lives that you touch and all the people that, you know, just are so blessed by you and your ministry and your calling and your faithfulness. So, I was really excited to be asked to talk with you for a few minutes. I am thrilled to be here. I am just a regular girl. I was born in Hollywood, California. I grew up in a small town called Dallas, Oregon. Have you ever heard of Dallas, Oregon?

Doug: I have not. No.

Brenda: Yes, most people have not. They go, "Dallas, Texas, or Dallas, Oregon?" So, it is Dallas, Oregon, 6,000 people. Prior to moving to Dallas, after my father

died when I was very young, I went to a Lutheran church and I knew about God, but I did not know who God was. You know, He was this guy in a picture with sheep and kids. I was like, “Oh, He seems like He likes animals and kids a lot,” but I did not know who Jesus was. And then when we moved to Oregon, I was in a small Pentecostal church in the middle of nowhere. I had lost my father—he died in a car accident—and I literally felt a love that I had never felt before. That was the love of Christ and that is when I knew God was real and I gave my heart to Him at about nine years old.

Doug: Wow.

Brenda: A really young age. My mom said I would pick up the Bible and I would read, read, read, and she would say, “Well, what did that mean, Brenda?” and I was able to explain it to her. So, at a young age, I felt like God gave me kind of just the discernment of the Bible and a love for it and I still have it today.

Doug: That is amazing. God is so good. Wow! So, what is your connection to Hollywood?

Brenda: Well, it is crazy because my father was an RCA Victor country western singer who charted. He was also in movies with John Wayne. Oh, he had a great story. He came home from the recording studio one day and said to my mom, “Oh my gosh, I just had the greatest singer ... this guy is going to be a huge star. He sang backup in one of my albums. His name is Glen Campbell. Remember that name—Glen Campbell.” Just, you know, it is kind of in the genes, I say. When we moved to Oregon I was in the middle of nowhere, but I always wanted to be in acting and singing. You know, I was in pageants and stuff like that and always in the plays and doing things artistically and creatively. When I graduated from high school, I moved to Los Angeles and that is when God opened the doors—literally miraculously—and that is how I landed the job on *The Young and the Restless*. I was waitressing.

Doug: Wow! Now, this is the story, right. You moved to Hollywood ...

Brenda: This is the story. Yes. It was really crazy.

Doug: You were waitressing and the big break comes.

Brenda: Yes, I moved to Los Angeles with \$100 in my pocket and lived with my aunt. I was waitressing in this evening event and this girl who played Ashley prior to me—the first Ashley—she was at the event modeling. My manager in the middle of my shift goes, “There’s that girl that everybody says you look like. Go back and say ‘Hi’ to her.” I was like, “What?” He goes, “Here’s a glass of champagne. I’ll take your shift. You have to go and say ‘Hi.’” I was like, “Are you kidding me? Okay.” Because everybody always thought I was her because we look so much alike. I walked back. I said, “Hi. You don’t know me. My name is Brenda, but everybody says we look alike.” I had food slopped all over me, you know. I am sweating and she is all glamorous. She

told me at that moment ... She goes, "You know, I am not going to be renewing my contract. You should try out for the part."

Doug: Wow.

Brenda: And I did not have an agent. Nothing. She gave me her phone number. You know, she was so kind and gracious. I started calling the office and I just, you know, was just tenacious. I did not have an agent and they called me in and after a bunch of auditions and God's grace, I got it. I had never acted a day in my life.

Doug: Wow! Wow! Wow! That is the amazing part.

Brenda: Yes! Yes, very amazing. I was a singer. I was singing in the studio with Sony and trying out for bands, but I came kind of at a crossroads with my music. There weren't as many openings for me as an individual singer. It was all bands and groups, and I just felt as though they were a little dark. It was very rock and, you know, I had to travel to these kinds of sketchy countries. I just kept asking God, "You know, is this what You want for me?" and I just felt, "No, no, no," and He opened that door for me. So, I then at a very young age—I was in my 20s—got on *The Young and the Restless*. I literally rode my bike to one of the auditions because my car broke down. I lost my waitress job. It was just completely a miraculous story.

Doug: Yes, that is a God thing for sure. And I can imagine you saw things happen over those eight years on the set.

Brenda: I did. You know, what was really hard for me, Doug, is I grew up in church in Oregon and it was hard because a lot of the people ... but they didn't know. Some of the people who didn't know me said, "Oh, look at her. She is on a soap opera. She can't be a Christian." And the people who knew me, who I grew up in the church with, stood against that and said, "You know, don't say that. You know, she loves the Lord." It really was hard for me that I was so judged because I was on a soap opera that they automatically assumed I couldn't be a Christian. But in actuality, I was able to lead a cast member to Christ and really, to this day, I get notes from people via, you know, Facebook or things saying, "Gosh, you made an impact on my life. Thanks for praying for me." You know, I think we have it wrong if we think we should all just ... all be in church. You know, God puts us out in different areas and avenues to be able to be that light.

Doug: Exactly.

Brenda: My quote is, and it is actually on my website ... One of my quotes and my passions is, "I want to affect the world and not let the world infect me."

Doug: Wow! That's a good quote.

Brenda: I think that is what we are supposed to do no matter where God plants us.

Doug: Now, you're a forerunner because people were not doing this, you know, 10 years ago or whatever. It was right around then?

Brenda: No, 20 years ago.

Doug: 20 years ago. I didn't want to say. But people were not doing this. Like today, you know, we moved here to Hollywood to, you know, radically impact the area. But back then ... oh my goodness, you were a forerunner. I am sure you took some lashes for that.

Brenda: Oh, I did. Yes. I am actually working on another show. It is very exciting. It is going to be coming out in the next week or so, and somebody told me, "Well, you have a women's ministry," which I am sure we will talk about later. "You know, be careful." I said, "Look, I have already been on that cross, okay?" So, I said, "You know, I have already been on that cross and, you know, God's got it all." That's all I can say.

Doug: Right. You bet. I guess you have experienced what I did—the Bible belt. You got beat with the Bible belt.

Brenda: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. You know, and what I realized—and I heard you talk about it earlier, too, which really was wonderful—religion divides, but love brings together and conquers all. And the love of Christ forgives and gives grace, but religion divides us. So, I believe Christ came to love and, you know, love eternally, and with a love that is filled with such grace that we are so busy working on ourselves and being filled with so much love that we don't have time to point a finger at others. You know?

Doug: Yes, exactly. Yes. Wow! Now, this message of love and grace ... Have you always had that? Was it in your DNA or did you have some epiphany or some revelation at some point?

Brenda: You know, I grew up in the church and loved it but, you know ... Like, I heard you talk to Brian 'Head' Welch and just the religion ... sometimes the religious sector of the Church can be difficult and I have definitely gotten knocked around. But God showed me early on that I was not supposed to look at people because we are all sinners saved by grace and not to point to others, but to look at Him and be quick to forgive. That is what I have learned through the years. Be quick to forgive. I don't know if part of it is in my DNA, but I know that as an individual I can't love the way Christ wants me to love if He is not in me and working through me. It is impossible because, you know, a lot of people are really hard to love. But God wants us to love and calls us to love the unlovely and doing that on our own, I think, is impossible because my flesh rises up. "Oh, you can't do that to me," you know. So, you know, but I think we can only have that or gain that kind of love. It is a work in progress

and every day is different if we continue to lean in and press into the One who is love and that is Jesus Christ.

Doug: Absolutely. Wow! That is so, so true. So, you made a transition then out of the soap opera. What happened after that?

Brenda: Well, you know, I was on the soap and was married and my marriage was really falling apart. It was taking a nosedive. I was traveling to Europe. Right before I quit the show, I got an opportunity to sign with Sony/TriStar Music and CBS wasn't going to let me out. I said, "Well, my producers are in London." I used to travel to Cannes, back and forth to the film festivals. I met every actor you could imagine that day: Bruce Willis. I mean, I sat at a table with Gina Davis and Renny Harlin in the south of France. I sang for everybody. I mean, you know, Duran Duran ... we all hung out. It was crazy, but I always maintained my faith with everyone because it gets pretty crazy in some of those places. But God was able to just give me strength to, you know, remain set apart, but still be able to enjoy other people. It was great and the soap opera afforded me a lot of really fun things, but I just stopped enjoying it as much. Things got difficult on the set and I got this opportunity with Sony. They said they weren't going to let me out and so I quit. I thought, "I love music. That is what I have always been wanting to do. I have laid it down for all these years to be on this soap opera because I really ..." At that time you couldn't do both. It was weird if you were a singer and an actress. Now that is what is expected of you, but at that time, you know, "This is what you do. This is who you are." So I signed with Sony and I opened for Lionel Richie all over Europe on his "Time" tour. As a matter of fact, I just ran into Lionel. I gave him a big hug right before he was working with Mariah. We have been in touch and hopefully we can work together again. I am looking forward to seeing what happens with that. It was an incredible experience, but I quit the show and after that tour I got dropped from Sony, my marriage completely fell apart and my life was kind of in shambles. I really reached out to the Lord and got into that prayer closet in a deep way and God resurrected everything that had died. Through a couple of years of really pressing into the Lord in a way that ... I have had some things happen, but I have to say that transition in my life was something that ... I was so broken and so devastated. It brought me to a different level with my relationship with God. I then met my husband of 15 years and he was the most amazing man ever. We had known each other from years before. So, subsequently, I laid down everything. I laid down my acting. I laid down everything and just pressed into God to say, "What do You want me to do and how do you want me to do it?" I found the love of my life and we have had two more kids. The others have three girls and God has been slowly opening doors for me in acting and music and singing. It has just been incredible. I have a women's ministry—*Ascend Women*. God put me in charge of this little Bible study. He tapped me on the shoulder and said ... He whispered in my ear, my right ear, and He said, "I want you to do a women's conference." I just looked at Him and I go,

“What?” “I want you to do a women’s conference.” He told me three things, Doug. He said women would be saved, they would be set free and His Name would be glorified. You know, I knew His voice. I know His voice. We are in our 5th year and that is exactly what has happened. Women have been saved, set free and His Name is glorified. We have had CeCe Winans come and speak, Lisa Osteen, Isik Abia, who is a former Muslim woman. All around the world she travels and women’s lives have been transformed. So, it has been unbelievable. My music—I have been traveling back and forth to Nashville. I have been working on some great songs, which has been really exciting. I was just on the cover of *Westlake Malibu* magazine. God is good!

Doug: Yes. Yes! You know, I am just listening and I am listening to the Spirit as you are saying this. And I am realizing, just like you just said, that you found the love of your life, you know, with your husband and he is so good, but do you know what? It sounds like that turning point was when the Lord became the love of your life.

Brenda: Yes!

Doug: And then suddenly everything came into place.

Brenda: Yes, it’s true. It’s true. You know, I believe without God, we cannot ... We can run, but we can’t hide. We can never find that eternal peace and those blessings that are buried so deep beneath the earth that our Father wants to give us—not just give us, but shower us with blessings, abundance of peace and joy and strength and love and wisdom and happiness, on and on. And where do we find that? In His presence. “*In His presence is the fullness of joy.*” It is hope. Like you said, “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick.*” There are so many people out there, Doug, right now, that are so heartsick, whether it is disease, whether it is loss, whether it is dashed dreams. Loneliness is running rampant through our culture and our lives. People are buying the lie that they are alone, but the Bible says, “I will never leave you; I will never forsake you,” and the last time I read the Bible, Proverbs 30:5 says, “*Every word of God proves true.*” So, we are never alone, but we have to be in His presence. In His presence, we are healed. In His presence, there is the fullness of joy. In His presence there is a hope, there is a gentleness. His faithfulness proves true. You know, like we were talking earlier, people are always looking for a way out. “Oh, God, help me find a way out. How am I going to do this? How?” Well, we’re not. We’re never going to be able to do it. So, I believe while we are always looking for a way out, God wants us to look for a way in to Him and moving and leaning closer into Him, not leaning and relying on our own understanding, but in all of our ways acknowledging Him and He will make our paths straight. No matter what we go through, whether it is sickness, whether it is disease, whether it is loss, whether it is death, whether it is hopelessness, whether it is sadness, God is faithful. He has proved that to me over and over and over again. But I don’t believe that I would be where I am at and have the blessings if I had not fallen on my

knees and humbled myself under the mighty hand of God and professed that I am a sinner saved by grace. I believe prayer is such a lost art form, if I may. You know, I look at some of these other religions, you know, the Muslim world. They have the discipline of prayer that we as believers and as Christians have lost. We have forgotten how to pray. We have forgotten that prayer is the open door of Heaven that brings us into the throne room of grace and into the courtrooms of our Father who has the cattle on a thousand hills, who then transforms our lives and takes the crooked paths and makes them straight, heals the fibers of our very bones, takes the dark places and brings the light and covers us with the blood of Jesus, hides us in the shelter and in the hem of His garment, so that we can move forward into this world. I was talking to a man from India the other day. I was at a mixer and he was stricken with polio. You know, there is so much deformity and disfigurement in this country because there is so much idol worship and if you look at the idols, the idols are hands and legs and feet coming out of the top of the heads. You know, what are our eyes fixed on? We are looking to the world, which is deformed and which is filled with death. We are not looking into the eyes of the One who created the world, the eyes of grace and love and perfection, where healing flows and where the healing balm of Gilead can come and transform and make what is disfigured whole again. I still believe as a young girl ... I have to tell you, as a young girl I went to a Bible school—a little Bible retreat that our church had. I grew up Assembly of God and I went and I saw this man and I want to meet him again, Alton Garrison. I was 10 or 12 years old and he spoke. We were in a log cabin in the middle of nowhere and this man stood there and said, “Do you want to receive the Holy Spirit?” and these kids, these young kids would come forward. I was 12, maybe 14. I was a camp counselor there because I couldn’t afford ... we had no money. I grew up with nothing because my father had died. So, I went to be a counselor so that I could pay for my own camp. So I would be with these young kids. He called these kids forward to receive the Holy Spirit. I went forward with these children and I would lay my hands over them and I started praying with them and I would listen to them begin to form, you know, what the Holy Spirit would begin to speak out of their mouths. I saw a kid get up on the stage in the middle of nowhere in the mountains in a log cabin and take off his braces and walk.

Doug: Wow!

Brenda: And I’ll tell you, Doug, from that day forward as a young teen girl, no one could ever tell me that there wasn’t a God. No one could ever tell me that God doesn’t heal. No one could ever tell me that what happens on TV or those things that have happened aren’t real, because God is real and He still heals today.

Doug: Yes, He does! My goodness! You know, while you are talking—I am really sensitive to the Spirit—and what happened when you were talking ... this is

what is going on with people. I tell people sometimes, “You might want to pull over, you know, if you’re driving,” because a door opened in the Spirit while you were talking— “a doorway of faith.” I wrote it down. Most people are complaining and that opens the doorway of discouragement but, I tell you, the doorway of faith just opened up over people. Faith for, you know, all types of things. So, wow! Yes. Hey, just keep going. I was going to jump in and say, “Come on, Brenda! Come on!”

Brenda: A doorway. Thanks! I love that. Well, I’ll tell you, recently what God has been showing me as well is that, you know, it is the little things. You know, Hebrews 11:1, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen.” You know, there is such a spirit of apathy that I believe has come across, swept across the land. “Oh, that will never happen.” “Oh, that was back in the Bible days.” “Oh, you’re too old for this.” “Oh, that time has gone by for you.” Oh, here is a big one that I hear all the time from people who I am praying with. “Oh, you have sinned too much.” I literally ... A woman who I know who remains nameless—this woman was the head of ministries. This woman traveled across countries. This woman with her family planted churches. Do you want to know where I visited her? In an insane asylum. They had locked her away. I sat with her and let me tell you, those eyes were not her eyes. When I spoke to her—and I wasn’t speaking to her—do you know what it said to me, “Oh, I have sinned too great. God will never forgive me.” So, I laughed. I began to laugh and I said, “That is a lie. None of us have sinned beyond God’s grace,” and so many people are discouraged because they think, “Oh, I have sinned too much. God could never love me.” “Oh, I have sinned past what God’s grace could possibly go.” “Oh, I am too dark.” “I am too ugly.” “I am too padded out.” “I have killed. I have stolen. I have destroyed.” That is a lie. God’s grace covers all of that and He loves you. I love what Brian ‘Head’ Welch said when I was listening to that interview. He said, “Jesus stands at the door and knocks, but the doorknob is inside and you have to open it.” I thought, “Wow! That is so beautiful and that is so true.” We just have to open it and we just have to say, “Jesus, come in.” What He has been showing me, too ... We have moved and while I was going through my house I was going through all of my stuff and I thought, “Look at all this stuff. There is so much stuff everywhere,” and God began to show me as I was cleaning out drawers, “Look at all these little things. Now, the little things begin to pile up and the drawer was full. Now it’s big things.” It is the same way in our lives. It is the little things that we think don’t matter that matter to God. It is the little lies that we tell that begin to open the door for Satan to begin to lie to us to say, “That doesn’t matter.” Yes, it does, because we open the door for Satan to begin to deceive us and he is the father of lies and deception. So, we want to close the door to the lies so that we can open the door to the faith and the hope. You know, He wants grace and hope and faith to abound over us, but when we are so filled with all these little things that are piling up so deep in our lives that our vision becomes blurred, our spirit becomes a little shaky. It is like we are shaking

and we can't see clearly, but He wants us to be calm and have peace. So many people are filled with anxiety. Philippians 4 says, "Be anxious for nothing but in everything ..." through what? Here we go again, "prayer and petition," and with what? "... thanksgiving in our heart, let our requests be made known to God and He will give us peace that passes all understanding in our heart and our mind through Christ Jesus." But we need to be thankful. A thankful heart is a happy heart. You know, these are all disciplines of prayer, disciplines of faith, disciplines of a life that can be full because none of us—and I am saying this about myself—are living up to our full potential that God wants us to live in. You know, I believe He is going to use my hands to heal. I believe that *Ascend Women* is going to go to the north, south, east and west, and women across the world will be saved and set free, but I know that I have to do my part, which is fall on my knees and repent and continue praying. You know, in the Bible, "What do I have to do to be saved?" Nothing. He has done it for us.

Doug: Absolutely.

Brenda: But we need to do our part in getting in agreement. That is what I mean. We don't have to do anything. It is not our works, because our righteousness is filthy, you know? We are all filthy rags. I am a sinner and every day I am thankful that He is saying, "I love you and I forgive you." That is all we need to do. That's it. Simple.

Doug: It is very simple. There is just such an anointing on you to break this open and bring in hope and break things off of people. In just a minute, I want you to pray a prayer to open that up. In fact, the anointing is here now so why don't you just pray and open that up over people.

Brenda: Heavenly Father, I just thank You for Your words of grace. The song is coming to my mind, (singing) "*In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today.*" If you sang that, if you prayed that, and if that is your heart's desire, I believe God wants to glorify His life through you. All you have to say is, "Jesus, come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, cleanse me of my unrighteousness, God. Give me hope again." Romans 9:10 says "*if you confess with your mouth and you believe with your heart that Jesus is Lord that He will forgive you and cleanse you of all of your unrighteousness.*" I thank You, Father, for anyone who is listening—anyone who is within earshot of this, God. Remind them of who they are in You. God, let us not look to the world for our identity, but let us look to You for our identity, Father—not to the world, but to You, God. Show us who we are in You, Lord Jesus. I pray for resounding hope to permeate, like rushing water, like a flowing wind that just breathes over Your people right now, Father. I thank You for clarity for people who can't even see anymore because they are so blurred—that You bring clarity. I thank You, God, for wisdom. I thank You, God, for an understanding. I thank You, God, for more of You. I thank You, God, for Your presence to just pour out on Your people, Father. I thank You

that the Holy Spirit would begin to replace and permeate the dark roots, the bitter roots that have taken hold of Your people, Father, who have been so locked and entrenched in like mud, they are just walking around in mud and muck they can't even lift their feet and they are sinking, Father. Lift us out of the mud and the muck and the mire and set our feet on solid rock and ground of steel and stone, Father, that we will no longer be moved. We will no longer shift to the right or to the left and when the winds and the storms come, God, we will remain. God, remind us to read the Word and to have our hearts fixed on You, our mouth to speak the Word of God. Thank You, Father God. Thank You, God. I thank You that Isaiah 54:17—speak it with me—says, “*No weapon formed against me will prosper.*” I thank You, God, that You cover Your people—that You cover the land and You bless Your people once again. But God let us be open to the things that You have for us. I pray for forgiveness. Let us be a people who are quick to ask for forgiveness and quick to bless others, Father God. Thank You for what You're doing. Thank You for Doug and his ministry, Lord. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for what You have done. Thank You for joy!

Doug: Yes.

Brenda: Thank You for joy! Amen.

Doug: Amen. That was great. I just want you to know while Brenda was praying, you know, some people were actually rededicating. But there was something going on that you were rededicating to your calling, to your first love, to your heart, to the things that we have been talking about here, to that break, you know—that lucky break that Brenda got when she was waitressing and she wasn't even ... You know, she had no actor training and she got this lucky break. “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life,*” or there is another version that says, “*a sudden good break.*” I felt like something happened—something broke in the Spirit just now and throughout this entire podcast, something broke in the Spirit over you. Lord, I thank You that You are going to open doors. I am seeing this even over you, Brenda. There are some big doors and some purposes opening up. Like, when you mentioned Lionel Richie, I just saw these, wow, these big doors coming back, coming back, coming back to you and new doors opening up and something big and new is coming your way.

Brenda: Amen. I receive that.

Doug: Yes. Well, we have been talking to Brenda Epperson. Just tell us a little bit about what you're doing now or how we can get in touch with you.

Brenda: Well, I would love that. So, it is Brenda Epperson and I am on Instagram at [brendaepperson](#) and I am on Facebook. I am on Twitter, [brendaepperson](#). I think pretty much everything is [brendaepperson](#). I have a Facebook page that I would love you to join. I think I am stirred to start doing some little one

minute moments on my Facebook page, so it is @JustBrendaEpperson or @BrendaEpperson2 on Facebook. I would love to connect with everybody, and brendaepperson.com is my website. I have updates just about, you know, on anything I am doing. I, again, am working on *Ascend Women*, ascendwomen.org. If you need prayer, talk to Doug and reach out to him, and also, we have a place where we can pray for you as well, and then I am working on a new show called *The Rich and the Ruthless*. It is coming out soon.

Doug: Wow! What is that about?

Brenda: It is actually a spoof on soap operas.

Doug: Oh, wow!

Brenda: And I actually play the ruthless. It is the first mean character I have ever, ever played. I am always the nicest person, but I am actually a mean person in this. It is really interesting. It is therichandtheruthless.com. I have been traveling back and forth to Nashville and working on new music with Tim Minor and some other producers and, as I said, I have recently connected with Lionel and am hoping something will open up out of that. And I am working on my book. I am just praying that ...

Doug: I was about to tell you that I am feeling another book coming out of you for sure.

Brenda: Thank you. I am just believing, you know of this new place, new beginnings ... that is one of the things I am just really hoping to get done—no, I will get done—by the end of the year. So that is very exciting. I can't say it now, but I am working with someone who has a very large ministry and she and I are doing a show together, but I can't say what it is yet. It should come out in the fall, but I can let you know later on that.

Doug: Your first book is *The Blessedness of Brokenness*.

Brenda: So, the first book I did, it was me and like six or seven other authors. So, I just told a bit of my story in *The Blessedness of Brokenness*. Frank Shelton, who is a friend of mine, did a collaboration with a bunch of different people and put this book together, so that is how that came about. But I have not done my book yet and I believe I know exactly what I am supposed to do. For a long time, people were like, "Oh, you have to do a book," but now I believe it is the right time.

Doug: Yes, I was going to say that and as we were praying ahead of time I felt it too and I forgot to say something. So I am glad you brought it up, because it is a confirmation.

Brenda: There you go.

Doug: I just confirm, prophetically I confirm this is something the Lord is going to use to open doors into people's hearts and open up people in all walks of life to start, you know, to start coming back to this deeper understanding of the Lord.

Brenda: Amen. I believe that too.

Doug: Now, we met briefly at the screening ... the screening of *The Shack*. Yes.

Brenda: *The Shack*. Yes!

Doug: It was a powerful time with our friends there. You know, we had exchanged texts and things like that previously. I just want you to know, my wife and I met you and it was the light of the Lord that came through. I just want you to know that. I am telling people that Brenda is the real deal as far as the anointing, as far as being able to minister to people. She carries something that is very big because you're humble. She is humble. That is why she is able to do it. If you humble yourself, the Lord will lift you up. I just want to say, Brenda, this is your year. This year and 2018 the Lord is going to begin to lift you up. You're ready now for this bigger thing that is coming. It is going to be so, so good. I want to say this to our listeners, too. God has it for you. Listen. It doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing, God has a plan. He has something for you. I want you to be encouraged. It is just going to be a good time. I just want to say thanks so much, Brenda Epperson, for joining us.

Brenda: Thank you so much. This is such an encouragement to my heart, to my spirit, to my soul, and I just want to encourage everybody out there, too, that no matter what you're going through, that God has all the answers and you're not alone.

Doug: Wow! That is exactly right. All right. Thanks everybody. See you next time.