Betty J. Slade

**Interview Questions**

1. **How would you describe yourself?**

A lover of Jesus. Not to get spiritual, but when I came to the Lord in 1968, the Holy Spirit flooded me with his Spirit and I’ve never been the same. I’ve been called radical, almost obnoxious, but never lukewarm. After years of studying the Bible and teaching it, I’ve been tempered without losing the fire. My faith continues to grow bigger and brighter.

1. **What kind of gifts do you operate in?**

Teaching and the Creative. Being in the art world for over fifty years, I’ve experienced many facets of a Christian life as an artist. In 1968, the organized church didn’t have a place for artists. Threatened by us, they shunned the idea that an artist belonged in the church. Maybe to design bulletin boards, but then there was no place for the passion of creative gifts.

Things have changed today, but in 1986, I organized Christian Artist and Writers’ Retreats in my home in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. My motivation was to create a platform and give the creative a voice. I entertained 40 guests or more for a weekend. Eventually, I moved the venue to Snow Wolf Lodge. I had a full-blown retreat schedule with speakers, teachers of art and writing, and faith builders. They sang their songs they wrote, sold their art and books.

My gift has made room for me. I’m not pushing doors or making it happen. Truly, God continues to open doors for me.

1. **When did you start writing?**

I became a serious writer in 1992. I wrote study books around the Bible and art books. I was changing from an artist into a writer. I continued to teach watercolors at Wyndham Resort and write. In 2008, I began writing The Artist’s Lane Column for our local newspaper. I’ve written over 600 articles and continue writing today. It is my pulpit. I write my faith around family stories. Our newspaper lets me write about Jesus. A rare thing today.

1. **What encouragement can you give this audience?**

I’m so aware of the artist temperament. The world is too big for her or too small. Artists need to be understood. And yet, few are understood. In order for that creative gift to be satisfied, it has to come full circle.

1. **What is success to you in the spiritual world?**

When the Spirit speaks through my artwork and changes a viewers’ perception.

I have learned, sometimes it takes years for a painting to be discovered and meet the need of the person I painted it for. That has happened many times. When I painted it, I didn’t know that person, but years later, someone says, “I love it. You painted it for me.”

1. **How can you explain the creative gift in the spiritual realm?**

I learned the creative gift is a prophetic gift. I have always felt I was ahead of my time. I was creating ideas for Pinterest thirty years before Pinterest became software. I painted murals on walls twenty years before someone discovered it to be a great idea.

1. **How does a creative person handle that?**

Not very well. We need to be understood and we operate in ideas that are too far out for most people’s reach. They can’t receive it. And of course, that brings in another facet of feeling overlooked or misunderstood. The artist’s temperament needs to be understood.

For me, it took many years to finally come to that place where all I wanted was to belong. I found that place in Jesus and a relationship with him. I understand God’s love and I don’t need a place in the world to validate me.

1. **Your book is to be released soon. What kind of a message does it have?**

*Taming Wild Hearts, Book one of the Disappointment Valley Series is about healing out of trust. I used the wild mustang as a metaphor for my main protagonist, Bree Steele. The Curly Sulphur mustang came from Disappointment Valley, Colorado. Hunted down by poachers and seen as worthless. Bree Steele witnesses a murder and is running for her life. Left on the streets at six years old, Bree doesn’t trust anyone. She’s been kicked to the curb. It’s Luke’s love that brings Bree to trust.*

1. **Who is the publisher of this book?**

Elk Lake Publishing, Inc.is a well-known publisher in the Christian market. They will only publish Christian and clean books.

1. **What encouragement can you give to this audience?**

I have said in the past that I apologized for years for who I am. It’s hard to find your place and where you belong. Today, I am embracing the fact that I have been given the creative gift of writing. I believe we are not only the messenger, but the message.

II Timothy 2:10, Paul tells Timothy that he is a chosen one. In the footnote of The Passion Translation, within the word **chosen,** the word logos has been embedded within it. God’s chosen ones have been chosen by the word of God to become a living word sent from his mouth to reveal the message of their destiny. We are walking out his living word.

God birthed us artists and writers. We are because he said we are.

Psalms 33:9 “Words he breathed and worlds were birthed. “Let there be,” and there it was.”

Romans 8:27 TPT “God, the searcher of the heart, knows fully our longings, yet he also understands the desires of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit passionately pleads before God for us, his holy ones, in perfect harmony with God’s plan and our destiny.

Romans 8:28 TPT “We are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God’s perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfil his designed purpose.”