

# HiS PRINT Beginnings

Sheila the Angel of Atlanta

## Angels

“Some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb 13:2 NIV

When we talk about angels operating among us, the spiritually unenlightened think it’s just religious sentiment. That’s because they allow their intellect to neutralize their faith. Notice:

- Angels have a long history among us. An angel shut the mouths of lions for Daniel. An angel went before Israel’s army guaranteeing their victory. An angel showed up in a storm to let Paul know that he’d survive a shipwreck. An angel opened prison doors for Peter, saving his life on the eve of his execution.
- Angels protect us in times of danger. “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Ps 91:11 NIV). And when you consider some of your “ways,” you realize how much you need protection, right? Your early cancer detection, or your narrow escape—those were more than just lucky breaks. Angels even watch over our children. Jesus said, “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels... always see the face of my Father in heaven” (Mt 18:10 NIV). Now you know why kids survive things that make parents go weak at the knees.
- Angels help us in times of need. “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (Heb 1:14 NIV). So, has God done away with His secret service? Are they sitting on their hands drawing unemployment somewhere in heaven? No, they’re still on the job. You may not be able to see them with your natural eyes, but the benefits they bring surround you every day.

## MY STORY ABOUT MEETING AN ANGEL NAMED SHEILA

Sheila was a homeless woman that crossed my path in January 2009 when I was at an NCAA convention in downtown Atlanta and just had dinner with David Cline at Ted Turner’s restaurant in downtown Atlanta. After eating and my spending the time sharing with David the idea behind HiS PRINT and how God had laid this ministry idea on my heart, we headed back to the hotel where I was staying and I asked him if we could cut through the park and find a place to pray for one another. It was still daylight and it was a very pleasant evening. He agreed and we headed through the park to find a place to pray with one another. We walked through the park and came across a series of steps surrounded by planters and was a good place to lean against and spend some time praying to our heavenly father. As we were about to bow our heads, I noticed a woman approaching us from just outside the park entrance. No one else was around our location and I felt the sudden urge and desire rush into our prayer time. It was Sheila approaching. At that time my whole desire was to hurry into the prayer prior to her getting to us so that we would not have to be interrupted, so I quickly bowed my head without asking David what he needed prayer for. At that very moment what I saw stopped me dead in my tracks and as she approached, I looked up and asked

her if we could help her. She told us her story and to this day I can remember almost every detail of her life that she shared with us.

We heard her past experiences in the Air Force and that she had family that was not near here and no one to help her. She then showed us her hospital bracelet on her wrist, and she told us she had just been released that evening. From her shabby appearance and the look of the bracelet, I was doubtful she had been released recently, but that this may be a part of her story to hustle people for money. She proceeded to pull out a large dose of pill bottles and pills from her bag she had on her shoulder. She mentioned that she was going to be staying at a shelter right down the road from the park but didn't have the money that it cost to stay there. She never asked either of us for money and I never felt any pressure to give her any. Not real sure if she was telling us the whole truth or not and actually feeling very at ease with her despite her appearance, I asked her if we could pray for her. She agreed by smiling and giving that look of, you would really do that for me. David and I both reached out and held each of her withered crusty hands with no draw back or hesitation. David prayed, I prayed and before we could raise our heads thinking we were done, Sheila began praying. She prayed the most beautiful prayer I had ever heard. It was angelic and filled with humility and strength. She prayed for both David and I and what meeting us meant to her; that we would take the time to pray with her and how deeply that had touched her. When she finished my eyes were full of tears and I asked her if I could give her a hug and she agreed without hesitation although with a sense of shock. She smiled the most beautiful smile of peace that touched my heart with pure joy. She hugged me with warmth that is still with me today. She hugged David and then turned to go back the direction she came from. After she walked about 30 paces and turned to walk out of the park, to head to the homeless shelter around the corner, she turned and with the most precious smile thanked God out loud for touching her through meeting us! Her smile showed the most beautiful face of love and comfort. Wow, who had been touched by whom? At that moment she was the one willing to express it!

As she walked off, I turned back to David and just smiled as tears welled up in my eyes. I told him that I had a confession to make. I told him that I had seen her approaching from the corner of my eye and had not wanted to meet her, so I had wanted to rush into the prayer. But when I bowed my head, I had looked down at the ground and there between us, I saw..... before I could finish my sentence, David said you saw a footprint with a cross in the middle of it, didn't you? I told him that is exactly what I had saw and it was so vivid and bright that it stopped me in my tracks and made me want to look up and greet her. David admitted the same feelings about Sheila and seeing the exact same image. I looked at David and said God is telling me to not just talk about my steps leaving HiS PRINT, as I had just spent the last 2 and half hours explaining to David over dinner the vision of HiS PRINT, but that He wanted to put it into practice.

David gave me confirmation that evening in the park in downtown Atlanta that this was indeed from God. We both prayed that God would give us the courage and strength to make our steps leave Christ's foot PRINT, with whomever we meet and wherever we go. We prayed together awhile longer and left that night touched to core by an angel named Sheila! Thank you, God for sending me Sheila and thank you Sheila for your angelic voice, heart, touch and embrace. It forever changed my life. It made the words Our Steps, HiS PRINT become a reality! Thank you, God, for your Angels!