

WISDOM  
PEACE  
LOVE  
CLARITY  
PROSPERITY

# FINDING YOUR WAY

The Secret to Finding and  
Creating Your Purpose

*The Spiritual and Inspirational  
Journey to Greatness*

KANEEN MORGAN

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**Kaneen Morgan**



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I dedicate this book to the Divinity within all and to Bishop E. Bernard Jordan, Pastor Deborah Jordan, and The Company of Prophets who has fed me with words of wisdom, inspiration, and insight into the future to write this book.



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Thank you All!

God Bless You!



# Introduction

This book is broken up into seven sections. They are the elements in which we grow and develop. The world we live in is made up of elements: mind, body, soul, spirit, nature, time, and matter. Our existence consists of these elements connecting us to our Spiritual Kinship, the Divine Being. These elements bring out the essence of our being and help us discover who we are and to mature in our purpose. Each element helps us get through life based on how we incorporate them in our daily activities. If we begin to learn, understand, and nurture each element we will be able to achieve our desires, while living peacefully joyous lives. These elements described below are here to help us grow spiritually, mentally, physically, and financially.

- **Mind**—The mind is at the top for a reason. We look up to our minds just as we do to the heavens to get answers. The mind is considered the heavens in which all creation begins. It is the channel that can convey messages from the spirit to the physical.
- **Body**—The body is the physical form that brings out God’s purpose here on earth. The body is an extension of the mind. With every thought in the mind, the body reacts to form that which was created in the mind.
- **Soul**—The soul is the essence of character that makes you who you are. The soul aspect also deals with feelings. This nonphysical attribute manifests thoughts based on your feelings. If you think one way but feel another, that feeling will produce the result. If your thought is to act on a dream but you feel lazy or limited, you begin to act on those feelings of laziness and limitation. The feeling is what brings the blessing.

- **Spirit**—The Holy Spirit is the root of all existence. It is the core eternal sense of self. It gives us will and a sense of purpose. The spirit brings forth life, giving us joy, strength, and fulfillment. The spirit deals with emotions. If you are not aligned spiritually your emotions are normally affected. If your emotions are affected your feelings become affected, thus the blessing of your desires are also affected.
- **Nature**—Nature is the laws of the universe. Although nature governs the spirit, it also rules the physical world. Consider nature as natural, consistent, and unchanging. God is nature. He evolves in a consistent pattern, yet He never changes.
- **Time**—Time also controls and rules the physical world. Time distinguishes the past, present, and future. It measures the quality of things and events. When things are done in time it is done within a system and brings order and completion.
- **Matter**—Matter is the material substance of the universe. In order to bring forth and fulfill God's purpose on earth, matter must exist. Matter is also defined on a deeper level. Cartesian philosophy defines matter as something that contrasts with the mind, extends in space, and persists through time. Cartesian dualism explains that matter is separated into two categories: spatial substance, or matter, and thinking substance, or mind. This indicates that matter can also begin and exist in the mind. Truly they are one. The mind is what moves matter. The mind is a terrible thing to waste because matter (substance) is then wasted in your life.

As you read through this book you will find that I am a bit redundant with the words purpose and passion. I have found that most struggle with finding their way in life. A meaningful and fulfilled life is activated by knowing your true purpose or even moving towards that which you love. Some may not know how to create the life they desire.

The struggle exists when the focus is placed upon oneself instead of the Higher Power which exists in you. The Lord is always speaking, giving all information and inspiration through flashes of thoughts, ideas, people, books, and, yes, through challenges. Those thoughts or flashes are sneak previews of what life can be when moving towards your purpose. Sometimes we imagine the future and picture how wonderful it looks. Sometimes we get ideas of what we would like to do, be, and create. They are inspirational flashes to motivate us in pursuing it. The purpose in life is not to sit and wait for material happiness but to create it and achieve it. This comes through paying attention to those prophetic insights and making a goal to fulfill your purpose. This constitutes making purpose a part of each day. I must tell you, however, that purpose includes understanding the will of the Father and through the discovery of this we will understand that our journey in His will requires focus, practice, time, healing through pain, and patience. Mastery into purpose is discipline. Scriptures says, "After you have done the will of the Lord you will receive His promise." His promises are love, joy, peace, and abundance.

Today the world is in a great transition which some will call a hardship. Faith is being tested in many ways. There are businesses and jobs lost, homes lost, and relationship failure and through the process some have lost hope. Some have lost the meaning of their existence and became discouraged as they had to find and create new methods of maintaining. Throughout life there will be many changes and through the changes it is important to remind yourself of who you are and the gifts you possess in order to stay afloat.

We were all born with a purpose and upon arrival to this world we were given an assignment to carry out. Asking the right questions or articulating the right affirmations will lead you to the will of God and know how to move through life dedicated in His purpose. The right questions are, "Lord, what is your purpose for my life? How can I move in your purpose?" The affirmations are, "Lord, I am now dedicated to living out your purpose for my life. I am concentrated

daily in your word and will for my life.” I strongly believe that each person has a divine purpose, which is why I decided to write this book. I once struggled in understanding my existence and purpose and found many pondering the same questions. I was often undecided in which direction to go in life and lacked a foundation to make firm decisions. My time was not allocated and was scattered in several directions. When there is not enough time it means you’re trying to do more than what God called for or not doing what He has called you to do. This leads to feelings of fatigue, stress, anger, impatience, frustration, pressure, and conflict. When living in God’s purpose there is enough time for this and that. We will know how to remove those things which do not contribute to our purpose.

Living a purposeful life is a simple life, not a life where most feel they have to slave to make a living. Isaiah 26:3 says, “The Lord will keep thee in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him.” When our mind is concentrated on the Lord’s will we will no longer make choices based on present moods, circumstances, life pressure, or other people’s expectations. We will make choices in peace guided from the Source and resources within us. Guidance and inspiration into the paths of truth and greatness can be yours through faith and focus on the will of a Higher Power.

What led you to where you are presently in life? Who are you? What is your role? Where are you going? Why are you unhappy? Why are you lacking the things you desire? What makes you happy? These are among the few questions I will address and help you to discover the potential and the greatness within. To help you understand your purpose here are helpful clues to your assignment on earth:

1. What you hate is a clue to something you are assigned to correct.
2. What upsets or grieves you is a clue to something you are assigned to heal.
3. What you love the most is a clue to your assignment and something you contain. Matthew 6:21 says, “For

where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” When you’re moving towards something you love, you will find abundance as you move in it.

4. Your gifts and talents are usually clues to your assignment. Each man has his own vocation; his talent is his calling.
5. Something you can spend countless hours studying and doing is an indication of your calling.

We will never complete an assignment or goal if we fear failure or rejection. Failure is all a part of the journey and what gives us signals that we are doing something right. When everything is perfect it usually means we are not growing because growing is the birthing pain or process. As the saying goes, “no pain, no gain.” It may seem crazy but at times I threw myself into a dilemma when things seemed quiet in my life. You may wonder why I would I do such a crazy thing. I did so because if things in my life were too comfortable something was bound to happen to move me away from that comfort zone. Through difficult experiences, life somehow becomes more meaningful.

Challenges and failure are what brings out our greatest potential, strength, and willpower. Willpower paves the way to find our path and discover who we truly are. We have in us a great potential to be more than what we presently are. It has been said that most people only use 10% of their potential. Imagine if we used 100%. Before we were born, God placed in us a great capacity filled with wisdom, gifts, and talents that we have not fully tapped into yet. God is more concerned with what we do with what He has given us. If we would focus our attention and all our energy on what we can have, do, be, and become, we will be amazed. Knowing what God called you forth to do is what motivates your life. Nothing energizes you more than a clear direct purpose and the passion to pursue it. This is the true joy of life. It prepares you for eternity.

The journey into greatness is not without its difficulties. We will always face major and minor challenges. Sometimes

we lose ourselves before we are found. We have two choices in life. We can become a follower guided by what the world says, or we can dare to be different and choose to become a follower of what God says we are, “an achiever.” Many people seek approval from others and that is what controls their lives. Many are often worried about what others think instead of seeking the recognition or approval from God. To be different you must strive to be what no one else can be but you. To be successful the first thing you must do is find what you love or fall in love with whatever it is you are doing and perform all works gracefully. In most cases what you’re passionate about is often your purpose and as you focus on that your life will be transformed.

Throughout your life journey it is important to read things that inspire and motivate you. Reading opens up the mind, imagination, understanding, and expands the consciousness. It brings insight and revelations into the Divine will of the Father. Readers are leaders because leaders are always seeking information. Knowledge is power. Clarity is power. The greater our consciousness and enlightenment, the less obstacles we experience on the path to our destiny. As the reader engages in this book I pray that a greater presence within will be discovered, and he too will be exalted in moments of receiving flashes of inspiration, prophetic thoughts, and insight as a guide in their own life. Your most predominant thoughts will manifest into your existence. Obey the whispers within you for they are links to your future. Get ready as you take a new journey into the discovery of your life purpose and the creator in you.

*Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions*

— Albert Einstein

The mind is the place where creation takes place. The imagination is where you go to create that place. The greatest power of mystery in life is revealed in the

inspiration of the imagination. Thought + Imagination +  
Faith = Manifestation

*. . . and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have  
imagined to do*

—Genesis 11:6

### The Imagination

The imagination is the authorization  
To bring something into creation  
And from this thou shall part from limitation  
To walk into the multiplication  
By eating the fruits of the manifestation  
You shall never turn back to a life of destitution  
But will always live a life of restitution.

The imagination is not a question  
Nor is it an assumption  
It is the inner mind manifesting an outward completion  
As in the law known as attraction  
And from the end result of faith and dedication  
Your life shall be filled with satisfaction.

The imagination brings the mind into an alteration  
Because of the inspiration  
Filled with flashes of information  
It gives you the motivation  
To focus on any ambition.

The imagination is the Christ mind impartation  
Causing your life to be a complete transformation  
As the Christ in you walk you into the desired destination  
You will always be in exaltation.

—Kaneen Morgan



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MIND

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## CHAPTER 1

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# Flashback of Inspirations

*A person should train his mind to receive flashes of inspiration, and work out the divine pictures through definite leads, The Game of Life and How to Play It*

—Florence Shinn

Are you living the life you desire? Do you simply exist or are you participating in life? Achievers and motivators participate fully and are living a happy healthy life because they know how to create and manifest all of life's wonderful glory. For some apparent reason there is a mystery that remains. Why are some motivated and strive for greatness, while others settle and remain feeling an emptiness? Researchers and psychologists feel that motivation is influenced by intrinsic and extrinsic forces. Oftentimes motivation is guided due to variations in attitude and/or experiences. Attitude reflects how we feel about something and the way we react. According to researchers there are three components to attitude; cognitive (belief about the way things are), affective (emotional and feeling), and behavioral (intention to behave in a certain way). Having an optimistic attitude about life you will see everything as being an opportunity and you will be motivated to succeed. Therefore, motivation is an underlying belief and feeling towards the self which affects the way you behave in life. I subscribe to Les Brown's words, "You don't get in life what you want; you get in life what you are."

Having the right motivation can make a huge difference in life. You must have a passion, heightened feeling, or a strong emotional desire to accomplish a goal. Sometimes you may need a stimulus to inspire you. To be motivated people usually have a motive a cause or reason to move forward and take action. The inner will is the essential component of motivation. Everyone is motivated or inspired in his or her own way for his or her own reason. What drives you to be who you are? You have to have a motive of being who you are (present) or becoming who you will be (future). Having a purpose and knowing your purpose in life is an important factor. It keeps you focused on what's ahead. Purpose creates power. As you begin your journey in fulfilling God's purpose, thoughts and scenes or events will reveal themselves, helping you to walk into your destinations. This is why dreams are important. It provides scenes of needed information.

The Webster dictionary defines "flashback" as a scene or event from the past that appears in a narrative out of chronological order, to fill in information or explain something in the present. Are these flashbacks truly out of order? I believe flashbacks are memories presented to you within a sequence to help you recall an important link that you may have felt missing. Sometimes information comes to us as a thought, idea, or through a person. Those inspired flashes or insights are indicators to a specific purpose or assignment. They are also indicators of something which exists within you. Flashbacks can be considered as divine pictures and leads or links to something. A flashback may reveal something from our past, present, or future. We should work out these divine pictures as definite leads to walk into fulfillment and a divine life purpose. Shinn further says, "When a man can say, "I desire only that which God desires for me," his false desires fade from his mind and a new set of blueprints is given him by the Master Architect, the God within." When our desires and purpose is built on God, all false desires fade and we begin to see the bigger picture. God's purpose is bigger than we can imagine and

eventually we come to a point where we no longer try to build bungalows but palaces, as Shinn says. So we should know that yes, we are all born with a purpose. It may not be apparent right away but the memory begins to unfold, revealing what God has called you to do. With each step you make, information will fill your mind to lead you to your next level.

Have you had an idea suddenly flash in your mind? Have you had thoughts of things you have always imagined to do? What can you spend countless hours doing or studying? This may be the introduction and indication of your calling. These ideas are memories built into your mind of what you were called and meant to do. They are inspirational ideas to get you out of your dilemma. The spirit is always revealing an idea. Ideas are the activity of creation to obtain things that you desire. It is the solution and key component in solving life problems. When we work within our passion and purpose we create solutions and abundance for ourselves and others. The Bible says, "Take no thought for your life." Thoughts are merely wishes, a temporary solution to a problem. What do I mean by this? Some may say, "I wish I had money to pay all my bills." The thought of having the money to clear away your bills may bring it into being. But what happens? You will eventually create more bills. That thought will only clear a problem today, and with another thought bring about another thing tomorrow. Thoughts are temporary, but ideas are eternal. Joel Goldsmith said, "Thoughts are on the level of things." Typically, when we think of something we think of material things, such as a house, car, money, and so forth. These are temporary things. However, ideas are the activity of creating more. Ideas are higher thought conceptions. They are thoughts in action. The basis for life is to bring ideas into existence to solve someone else's problem. When we're able to solve other people's problems we become in demand and the supply will be plenty.

Some may feel they don't have great ideas. When asked, "What is something you've always wanted to do? What type

of career or business would you enjoy?" a woman replied, "I don't know. As long as I have enough to pay my bills I am okay." This is the answer many give because they do not know their purpose or sometimes are not motivated to move towards it. Many believe they work to make a living or to pay bills. If this is the excuse there will be many unhappy souls. We live to work because we are workers of the Lord built for His purpose and plan. Everyone has a purpose why they were created. Have you noticed a problem you face constantly? You always seem to fall back into that same rut. Believe it or not, that may be the problem you were called to solve. Past failures are always a set up for future blessings. We encounter the same problem until we learn to master it finding a solution to help others. First Corinthians 9:22 says, "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak." One may find himself in a problem and eventually will help others, who are weak in that area, solve the same problem. In most cases the stories you hear from pastors are an example. Some pastors experienced great trials and tribulations and overcame each. Their experience and story allows them to lead and encourage others to successfully come out on top. My past trials gave me the compassion to help others who are facing what I have faced. It also gave me the tools in creating an idea, the manifestation of this very book. Since I was a child, I have always dreamt of being a writer. My past experiences gave me the idea of what to include within each book. God prepares you for what you were called to do or what you are coming into. Lao-Tzu said, "Always be on the lookout for ways to turn a problem into an opportunity for success."

I read an interesting story about Henry Ford. He said, "The human mind is a channel through which things-to-be are coming into the realm of things that are." He understood this because he was aware of inspired thoughts, ideas, and creating things with his mind. Ford's story is quite interesting. As a child he was intrigued by machines such as motors. He often worked with machines on his father's farm. Later, Ford pursued his passion and began his career as an

engineer with Edison Illuminating Company. Now what was amazing is the word “Illuminating” within the company’s name. When something is illuminating, it is informative and enlightening oftentimes by revealing or emphasizing facts that were previously obscure. This company acted as a support for Ford’s invention. It opened up enlightening ideas in how to move forward in his ideas. Whatever was obscured to Ford prior to working for Edison Illuminating Company, the divine inspiration within led him to his destiny, clarifying and assembling pieces of his vision, bringing it into alignment. Ford created a Model T car.

Many thought Ford’s idea was crazy. When ideas are worth something there will be more rejections than approvals. Sometimes we experience more failure and opposition than success, yet all it takes is that one opportunity that can last a lifetime. Who can create an affordable car especially during the economic times that were approaching? Obviously, Ford knew if this was an idea then of course it was very well possible in any circumstance. He stated, “I will build a car for the great multitude.” In 1903, he incorporated his idea with only three employees to build it. He called it Ford Motor Company. By 1908, his dream became a reality and the production of Ford’s car became a huge success. During this time, Americans spent only 1% of their income on vehicles. Who would take a chance like this when vehicles were not rapidly being sold? By 1929, the Great Depression hit, affecting many businesses. There were governmental cut backs left and right (sort of what’s going on today); nevertheless, Ford produced another invention. In 1932, he created an affordable V-8 engine. And that too became a success.

Although Ford may have been a bit dismayed by his failures, the discouragement of others, and the economy resulting from the Great Depression did not stop him. Ford pressed through bankruptcy and failure to manifest his dream. You see, Ford had an infinite capacity to know what can be done. He had the right attitude and was motivated to succeed. He knew how to use his infinite possibilities

to create what seemed impossible during one of the most crucial economic seasons. Ford created a new era in the world's history and a shift in the economy. He shifted the law of supply and demand during the Great Depression. Ford created a demand for a reliable affordable automobile, which created more supply for himself as well as the economy. God will cause you to have a vision and an idea to bring change. His purpose is to move you into that vision to create a shift and a new era. The greatest people and creations are always born during the most crucial and difficult times.

Ford like many other inventors knew how to tap into their memory bank. Their ideas motivated them to move within their purpose. Those ideas were an opportunity to receive abundance; a lifetime filled not with scarcity of want and need but a lifetime of capacity to enjoy life and fulfill the wants and needs of others. Everyone either wanted or needed a reliable affordable car and Ford fulfilled this by providing for a great multitude. I am sure he enjoyed his life as well by working within his passion. When you love what you do, money always appears and forever circulates in creating a never-ending supply. God always gives a double portion of supply when working in your passion. Your inspiration, your invention, and your vision can be someone else's demand. In return, your supply or surplus will be constant as long as you are consistent in your completion of what God has called you to do. What are you passionate about to bring a double portion into your life?

You may have heard the term "memory bank." Have you analyzed the actual meaning of the term? Webster's Dictionary describes it as a physical section of the memory. Many may say it is information that we collect and store in the memory. I describe the memory bank as a deep dark vault in your mind, a chamber filled with treasures that God left imbedded in you upon entering this world. It is filled with memories of what you are called forth to do. What lies within it is an abundance of ideas to obtain wealth. This bank has whatever amount you call forth. This bank, like a financial bank, has a vault that only one person can

open—You! God is always depositing ideas into the vault of our minds. By now, many of us should be billionaires. Instead, many do not take action and withdraw from the idea. When you're constantly withdrawing the result is lack. At times, an idea may flash in your mind, but may be disregarded for several reasons. Some just leave it as that, a thought and a dream. Others may feel they do not have the resources to live out the dream. Some may feel it is not a good idea. In addition, others are simply lazy. They do not want to take the necessary actions to bring that idea into reality. Some may sit and wait until everything in life is perfect before proceeding. Little changes every day leads to bigger ones. It is easier to think it than to do it, but a diligent mind and hand bring forth the wealth. Proverbs 14:23 says, "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

The mind is so precious and beautiful. It came equipped with never-ending possibilities and unlimited supply. This is why it is vital to feed the mind with positive thoughts, affirmations, healthy foods, books, and soothing music. In return it gives you positive confirmations that your desires are only an idea and action away. The mind is also powerful. It is a channel in which the spirit connects to convey to the body or flesh. The Divinity recalls memories that may have been buried within you. The mind begins to recapture those memories replaying them to you as thoughts and creative ideas. It informs you of what you can do. Whatever you think up always shows up. This is why we must be careful of what we hold onto in the mind. It is the throne and heaven, which rules the body. It is placed at the top for a reason. The mind either creates or destroys the outcome of your life.

Thoughts should always reveal that you are going places. In order to reach the Promised Land you have to imagine and think the possible not what seems impossible. Sometimes through life's circumstances we think something is unlikely; dwelling in the impossible leads to destruction. In the Bible story of the Twelve Spies, Joshua and Caleb along with ten other spies were set out to spy the land the Israelites were to

take possession of. Out of all twelve spies only two, Joshua and Caleb, saw that the land was fruitful and reported back to Moses with a good report. The other spies neglected the possibility to take possession of the land because there were giants in the land. They said it was impossible because they would be like grasshoppers compared to them. They feared the giants and the steps to take instead of focusing on God's promises. Their thoughts focused on the challenges they would face and because of their thoughts they never made it to the Promised Land. If you fear failure and challenge you will definitely fail. The spies were sent to examine the land for 40 days and their doubt led to 40 years in the wilderness. The costliest experience is to think something is impossible. One day of doubtful thinking can lead to 365 days of pain. However, Joshua and Caleb made it to the Promised Land. They saw the possibility and the fruits were well worth defeating any present challenge. Choose thoughts wisely. Choose your environment wisely. It helps to reveal memories of what amazing things the mind can do. It helps you to move towards your destiny.

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*

—Matthew 7:24-27

Do you ever wonder why you repeat the same old patterns, repeatedly falling into the same situation? In most cases, for many who have difficulty becoming successful it is due to not knowing their reason of existence, doing

something they dislike, or disobeying a command such as an idea. When you're obedient and consistently moving in action towards a goal, nothing can ever break you or tear down the foundation the Lord has established. Purpose exhilarates and when you're passionate about it you will continue pursuing it despite the storm. When you are working within your dreams, passion, or purpose the foundation becomes a solid rock. It will not matter what storm may approach, your dream will never fall to the ground. Ideas always manifest. If it doesn't, the timing is just off. Henry Ford put his ideas into practice in one of the worst economic times. The storm roiled when the stock market crashed, but it did not tear down the foundation. The idea of a T-Motor car was implanted within and he obeyed the command and brought the idea into manifestation. Ford continues to run strong even to this day.

Sometimes you may not know your purpose in life immediately. It takes years of experiences or sometimes others around you to help shape you into the discovery of your purpose. For years I was unhappy working meaningless jobs. It was just enough to get me by. My childhood dream was to teach and write, among other things. As I got older I disregarded this for several reasons. Eventually, I was connected to a prophet who helped reveal something I had buried. He encouraged me to write and as I began I felt such an enthusiasm and passion for it. Once you begin to realize your passion, the mind begins to offer you an array of thoughts, dreams, visions, ideas, and inspirations; things you are to do to fulfill and live out your purpose. When you are obedient and work within your purpose you allow God to lead you into a land of treasure promised to bless you. When you're building an eternity you create generations of stored up treasures waiting to be opened. The key is to move out of your present state of security and rely on God's security. Abraham in the Bible left a land he occupied for 75 years to walk into a land promised to bless him.

*On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites'*

—Genesis 15:18-21

God lays down the foundation for you. Within that foundation are buried treasures waiting to be discovered and used. Memories of inspirational ideas are the foundation. How you build upon it is up to you. Many have a habit of making excuses not to move into their purpose. “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?” (Luke 14:28) You want a tower, you desire many things, yet count the cost in obtaining it. What I believe this Scripture is saying is to strategize, prioritize, and plan your success. If God has given you the idea it is meant for you to build upon it through careful planning. If you're focused on the idea the Lord will provide. He will provide because this is His plan through you. He will provide because you took the first step of faith to begin fulfilling it. He will provide because you had faith in Him to keep building regardless of your current conditions. By setting your intentions which is goal setting, all else will work itself out. I made many excuses until I ran out of them. There is no excuse why anyone should not be where he or she wants to be. We all choose our own destiny and choose to be where we are today. When you move into your passion and work out God's will for your life, you create a better life not only for yourself but generations thereafter. It's good to leave a legacy behind your name; not only an earthly legacy, but more so a spiritual legacy. When you become a legacy you pass down treasures creating an eternity of wealth. A legacy is a covenant which passes down to your descendants.

It allows those after you to walk into the land God has set forth.

Since I was young, a part of me knew some of the things I was meant to do, such as becoming a writer. However, that was only a small portion of the gifts God has placed in me. I will never forget what a man said to me years ago, when I was in my early 20's. He said his words will ring in my ear and I will remember him. He was a driver who would come and drop off freight. He didn't speak much but the day he did, it changed something within me. His words awakened a part of me that was hidden. He asked questions that would reveal a part of my destiny. He stated that I belonged in my own business, perhaps sales. He told me to consider moving towards something I enjoyed. This man disappeared. Several months later he reappeared once more. He laughed and said, "You're still here." By this time I had become a supervisor and thought things were looking up, although I was still miserable. My hours increased because of more responsibility which meant I had no time to pursue my own dreams. People always learn the hard way, through trials and tribulation. And we wonder why we have to go through the trials. We go through it until we learn humility and follow the instructions first given to us. We keep learning and repeating the same process until it finally sticks.

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing  
some people have entertained angels without knowing it*

—Hebrews 13:2

A few years passed and I came to the realization that this man was right. It was time to pursue and walk into my assigned purpose. We all must walk into the knowledge of God's plan for our lives. To walk into a plan of success you need a tour guide, a messenger. This is why prophets are vital. This is why teachers, mentors and coaches are also vital. This man could have been my tour guide, an angel feeding me with inspiration. He was sent to awaken

something implanted early on. Have you ever met a person and said, "This person is a Godsend." Sometimes a thought enters your mind and you question where it suddenly came from. Angels entertain the imagination. They are the ideas and whisperings of God. God entertains in many forms and aspects. He sends His angels as thoughts, ideas, dreams, and people. Being aware to certain words and inner conversations are very important. It could be a message you need. Obey the whispers within you for they are links to your future. The song Amazing Grace describes an angel's purpose. The words begin with, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, who saved a wretch like me. I was once lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see . . ." When an angel speaks, the sound is sweet because they give you inspirational tools which can save you. When you're listening to these messages, you will no longer feel lost or blind. You will discover your purpose and know how to walk into joy and abundance with an amazing grace.

*See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you  
along the way and to bring you to the place I have  
prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says*

—Exodus 23:20-21

Angels illuminate the power and thoughts in your mind by strengthening the power and inspiration of your vision. Something that you desire or are passionate about is a place God has prepared for you. When there is a thought or vision that has been implanted within you, it is vital to manifest that thought or spoken word into being. "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14) When you take action based on a command, you allow an inheritance to be delivered unto thee. Angels prophecy good fortune and give you instructions how to walk into the good fortune. Discern and pay attention to those who are placed in your life. Will you listen? Will you obey its message? Although this man had

given me instructions, I had not yet obeyed the commands given immediately. I made excuses and counted the cost in moving towards self-employment. It was a place I had not yet tested. It meant more responsibility and action on my part. However, responsibility brings growth and increase. Responsibility causes you to go more within and create so you won't be without. I was comfortable in what I was doing, yet miserable. I constantly asked, "How am I going to do that?" When you look at the outer appearances it will always deceive you. I was not in my assigned place of employment. Every day I concentrated on something other than that job I was in. It was time to move towards something that I desired and dreamt of. I eventually stopped asking a question of, "how am I?" and reversed it into a statement of being and knowing, "I am."

When you're not in your assigned environment or it is time to move on, God will begin to reveal it to you. When God calls you to a certain area, you will feel a pulling and tugging towards it. There will be signs. It will be difficult to escape. You may feel discontent in the current place, you may be unproductive, or you will never grow. In any position that you're in you should work diligently to produce and create. If you're in your assigned place you will work diligently exceeding your boss's expectation to gain a higher position, maybe take his or her place eventually. You will always grow in your assigned place. How can you excel in a place you don't belong? God only assigns you to places temporarily to gain experiences to help lead you to the assigned destination. When it's time to leave I suggest doing so; otherwise you will never see the full abundance of rewards God has in store for you and sometimes you're eventually pushed out. When you're working in your purpose you will work at your highest level of excellence because your energy is diverted into love and joy in all that you do. When there is love and joy the atmosphere is gracious producing gracious and generous results. The universe has no choice but to fill you with charitable gifts because all that you do is in the name of love. The Bible says love is the greatest gift of all (1

Corinthians 13:13). In that it produces the greatest gifts in return. Without love you have nothing.

Paul in the Bible said, "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." If you're in the wrong area your energy is wasted producing wasteful work or results. As the saying goes, you reap what you sow. If you're sowing your time into something that is not satisfying, then the results of what you're receiving will not satisfy you. A woman I once worked with was demoted to one of the lowest positions in the company (in her opinion). At one point, she was a manager and, at another, an accountant. She was demoted to a data entry clerk because she was no longer a full-time employee. She had decided to work part time. Most probably would say that is not a bad position; however, her love and background possessed managerial and accounting skills. She spent the majority of the time on the phone, surfing the internet, and reading the newspaper. Now, what I've found to be interesting is that she walked around quite often asking if anyone needed help with something they didn't understand. The manager would become furious, as this was not her job function any longer, so she did it very quietly sometimes. She found interest in helping others and improving things because she was once a manager. Her current position wastes her time, the company time and money, as well as produces wasteful results. Data that needs to be entered is not being completed effectively and efficiently because she is not in her correct work area, nor does she love her new position. As we grow in life we take on different roles and positions. Sometimes we do what we have to do temporarily to stay afloat. However what we are doing should be in conjunction with our goals.

If you love what you do you're consistent with the work and will always look for ways to improve and excel. If you do that which you love consistently and diligently it will attract the attention of God. In anything you do it must please God. Doing something you dislike or even like because it is a safety zone displeases God. His desire is to be

your safety and comfort. For God wants you to serve Him not men, wholeheartedly with will and good service and He will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free (Ephesians 6:7). Although you may feel as a slave at some point in your life, if you're in your correct place of assignment the Lord will honor you with rewards for all the good you have done. Mike Murdock said, "Provision is only guaranteed at your place of obedience." Your assigned place may at first look as if there will be no progress, no result or return so you need to discern and ask God if you're where you belong. People will begin to recognize you for your service, just as Joseph in the Bible was recognized while in prison. Joseph found ways to use his gifts to produce what he needed. He solved other people's problems by interpreting their dreams. The Pharaoh needed an interpretation and when no one else was able to help him but Joseph it won him favor to rule over the land. God will cause you to become ruler over an area or a master solver of a problem if you follow His lead while waiting patiently for him to fulfill His promise. Joseph was also in his correct place of assignment (Genesis 42:1-36). Being within the correct area will not only produce a harvest but will also produce connections that may only show up in that arena; as Joseph's connection to Pharaoh was made through someone in prison. When you're in the right atmosphere, you will receive the right results. If Joseph looked at the appearances he would have suffered in lack. It seems impossible to receive a harvest behind prison walls. However, Joseph waited for God to fulfill His promise.

*Where there is no revelation (vision),  
the people cast off restraint*

—Proverbs 29:18

God has always given you a way out. Many always want more but don't want to move from that comfortable place to achieve it. I was once in that position. We are conditioned to wanting things immediately without stretching and

working towards it. The Lord gives revelations and tools to achieve prosperity in all areas of life. This is why God gives us a vision, insight, and desires. Without these revelations there's nothing to look forward to. Vision helps to overcome circumstances. Bishop Jordan said, "Your senses are merely tools. It is a gift given to help guide you." Listen to the whispers and the intuition or the inner conscious. The Lord is always speaking, guiding, and leading. Your senses are given to become aware and sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. Many just fight against it, try to reason or rationalize, or revise it to suit the personal need. God is not necessarily a giver of rewards. He is a giver of means, tools and inspirations. When we obey these revelations given we are then rewarded. Without revelations there are restraints, things which hold back the blessings. When there is restraint there are restrictions. This is why there are feelings of unhappiness, depression, anger, disappointment, and lack. God will always lead you if you allow Him. He will always inform you and give you instructions before he moves you. The problem is that some do not take heed and trust in Him. We must all take steps grasping without reach, reaching with higher expectations, not limiting ourselves with excuses, and getting into the habit of rising to the occasion.

The mind is a terrible thing to waste. It's like sitting on a treasure box filled with precious jewels. You know you can open it but misplaced the key in your abode. Instead of taking action and searching for the key, you choose to never open the box to create a better life. You don't want to tear down the house to find the key. In one of his works, "Mathnawi," Mystical Poet and Philosopher Jalal al-Din Rumi said, "The spiritual path ruins the house to reveal the treasure, and with that treasure it builds better than before." Sometimes you have to tear things down and take risks in order to build a better life. When you release faith you rid all blockage and hindrance from intercepting in your life.

Your thoughts and ideas must circulate. If you allow it to sit, the creative mind loses its purpose and value. The creative mind or imagination is your bank vault. You

have to be willing to open it and use it to circulate more abundance into your existence. The same principles apply as in the law of money. The law of money states that money must constantly circulate in order to bring fourth increase. If money sits it loses value after time. People don't get rich by saving. They get rich by investing, allowing money to move. Keeping money in the bank gains very little interest. I'm not saying that banking is not good. We all need money in the bank but having another investment to have money circulate is important. Banks are always circulating, which is why they're successful. Banks use what's called compound interest. They take the principal and the interest of what you've already earned to make more money. Because the money is just sitting there not being used, someone else has to use it. Have you ever had a thought or idea only to have someone else come out with it later? You may have said that was my idea. Well, you were just sitting on it. It had to be used. Ideas are energy and energy likes to be used. It must circulate just as money. Open your memory bank and circulate what's in it. Everything you need exists within you. Inspirations are the inner spirit or the spirit in you informing you of what is already present within you.

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## CHAPTER 2

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# Uncommon Sense Brings Uncommon Favor

*Thou this be madness yet there is method in it*

—Shakespeare in Hamlet

Before any reward there is a risk and often risk taking can appear as madness because it threatens your comfort level. I'm going to let you in on a secret. Have you heard of a seed? A seed is what you have sown after the tithe. It is a sacrifice you give up in order to come into something greater. A seed is a risk, and though it seems like madness when you have to tend to the necessities of life, it brings a reward if you know how to participate in rewarding yourself through the process of the seed. Shakespeare was very knowledgeable in risk taking. He believed there is a method to it. That method requires faith. When you get to the point that people say you're mad you're now ready to come into the rewards.

How often have you heard someone say, "Be realistic! Are you mad? Have common sense." Walter Chrysler was a mad man. He took all of his savings and purchased cars which he took apart and assembled it back again. What was his point? He was learning his purpose, the creation of a car and company which we know as Chrysler. When your ways and actions are uncommon, people will think you're mad. Emily Dickinson wrote, "Much madness is divinest sense." God always know which way He will bless you and very often the direction or instruction given does not make sense.

The Lord told Mary he will impregnate her although she was a virgin (Matthew 1:18-24). Sarah was told she would have a child in her old age (Genesis 18: 11-12). Naaman was told to dip in the filthiest water and he would be healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5). A widow was instructed to give her last meal to Prophet Elijah and her supply will be plenty (1 Kings 17). The disciples were told to leave all their belongings behind and follow Jesus (Matthew 4: 18-22). Peter was told to step out of the boat and walk on water (Matthew 14:29). All these things appeared impossible and seemed like madness. We often try to make sense of how the Lord will bless us and when it doesn't make sense we may not partake in it. Sometimes we wait for the right feeling. Like Naaman; he felt dipping in the Jordan would not feel right. It was unsanitary and filthy. Yet his servant having the faith, basically told Naaman, "listen to the instructions given, get rid of the feeling and use your faith." It is important to allow your faith to override the feeling; otherwise you can miss the way.

When you're moving outside your comfort zone to achieve your desires it makes divine sense because you're moving by the Spirit. When the disciples of Jesus left all they had to follow a vision, a Master, and the faith to know that all they desired and needed would be met was uncommon thinking. The Bible said they left their nets behind to follow Jesus. The net symbolized man or job security. When they left their nets behind they decided to depend on God's security. Now, I'm not saying that all should leave something that provides security such as a job. What I am saying is that all should depend on God's security and know He is the source for all your good. Some expect something from man instead of expecting from God. Expecting from God produces amazing miracles. Not all will have the uncommon sense to walk by faith and follow a vision, the Master, or the principle that the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Not all will come into spiritual truths that all they need is already present because common sense will have them dependent upon external factors and resources. Yes, it can be a difficult thing to walk away from something, yet the risk

involved brings a greater reward. Risk is the main ingredient in what makes something successful. Though it seems as madness to follow an uncommon thing, it is the infinite way of living, which brings infinite possibilities, opportunities, and rewards in due time. Those with a greater inner vision and a hunger to succeed will be able to think and move in an uncommon way.

To be successful and achieve goals going against the grain is sometimes necessary. To go against the grain means to go against an accepted practice, societal norms, or simply something that is unpleasant to others. It is not easy being or doing something different from others. Many like to fit in. When you're different in ways and actions you become unpleasant to others. Some may say you are strange or do strange things. People will separate themselves from you because your ways are different; your actions are not understandable or explainable in their eyes. Leaders are created because they are always going against the norm. Leaders are often unpopular because they act and do uncommon things, separating themselves from the masses. Leaders understand common sense never brings uncommon favor.

To come into a place of thriving, Spirit must lead. When you are surviving the ego leads. The ego mind likes things to make sense and will keep you restricted. The ego mind is the worldly mind, the intellect. The ego mind is what most listen to. It tells you "no" that is not a good idea. You have never been there so don't step outside the boundaries. You can't afford it. How would you survive? The ego mind is always questioning, doubting, and suppressing. It can subtract from life if allowed. The Spirit should lead because it does not put limitations on your life. It adds to your life because it knows no failure, has no doubts, and knows all things are possible. You should never aspire to being normal. Nor should you aspire to wanting normal things. When you do things out of the norm, you produce something beyond ordinary-extraordinary.

*Let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others argue  
over small things, but not you. Let others cry over  
small hurts, but not you. Let others leave their future in  
someone else's hands, but not you*

—Jim Rohn

Throughout your life you have probably heard the word “can’t” more than 80% of the time. Sometimes we listened to others and missed the mark. But thank God for second chances. We have another chance to lead the life God has ordained for us. It’s never too late to pursue your dreams. Let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others leave their future in someone else’s hand, but not you. Let others say “can’t” but not you and remember the word “can” works miracles. God believes you can. I believe you can. Do you believe you can? Sometimes listening to certain people may alter your destiny and cause you to lead a small life, a life filled with dreams and desires that are never met. That’s okay for some people if you’re willing to lead that life. Second Corinthians 6:15 says, “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” Engaging with unbelievers produces stagnant results and the focus is on what can’t happen. Surrounding yourself around what you’re trying to become is what influences your growth. Improper thoughts and surroundings disrupt the goodness and proper results from flowing into your life. Those with little minds will always belittle you and deny what is possible. Those with great minds will always encourage and inspire you to reach your full potential and greater heights. Positive surroundings inspire the gifts in you to arise. It acts as a bridge in reaching your highest capabilities.

Not everyone has the same goal in mind as the other person. Your dream may seem impossible to another. Your dream may not sound like a good idea to another. Your dream may not agree with what the other person may want

or think you should be or do. When I planned to leave my job to create my own company, many thought I was crazy. People have asked, "How will you live if you are not receiving an income right away? How and why will you accomplish that?" I must say, at times failure and doubt overcrowded my mind. I thought about what others said and thought maybe they were right. Maybe I jumped out way too soon. Maybe it wasn't time. Maybe I made the wrong decision. Maybe I didn't plan accordingly. Maybe I should have saved more money. At times, it appeared as if I was never going to get there. At times, I've felt depressed and ashamed. At times, I had nothing in my pocket. At times, I did not eat, but maybe that was a good thing since I was trying to lose weight. At times, I was tempted to turn back. At times, I gave up. I experienced major and minor challenges, and many setbacks. I was in transition and not only did I leave my job, but also had to leave my home and start new. There were many steps involved and it was a process, but the freedom to create what I desired was well worth it all and now I am making it. R.W. Emerson said, "Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right." We sometimes have inner critics, our thoughts. Then we have outside critics, our friends, family, and colleagues. Critics will criticize the possibility and compliment the impossible. In most cases, successful people do not criticize but are criticized. Most often you will find successful people praising. There are some critics that look at the facts and not the reality. Critics rate things based on their point of view and experiences. Their experiences are never your experiences. Their facts and realities are not yours. There are also other critics such as a mentor or coach. They give you constructive criticism to help you move past adversity to achieve your goals. First "Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character." Most successful people are good company. They speak only of

their success and future success. Plan your steps with only success in mind and the Lord will lead you to success.

To begin to live a life of harmony, joy, abundance, and fulfillment one must understand and identify the nature of the mind. There is the conscious mind which is the superego or intellect that suppresses your id. It is the subjective experience or the state of mind inhabited during your waking state. Your ego mind is controlled by this environment because it is informed by what it sees in its surroundings. The environmental experience usually causes your feelings, thoughts, and attitudes which impress on the mind. This is why you may look at the circumstances and feel that something is impossible. The conscious mind likes logic, reasoning, rationalizing, and wants things to make sense. It is also the master of the subconscious mind. It tells the subconscious what to create.

The subconscious mind is below the awareness. It is the creative, intuitive, and imaginative part of the mind that stores memories and skills, assembles, organizes, and processes experiences. It is the most active part of the mind and is very independent. It doesn't allow outside circumstances other than the conscious mind to influence it. The subconscious mind is the autopilot and is automatic. When we do things such as driving a car or bike it becomes automatic after time. After years of not driving a car or riding a bike we're able to do it again without having to rethink or relearn how to. The subconscious mind stored the memory where it became automatic. The subconscious mind is sometimes referred to as the creator. Whatever the conscious mind speaks to it, the subconscious mind begins to form it into your existence. If you constantly put into your thoughts that you are successful despite your circumstances and failure, guess what—you're stepping into success. The subconscious mind receives information and is given instructions to follow. Sometimes the Lord can speak to us through the subconscious providing guidance and comfort. Both the conscious and subconscious are there to provide assistance and guidance. Knowing how to use them wisely

to step into greatness is the key. It is a matter of thinking the right thoughts and moving in the right direction.

Oftentimes we block that inner voice because worry, fear, and things that have to get done cloud the mind. After leaving my job, I admit there were challenges, fear, and constant noise in my head on what I should do next. Then I realized I couldn't hear that small whisper and inner inspiration when worry and fear were constant in my thoughts? I was reminded of Luke 10:41-42 when Jesus said, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." When you're focused on one important thing, and not all others it will show in your life. Focusing on one small step will lead to the next step. For some time after leaving my job, I sat and waited for the resources to show and for something special to appear. Then, I realized I had to use what I had to get what I didn't have. I had to develop the skill of reaching my goal one small step at a time and one way to do it was to visualize it every day. When it is in front of you, you are reminded daily to pursue it. By writing down your goals and prioritizing what's most important you will be able to accomplish all within a systematic order. Having your goal right in front of you will open up solutions in how to achieve it. Writing is essential to manifestation. It frees your mind of the clutter and begins to open up new ideas and avenues towards your goal.

When you need answers, direction, and inspiration to take that next step the Lord may reveal this to you in your dreams. Sometimes this may be the only time you can hear Him. Your dreams reveal things you must change in order to move forward. It may reveal what you're coming into. Or it can reveal an idea, a connection, and direction. Dreams speak things into your life revealing your heart, your mind, and your character. Sometimes dreams are symbolic in meaning; nevertheless they speak to you. Meditation also helps to reveal answers and direction. You allow the mind to rest bringing the spirit in total control. During one of my meditation sessions, God revealed a vision that

would automatically produce millions of dollars. I asked God to make me a millionaire and He blessed me with a million-dollar idea. It's up to me how I move upon it. Prior to the vision I had a dream of finding a lot of money. It was a suitcase filled with over a million dollars. The suitcase represented the idea and finding and opening the suitcase represented my actions. The dream and vision were reassuring me that I am a millionaire if I follow the Lord's instructions and take action.

When you move into an unfamiliar zone becoming a risk taker you allow God to lead you. Nothing seems common to you. Nothing makes sense, but yet you keep moving finding a place of safety. This place of safety is your faith in the Lord and the confidence within yourself, knowing you're capable of achieving all things. The battle arrives and continues in the conviction that you believe you're incapable of achievement, what you want to achieve is impossible, and the fear to step out in conquering the impossible. You become victorious by one simple act—belief. In the spirit domain God expects you to risk all of your common sense in order to deliver an uncommon blessing. All God asks is that you trust in Him and He will take care of the rest.

*If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God*

—2 Corinthians 5:13

Stories in the Bible are revelation of man's conscious and subconscious mind. They exemplify characters and characteristics as our own self. For instance, Peter in the Bible was a risk taker. Others in the boat were not. The Lord planted a vision in Peter's mind of something that seemed impossible. The Lord will always give you a vision of something that seems impossible or unlikely to accomplish or receive. Peter did something that was very uncommon. He stepped out in faith and walked on water risking the chance of drowning. Others in the boat probably said common sense would indicate that walking on water is impossible;

however, the Lord challenged Peter. He implanted a vision in Peter's mind of what he can do according to his faith. The Lord told Peter to step out of the boat (Matthew 14). Out of all 12 disciples only one followed and was blessed with uncommon favor, to walk on water. If Peter did not step out the boat he would have never known the feeling and experience of walking on water. Are you one who would stand in the boat or within your current circumstances in disbelief, watching others achieve success? Wouldn't it feel wonderful to experience walking on success and prosperity? Faith is taking the step when you don't know what's in front of you and that's what Peter did. Was Peter out of his mind? Yes, he was! But it was for the sake of the Lord. You have to be out of your mind to take a big leap of faith risking the chances of drowning. When you follow God's instructions it may seem crazy. It may seem as if you will drown. At times it may feel there is no safety line to pull you in. At times you will feel that you can't see the shore line. You may wonder how you can pursue the vision or anything you desire if you risk everything. If you're going to do anything worthwhile to receive an uncommon miracle you must take a big leap immediately risking all things. Failure is a growth process we all encounter. In the end it will all make divine sense, leaving you with divine favor and an uncommon harvest.

Someone in your life or something that may appear in your life will challenge you as Jesus challenged Peter. Challenges reveal and bring forth the gifts that God placed within you. It reveals and builds character. This is why we are always faced with challenges. It is the strengthening of gifts. Who would think that Peter had a gift of walking on water? However, it wasn't so much in the gift but in his faith that he believed what Christ said. Christ had given Peter power and authority to walk on water. Only very few would believe, understand, or experience the ability to walk on water or anything in fact, which may appear impossible. Peter was one of the chosen few who experienced something extraordinary. He was not like the masses or the other disciples who were stuck in fear. One should aspire to be

one of the chosen few, one who would demonstrate truths and the God-given powers and abilities. Those who are champions, leaders, and successors of life are the chosen few demonstrating life.

When you take the first step, you must continue to press on even when the storm arises. The minute the wind or the storm approached and Peter looked down, doubt came to the mind. This is what happens too many of us. When you doubt and become fearful you lose focus. Peter began to sink until Jesus told him to look up and reach out. He had to restore Peter's faith by reminding him to look towards Him forgetting about the surroundings and there he found comfort. Peter had to be reminded that there is no failure. Failure is in your fear and doubt. Failure is looking behind you instead of what's ahead. Instead of focusing on what could have been, focus on what can be. Peter's desire to walk on water had expanded his faith. In Genevieve Behrend's book, *Your Invisible Power*, she said, "Your desire to be your best has expanded your faith into the faith of the Universe which knows no failure, and has brought you into conscious realization that you are not a victim of the universe, but a part of it. Consequently, you are able to recognize that there is that within yourself which is able to make conscious contact with the Universal Law, and enables you to press all the particular laws of Nature, whether visible or invisible, into serving your particular demand or desire. Thereby you find yourself Master . . . ." Peter had pressed all the particular laws of nature because of his desire to meet Jesus and walk on water. He had a thirst and hunger to do something that has never been done before. With Peter's faith, God was able to work fully through him. When you move in faith there by you is a power moving you along the way until greatness is revealed in you.

As previously mentioned, a person always shows up in your life to challenge you and walk you into favorable opportunities and rewards. It is a wonderful thing when God sends someone who can challenge you and see the future of your seed. When someone in your life comes and challenges

you into something greater than your present circumstances, you have found uncommon favor from the Lord. Those sent to challenge you are angels sent to give you a picture of your harvest. Jesus showed up during the darkest hour, in a storm, just before a new day, to bring revelation and light to a situation. A prophet showed up during one of the most difficult times in my life. A prophet, mentor, coach, or teacher usually shows up in your life during a crisis to help you recreate your life, steps, and destiny. Prophets bring you to a place of unfamiliarity to move you to a level of abundance. Prophet Elijah in the Bible came to a widow who was at her last meal (1 Kings 17). The widow had prepared a meal for herself and her son and planned to die. She had spoken of death in her situation and in her life, but God had a different plan. The prophet appeared to show her a picture of her potential. Elijah came to this woman and said to prepare a meal for him. She told him this was her last. Elijah did not feed into her mind state of lack. In the physical, there was an appearance of lack. There was a solution to her plenty and what she had in her hand and the words from her mouth contained the solution. Sometimes our physical world shows less but looking through the spiritual eye there is always plenty. Elijah did not pity the widow's situation. He knew how God operates. He came to challenge her faith. She had to feed God first or the man He sent in His dwelling first. Elijah told this woman to give him her last meal and believe in the unknown, the unseen, and the word of God spoken through him to bring a greater abundance. He wanted her to use what she had, even if it was her last to change her situation. Sometimes we have nothing left but our faith and that's what we must use as our guide and resource and take action. This woman did not allow her surroundings to rule her destiny. She may have been worried to step out and risk her last meal but she had nothing left but hope, faith and a seed. She did something uncommon. She gave her last to the man of God. Elijah ate and gave the widow instructions of what to do. God will always give you instructions first before He moves you into abundance. Because of her ounce of faith,

the widow received an uncommon harvest. There was an overflow and more than enough supply to last a lifetime. This man of God came to bring death to her way of thinking. She had negative thoughts of no way out but God changed that and gave her a renewed mind, to walk into a new destiny. Sometimes in life you're put into a dilemma, you're in a storm, or you feel completely lost. When you're left with nothing else is when most turn to God. He is usually the last option when there are no more options. He is the only option. The widow turned to the man of God because she was in a dilemma. She found the key to her harvest. It was in her thoughts and belief that she would be blessed with plenty and not lacking anything.

The widow knew at the point the prophet showed up there would be change. However, she had to take a risky step and give a seed of her best and last to change her situation. You must always sow to grow. You must always sow to know. Sowing in the right place, to someone or thing that inspires you will help you grow. This woman had to heed the instructions of the prophet in order to prosper. Proverbs 16:20 says, "Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord." The Lord will always give you instructions on how to prosper. Many want to be fed. However, you must feed whatever it is you are seeking until it can feed you. Although this widow may have felt uncertain, the widow had to choose to take action. At times you may know that something is a better way. If you choose not to take action today because you want to eat first to satisfy your current circumstances, you will never prosper. Your seeds are what grow your tomorrow. Many feel and say God knows my heart so He will understand if I can't do a thing. He sees that you did not trust in Him to take action; therefore, you are left in your current dilemma. It is the obedience and sacrifice that gets the blessing. Knowing a thing that you should do but don't does not produce results. Taking action is what produces results and gets the blessing. Sometimes behavior is what changes the attitude. In other

words, action is what changes our belief and attitude that all things are possible.

Knowing and action are two separate matters. Law and ethics are two separate matters. The law of God states to give your first fruits to God while ethics or your beliefs may state to feed your current circumstances first. The distinction between these two is evident in choosing what you think or feel is morally correct. If you are free to choose and take action you then become responsibly correct. Sometimes the choices between what is the right or wrong thing to do are not always clear to make. When you're faced with a difficult choice in life many may do what they have to do, although the decision may not be morally correct. The fact remains that people should make a choice and move in it, for God loves those who take action. Through my experiences, I've learned God did not show up the day before, but the day I decided to trust Him and take action. That day of action I was blessed with a miracle. Sometimes decisions may not be the right one at that time. However, you must quickly change course instead of remaining in that dilemma. People become fearful after making the wrong decision. They fear that the next one may be the wrong choice as well. This is normal and understandable but at some point you must move past that feeling. Memories of failure and disappointments can hinder your confidence. Hold onto the scripture when Isaiah says, "Remember not the former things; neither consider things of the past. Behold I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19). When you're stuck in fear it's because you have not made a decision or the focus lies on something other than a new thing. Taking action releases fear and brings a new glorious experience.

I remember after losing a job, and eventually my unemployment stipend, I had to make a difficult choice. I didn't have much money left for the week to pay bills, to eat, nor to get on the bus to look for work. I had no car because it was repossessed the week before and I was also facing eviction. I had to make a choice and believe that God would sustain me even if I gave my last. It took some time to make this decision as I fought back and forth with

the ego mind that said I was absolutely out of my mind. People also thought I was crazy for doing something like this. "Why do you give so much that you don't have?" You can't let everyone know your plans. They may speak against it and sometimes alter your decisions. You have to plan mysteriously and move fearlessly. Their moral beliefs were that I was insane for giving something I didn't have much of. Obviously, I was operating in the law of release. I was in a dilemma and I needed a financial release; therefore I had to release something in order to get something more. I became as the woman who gave her last. I sowed and decided to fast for a week. That was the least inexpensive way to feed myself without starving. Frederick Franson said, "If you have nothing to eat, fast and pray." Did you know that fasting feeds the spirit and allows the creativity to arise? I was feeding the mind and the spirit to guide me. Isaiah 58:6 says that it breaks the bands of the yoke so the oppressed can go free. I needed mental and spiritual freedom. I was tired of feeling oppressed. Ezra 8:21-23 also say fasting is asking God to change course. I definitely needed a change of course. And God delivered! I received money from school. It was enough to eat and get another place. God came through just in time because I trusted in Him. I took action and what felt like a wrong decision became the right decision. After receiving I then had to give my first fruit back as a thank you seed. And guess what happened? A job opened up. It wasn't exactly what I wanted but it was a step up from where I was before. If I had moved towards a business the Lord would have blessed me in that as well. He reveals and moves at the level you're ready for. I had to trust with all my soul and all that is within me. I had to seek the Lord diligently that all my worries and desires were already met.

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power  
and of love, and of self-discipline*

—2 Timothy 1:7

Common people set common goals. But those with faith set uncommon goals because they know uncommon favor rest upon them. Getting into a habit of using your creative active power of thought and visualization to move that uncommon desire will help you move in uncommon ways. As I did once upon my life and many others do today is limit their vision. When you limit yourself you're showing fear. Your pleasures and desires should be according to God's pleasures and will for your life. Do you honestly think God takes pleasure in you constantly wanting and being unhappy because you can't obtain what you ask Him for? It pleases God when you are prospering. If it's not in His plans then it shouldn't be in yours. God's plan is that you live a fruitful, joyous, healthy life. He does not take pleasure in seeing His children, His creation suffer. When you move in fear you blind yourself to living a lavish life, something God had intended for you. God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. We have the power to get those things we desire. We have the ability to pursue a career or anything that we love, and not struggle. When we are disciplined we begin to move in confidence and a sound mind towards our goal. Focus on the Lord. He will then show you a vision or desire so big that it will require a financial harvest, uncommon favor, and a greater trust in Him. You should always dream big, always ask big, and always take big leaps. Getting into a diligent thinking pattern of the provision God has made for you will help you to move pass adversity. When you're in the habit of knowing God can do all things through you, which means you're capable of doing all things in His name, He will enrich you with wisdom and with that wisdom you will be enriched with wealth beyond imagination.

Bishop Jordan says, "We must always live in expectation. Once that expectation is delivered, there's nothing left to look forward to; therefore we should continue to always live in expectation." Expectation motivates and empowers. The greater the influence or expectation placed upon people, the better they perform. Stripping the expectation of

receiving better in life, the less the universe supplies. This is similar to the law of supply and demand. As the demand or expectation increases the more the supply has to increase. When you're in a habit of expecting and knowing that God will bless you the more He does. When you have a dream so big, the influence becomes greater, the expectation becomes greater. A dream so large requires a large risk, and of course the risk is what brings a greater return. God's greatest desire is that you trust in Him and expect a miracle. "He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). When you move diligently in faith and expectation the Lord will quickly move on your behalf. God promises to bless you and He motivates you with supply, a promised harvest if you obey His commands. God doesn't want your heart to be troubled nor fearful.

*Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful*

—John 14:27

Fear is a terrible thing because you always end in want and not fulfillment. You must discern what it is you fear and ask the Lord to remove it. And, of course, to rid fear is to face whatever it is that you fear. This involves the practice of risky habits and risky habits require every ounce of faith you have. I think God loves us to live on the edge because in doing so you learn to completely rely on Him. Oftentimes I sowed my last and received a reward. At times I did not receive a reward in the form of money. However, I received a blessing in the form of an idea, favor on the job, or a favorable connection, all these things which lead to money. When I gave I had to give with a cheerful heart in faith and expectancy that my blessing was already here. Many give without expectancy. Some may feel expecting something from God is greed. God loves when you're expecting, but He also expects you to step out and grab hold of His promises. I had to trust through time that my blessing was being prepared for delivery. God will sometimes challenge you

to see if you can hold up and still believe in Him to deliver what you've asked. In the King James Version of the Bible, Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." God does not intend to harm you, but to give you thoughts of peace. However, there is a key word here, "expected." Your thought of the expected end is what produces the favor, abundance, and the end result of your desires. As Prophet Winston Davis said, "We must master expectancy, what we expect to happen in our lives." If thoughts are negative, that negativity will bring a negative expected end. Surely, you cannot blame God or anyone for your own harm. If thoughts are positive, you will produce a positive result. If you don't receive what you ask for right away don't give up. A greater blessing will show in due time. The greater the opposition and wait the greater the rewards. Many sometimes become upset because of something they had to give up in order to come into the blessing. I had experienced these feelings. For anything you want in life, you must pay your dues. Everything has a price or an opportunity cost, a trade off, an exchange. You must always be prepared to give up something in order to secure other things. You must pay the price to walk into a favorable opportunity. Whatever you release unto God He will release a double portion unto you. God is always preparing and setting you up to walk into an outcome that will astound you.

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,  
because fear has to do with punishment. The one who  
fears is not made perfect in love*

—1 John 4:18

Fear restricts your blessing and keeps you in bondage and slavery. Fear usually comes from feelings of unworthiness; believing you're unworthy of a thing. Successful people take risks everyday. They love what they do, which drives out fear. Fear also brings conflicts, lack, and closes choices. When

you're free you have choices and are not limited to one thing. Fear deceives and manipulates you causing manipulative actions. Some people do really crazy things. They will take risky action that will cause them to get into trouble instead of taking action that requires faith in God. Some may gamble as a way of increasing their resources. Some may need a legal situation rectified and would rather pay thousands to a lawyer. Some may need healing and would pay thousands to a doctor. This is due to fear of the unknown that if they give their seed to God they may not get a miracle. Remember, you always get what you expect.

Fear and poverty are selfish acts and forms of self-affliction. When there is fear you isolate yourself becoming uninvolved as I once did. Things in life will be incomplete which affects not only your life but also the lives of others around you; your family, your career, and most important God's purpose for your life. We all at some point have fear, especially when our money seems to run on empty, but when that emotion of fear remains present we don't get to enjoy the journey to greatness. Fear paralyzes causing mental and emotional stress. Sometimes it can be difficult to move past that place of fear. I encourage you to read about wealth builders and to surround yourself with those who inspire you such as spiritual leaders, mentors, coaches, and wealthy people.

God always brings deliverance when moving in faith. To deliver is described as a promise, an achieved support for somebody. It provides or produces something, or to carry or give someone something. When you do something out of the ordinary it is God's promise to you to produce and deliver something extraordinary. Just as I was writing I received a call from a friend. He called me the night before and said he was short of his mortgage money. He only had \$200 in his pocket and needed \$2,000. He sowed his tithe and offering of \$100 trusting God will provide. The next day he went out to conduct business with only \$100 in his pocket and by noon time he received over \$2,000, more than thousands of what he had sown. The more you do something uncommon the

*Kaneen Morgan*

more you will outgrow old ways and outmoded methods. By risking your common sense, leaning not unto your own understanding but God's, He will give you more than you can imagine. Now that is deliverance!

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# BODY

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## CHAPTER 3

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# Creating Positive Perceptions

*We are God's Picasso. How can we accept or see ourselves less than greatness. We are God's greatest creation, created in His image. He drew us in His mind and then manifested it. You must feel as God sees and feels you — great! I see myself as God sees me, which is why I am treated as such, which is why I receive all things, which is why I Am all things. I chose this day to be God's greatest painting and so should you. As God said, "Choose ye this day . . ." and today I choose to be God's greatest and favorite painting*

*—Prophet Winston Davis*

Many tend to have feelings of distress and depression when life seems problematic. Lord knows I've gone through many ups and downs. In the darkest moments, you may feel you don't deserve good or good will not come to you. At times, my goals seemed far away and unlikely and I felt discouraged. Eventually, it took a toll on me spiritually, mentally, and physically. The causes of these feelings were brought on by impatience, frustration, lack of trust, poor perceptions and a poor attitude. I was going through a major transformation and transition in my life. During the transformation I was frustrated wanting things to turn in my favor immediately. I had to trust that God was in control even when things appeared to be out of control. Transition and transformation will always hurt and take time. Deliverance will usually appear unlikely. I knew my plans and the

direction I was headed in was full of greatness; however, my perception of the physicality of my surroundings had caused me to feel negative about myself and the situation I had found myself in. This is why your surroundings play a vital role in your life. During the darkest time in my life Prophet Winston called and said, "Choose to be God's favorite painting. Paint your life in a way that displays greatness." If you can only see yourself as God sees you, just as you are, you will be amazed. You will move in excellence and always feel great for we are fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works (Psalms 139:14). The Lord is always reminding you that greatness is on the inside of you.

*We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are*

—The Talmud

Perceptions are important because they are the basis of our attitude, decisions, behavior, and relationships. Judging by appearance we suffer the consequences of it, which will influence the way we think and behave. When we judge things and others we are judging ourselves. Through our imaginations we create pictures of what we would like to see. The purpose of the imagination is to project or perceive images. Those images are what creates and bring manifestation. God has placed you as His greatest creation, in His image or in other words imagination. Within His imagination, God saw us as good, His greatest creation and it was manifested. When our perceptions are good, it projects positive results in our experience. Look around. Do you like what you see? What is seen is a reflection of your perceptions. Did you know you can change your life by simply the way you view things? Imagine the potential we hold if we are as God. He has given us a vast ability to draw our own painting as He did. We are painters of our own fate, our own destiny. As God said, "Choose ye this day . . ." How you perceive yourself or the world is the image or painting you have chosen to create. Others will see the image you have created

yourself to be. Your view of the world is a reflection of how you see yourself. We are greatly influenced by our perception of our self and the world around us. Since these perceptions govern our views and actions of our inner and outer world it is important to see ourselves in the image of God, how He created us to be—great! When you better understand who you are and expand your self-image, you expand your greater possibilities. Give yourself an inside makeover first to embrace the love, joy, and self-awareness that you are deserving and worthy of God’s grace and goodness. Feeling wonderfully whole always starts from the inside and work its way out. Typically feelings whether positive or negative, derive from your inner emotional state. When you feel negative about yourself or doubt yourself it hinders benefits from flowing into your life. It prohibits you from connecting to your Divine Being, the very essence of you.

*What you think of yourself is much more important than  
what others think of you*

—Seneca

An undeveloped feeling of self-worth comes by not knowing yourself or by concentrating on what others say about you. The hardest thing in life is the discovery and acceptance of self. Being honest with the self is important because it opens new insight and integrity within you and amongst others. When we’re dishonest with ourselves we lose our self-respect, self-confidence, and self-worth. When you are feeling positive, forgiving, and happy you become receptive, open to new discovery, the discovery of the real you, what you have to offer the world and what the world can offer you. To improve your feelings of self-worth and self-confidence defining yourself in positive ways can help. You must ask yourself, “Who am I?” Then state daily affirmations, morning, noon, and night the answer you come up with. What are your likes or dislikes? What do you consider your purpose to be? What are you passionate

about? James E. Faust said, "As we mature spiritually under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, our sense of personal worth, of belonging, and of identity increases." When you become influenced by a higher power, you begin to discover your true identity and self-awareness and confidence rises. When you discover your true identity you begin to move towards your purpose. When your self-awareness increases you begin to improve your outlook on the self and your world begins to improve. Learning to respect, love, and accept thyself, life will present itself in a whole new meaning and open up infinite opportunities; opportunities of success, gratitude, love, beauty, wisdom, understanding, and compassion.

*Take care of your body.  
It's the only place you have to live.*

—Jim Rohn

We should always create an image of feeling and looking great, inside and out. Our mind and body is the only place we live. Wherever there is negative perception or energy it affects the core (spirit) or the nucleus. The spirit as the nucleus in our bodies is responsible for growth and reproduction. The nucleus is also the positively charged dense center of an atom. Negative feelings and doubt sends negative energy to the nucleus, which is positively charged. Imagine how that can affect your whole system when feeding it opposite energy. Since the nucleus' main function is centered on growth and reproduction, growth becomes affected and life becomes stagnant and challenging. This is why producing more money or having the physical strength to achieve goals is difficult. If the nucleus is affected it cannot function properly, thus the body begins to show for it. Either you gain or lose weight and feel fatigue, which can eventually affect your self-esteem. In both cases this can be unhealthy. All types of feelings arise and whatever you feel your surroundings show for it, rather in your health, emotional, mental, and even financial state.

*Men are disturbed not by the things that happen, but by  
their opinion of the things that happen*

—Epictetus

Your thoughts and words hold power and control every force around you. Your opinion and response to things in and of this world can impact your life. It creates perceptions and images, which will later manifest into being. People and surroundings can influence your thoughts. Have you ever heard of “Self-fulfilling Prophecy?” It is the perceived personality. If you perceive, think or feel that you’re intelligent, wealthy, creative, beautiful, people will treat you as such and your environment will be as that. If you feel opposite of those feelings, people would see you as that and treat you just the same. You would eventually act, move, and become your own thoughts or prophecy and if you allow it, other people’s perception of you. This is also known as the *Pygmalion Effect*. It is when others determine your character and the outcome of your life. Your identity becomes that of another. You take on roles of another character, other than your own. No one should tell you any different of whom and what you are or becoming. As Epictetus said, “Men are disturbed not by the things that happen, but by their opinion of the things that happen.” Typically people are disturbed based on their thought or perception of it. Nothing is bad unless you call it bad. All situations you find yourself in, you must see the good in it and the end result will be that.

The Pygmalion Effect existed thousands of years back, during Greek mythology. However, it came to light during the Rosenthal-Jacobson study. It was an experiment performed by a social psychologist and a principal of an elementary school. The purpose of the experiment was to support the hypothesis that reality can be influenced by the expectations of others. The greater the influence or expectation placed upon students or people, the better they perform. People with poor expectations internalize their negative perceptions and perform in kind, and those with

positive perceptions succeed accordingly. This is why you have to feel and see the blessing ahead no matter what the circumstances appear to be. In Matthew 9:21 the woman said, "If I can only touch his garment, I will be healed." She wasn't concerned about her surroundings or circumstances. She knew the power of feeling will make her whole. Her perceptions of being healed caused her to be healed. Because she expected healing she was healed. She had to be in the presence of Jesus to capture the blessing. You have to surround yourself with what you're trying to become. You have to look good because you are. You have to feel and dress stylishly because you're becoming wealthy. Some may have a habit of allowing others and circumstances to dictate the outcome of their life. Remember that you're God's Picasso, His greatest gift of creation to Himself. You're God's prize possession. Just imagine that!

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body*

—1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You are a temple of God who He uses and resides in. Many take their bodies for granted and bring pleasure to it instead of bringing pleasure to what resides in it, the Spirit. If God said you belong to Him than no other should be able to do or speak unto it unless God grants the permission. No one should come to the temple that God has created and tell you that you're not capable of being and becoming something greater. Even yourself should not speak to your body and say that you're not capable of something. You neglect every law of God that says you belong to Him. He is using you to do a work here on earth. You were bought at a price, Jesus' life; therefore honor God with your body and substance. Nourish the body with healthy things. Stay physically fit and capable so God can use you to do greater works. We must uphold

an image of kings and queens representing God. Each time a pharaoh died in Egypt he was placed into a temple which represented what they were, a king or queen, or as some thought them to be, a god. Everyone who passed this pyramid knew that a king or queen resided within because of its physical image. It was beautiful on the outside. The inside was even more beautiful and what resided within it was filled with substance, treasures, and wealth. Within you are the most important substance and gifts. The treasures that you seek are already within you. Respect to all should always be shown because you are acknowledging, honoring, and saluting the God in all.

*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

—Matthew 6:22-23

The eye or the mind is the lamp of the body. Whatever you perceive with your eyes your body or outer surroundings will represent that. If the eyes see the good, your whole body will be as light and move towards the light. The body is an extension of the mind and reacts based on what the mind tells it to do. Once that lamp goes on in the mind the body reveals it. If the mind is impure in thoughts, defiled and negative, the body and behavior will be corrupt.

Many in life concentrate on responsibilities and worries that they neglect the temple. At times in my life when I've felt down, I allowed myself to look how I've felt. Instead of creating healthy habits I created unhealthy habits because I did not think healthy thoughts. I had to change my thoughts in order to change my lifestyle. We all must care for the temple so it will care for us. We should care for the body by taking time to relax, pampering it, and increasing the physical activity to make it stronger and capable of handling and accomplishing the task ahead. We must celebrate the

temple and treat it with respect and love. Having not only a mind but a body that looks and feels good makes you feel on top of the world. This is how God wants you to feel. We must always feed the body by incorporating a healthy diet. Each diet should consist of a rainbow, having all the colors on your plate. For example, green representing spinach, purple-eggplant, yellow-squash and so on. Certain foods stimulate the cells in your body responsible for important functions. I have heard that strawberries are very important for women to include in their diets. It stimulates the reproductive organs and helps to reduce fibroids and cysts. Foods have a big impact on the mind and body. Overdoing it can put a strain on the body. How can God perform through you if the temple is being destroyed, abused, and neglected? When I fast I noticed my vision and thoughts are clearer. I'm more active, less tired and less stressed. I do not constantly desire harmful things like soda, sweets, meat, etc. When my diet is unhealthy and I'm less active I feel all these negative feelings, becoming very lethargic and unproductive.

I have read several tracts on the significance of water and how it affects the body in different stages of your life. When you're happy the water is distributed evenly and the crystals in your body form a beautiful substance attracting all beautiful and good things towards you. However, if you're angry, very negative, and fearful the water crystals begin to break apart, subtracting the way things should flow. Have you noticed when you have negative feelings the body becomes tense and tightens up. The muscles in your body have to do more work. When you're upset it is difficult to understand and be receptive to things because of the tension. When something is tight it is difficult for any substance to pass through it so it moves away. When you're feeding the body negativity the cells begin to tighten up becoming difficult to function as they should, to reproduce and grow. Thus that negativity begins to form outside of the cells producing waste in the body and malfunction. You have to release negative energy through positive thoughts and meditation. This is why forgiveness is important. It releases

the tension. You then become receptive and alert to receive inner guidance and support. It is important to change your inner and outer appearance. You have to physically put your body into gear to glorify God's temple. When you feel or think negatively about yourself it subtracts any good thing from walking towards you. If leaders, businessmen, pastors, or congressmen dressed inappropriately or spoke negativity do you think people would enter their temple and become followers? People see the presenter before the message being presented.

*So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh*

—Genesis 41:14

You are a walking messenger. Although it is within that matters your outside presentation is seen before anything else; therefore appearance is important. Your clothing communicates what you are about and what you are pursuing. Aristotle said, "Personal beauty is a greater recommendation than any letter of reference." You have to present what you represent. You have to present what you're trying to become. You have to represent where you're going. Prior to Joseph going before Pharaoh he shaved and changed his clothes. He didn't say or think because he was in prison that he had to present himself in such a way. He knew what he represented and where he was headed. Joseph could have presented himself just as he was, but he didn't want to portray a man in bondage. Joseph knew the importance of presentation. Presentation represents your thoughts, values, and respect for others and yourself. Joseph's thoughts were of success; therefore his actions were based on that. He changed his perception and appearance regardless of his circumstances. He knew he was going before greatness, the Pharaoh of Egypt. When your presentation shows the message you're trying to convey you attract others to

listen. Just because you have not acquired wealth yet doesn't mean you shouldn't appear so. People see you before you speak. If you're trying to attract business and money you have to present yourself as such. Someone I once knew always dressed in suits even if he didn't need to and he was remembered as the man in the suit who was going places. People viewed him as someone of importance, wealth, and a great business man. Your appearance will get the attention of the universe to listen and attract the message and connection you're conveying. If Joseph did not think good of himself or have honor and respect for the Pharaoh of Egypt he would not take the time to dress appropriately. Because of Joseph's beliefs and perception he walked out of prison to become Prime Minister of Egypt. Joseph knew the gifts that resided in him. He made it known that he represented God; therefore he became known as, "the man whose dreams came true." Interestingly, he was a dream interpreter.

*So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck*

—Genesis 41:41-42

In Catherine Ponder's book, *The Millionaires of Genesis*, she said, "In the process of developing a billionaire consciousness, Joseph developed charm, glamour, style, looks, culture, and refinement. He learned how to dress . . . . All of these qualities are helpful in developing a well-balanced prosperity consciousness." Because of Joseph's constant attitude of greatness, in choosing to look and feel that which he was coming into, it showed. He was put in charge over the land and was given royalties and dominion all in one day. Of course it was a process and it took him years to develop this way of thinking and a wealthy consciousness. He had to learn and activate his

creative power. Joseph came out of the land of Canaan to go to the land of wealth. Joseph had to go and labor among the wealthy because that was his attitude. He wanted to learn how to dress like them, be like them, and attract the substance that they were acquiring. Joseph was different in that he was a mystical billionaire. He later realized he did not have to slave all day and night to attract wealth. He allowed God to lead, instruct, and teach him until it was time to reap the harvest. Thoughts are planted seeds. Joseph sowed continuous seeds of wealthy thoughts and it was time to reap the harvest of those thoughts. When the harvest appeared it came in an overflow, enough to last a lifetime. Joseph also used the gift that God had given him as a dream interpreter. He used the power of naming and becoming that which he was destined for. His vast appreciation and respect for wealth caused him to walk directly into it.

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good  
to accomplish what is now being done . . .*

—Genesis 50:20

When you look and feel awesome someone around you will begin to envy and despise you. Great people are always envied and talked about. When envy is present it can sometimes be a good thing. It shows that others desire to do, be, and have what God has blessed you with. A friend said to me one day, “The more you’re hated the more you’re elevated and vice versa.” Joseph was hated among his brothers and was sold into slavery. He was hated because Joseph got a glimpse of his destiny, his purpose, and it was full of greatness. He had a dream that his brothers would serve him. He saw his brothers in his dream bowing down to him. They criticized his dream and threw him into a pit. Although it may appear that people, and sometimes God, are trying to harm you it is always a blessing in disguise. We should learn to celebrate our traitors. They are there to push us into our purpose. What appears to be destruction

is always a resurrection. The Lord is always setting you up for the way up. He moves mysteriously through the night or darkness of your life. God moved in Joseph's life at a time it appeared dark. God showed him a picture of his destiny and soon after he was thrown into a pit, slavery, and prison. It was the beginning of his journey into greatness. The minute Joseph's consciousness expanded he began to change his perception and appearance which brought attention. Joseph was so fascinated with wealth that his dreams were of wealth. His family did not like this and became envious of him. They eventually sold him into slavery. In actuality, Joseph's consciousness threw him out of his old surroundings. His brothers denied his dreams. People will always try to deny your dreams. Joseph was forced into what he and his family thought was slavery. In actuality it was training to learn the way of the wealthy. Joseph had to serve that which he was becoming. What appeared to be a disaster is what set and placed Joseph in the position of his destiny. After Joseph was thrown into the pit and sold into slavery he said unto his brothers, "It was not you who sent me here, but God." Joseph's actions showed he had developed a billionaire attitude and was capable of handling the position he was walking into. He learned humility and leadership abilities. Prophet Winston Davis said, "You have to earn your consciousness." A higher level of thinking and consciousness just doesn't happen overnight. You have to earn it by serving that which your consciousness has expanded to. "You have to sow your way into knowledge."

Joseph had become aware of prosperity and how to demonstrate it in his life. He had to first serve it and present himself as such. You have to serve and give towards what you are trying to achieve until it's time for it to serve you in its giving. Joseph's profound respect of the wealthy and lavish lifestyle brought him into greatness. You must have respect and value prosperity, and the wisdom to achieve it. When you see yourself as great, good things will gravitate towards you. My curiosity, respect, and value for God's wisdom brought me into connection with a Master Prophet

who helped further my insight of the mystery and wisdom of God. I had to be in the presence of a master to help bring me into another level of spiritual awareness. I could not have received a spiritual enlightenment from someone who does not value and teach the wisdom of God. A person with a master's degree cannot be taught certain subjects by someone with a high school diploma. A person who has an impoverished attitude cannot teach someone how to become prosperous. You must always appear and prepare to become greater than you presently are. Represent the message you're conveying and others will follow.

*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down  
and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will  
recognize them*

—Matthew 7:19-20

God Himself says thus by the fruit will He be recognized. This is how He is expressed. It shows and proves that you have done His will. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Some have this belief that wealth or having quality things is not everything. Some believe that God defends the poor and the wealthy should be reprimanded. Can you be full of the Spirit living in a poverty state? The Bible tells you, that all should produce fruit and live a good quality life. You produce greater fruit when you're walking in your purpose and passion, something God has intended for you. Our way of thinking, our light is displayed by our fruitage. In Zechariah 3, Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes. "The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." It is a sin to think that we must remain in lack. When we're lost in the sin our appearance and speech speaks so. When Joshua was removed from sin, he allowed the angel to dress him so he could be recognized as who God called him to be.

Many will try to influence you into thinking that living a lavish lifestyle and having quality things is a bad thing. Many will influence you into thinking that living within your dream is impossible. Life circumstances will sometimes influence you into thinking abundance and happiness is almost impossible. Eventually, you begin to settle allowing the Pygmalion Effect or the perceptions of others break your own perception. When you begin to settle for second best, that's what happens to you in life. Allow your life to be God's fulfilling prophecy. Always be in expectancy of what God has in store for you. As the Pygmalion Effect goes, people with poor expectations internalize their negative perceptions and become so, and those with positive perceptions and expectations succeed accordingly and will always bear fruit.

In life you must present an attitude, having the mind, thoughts, and appearance of that which you're trying to incorporate. Joseph's positive attitude regardless of his circumstances qualified him for the blessing. You have to develop the lifestyle you plan to live in the imagination before it's ever borne in the physical. Joseph practiced wealth in his mind and body. It became an element embodied in his being. That element is what separated him from the physical surroundings of what appeared to be lack and bondage. Joseph practiced his dream by appearing wealthy inside and out, although he was a slave. He had to steadily develop into what he was destined for. Joseph knew what he represented and no one could tell him differently. He was wrongly accused and treated unfairly which could have caused him to act out of his character. He could have made a plea bargain or harm the person whom wrongly accused him. But he surrendered to the Lord and allowed Him to handle all his troubles.

Joseph believed the Lord would guide him into his dream. He had let go and yield to God's will instead of fighting to hold his position. He knew if he let go he would come into something greater. We must learn when to hold on and when to let go. When we have faith that something greater is in store we let go and allow God to lead. The

woman who accused Joseph was a wealthy woman; however, her actions proved her insecurities and perceptions of herself. Her thoughts were impure, perhaps envious. The woman's husband looked up to Joseph and placed him in charge of their household. Perhaps she wanted that attention and power. Joseph was tested in many ways; his freedom, his dream, his character, dignity, and God's word. As long as something is steadfast in the mind it cannot be taken from you, no matter how many ways you're tested. If you fall or lose you will always get back up and proceed as the winner. All should stay concentrated on their potential and not the limitations, because the limitations will result in lost and unhappiness. All should not concentrate on others' limitations, but see their greater truth. Once you develop in conscious and know who you are no one can alter or take away that which belongs to you. You must stand firm with the truth of the god in you and not appear weak to the ungodly. The ungodly are those who say the opposite of what you can do, be, and become. They are the naysayers who only see the lie, the perception and deception the world mindset has created. The universe only responds to what the mind perceives and draws in its presence. Your thought habits have an immediate effect on the appearance of the body; how it functions, what is drawn into it and unto it, and what surroundings it stands in. Your body can only stand in what you're ready for, something the mind has created. Listen to the inner spirit and allow it to guide you into the truth. Turn on the lamp and awaken the mind of the image God sees in you.

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## CHAPTER 4

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### The Community

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

—Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

What do you see in the word “CommUNITY”? The powerful word “unity.” Unity is what’s needed to achieve God’s will. All have heard the phrase that “your network is your net worth.” This holds true because the Bible says that two are better than one. It produces a good return. There is power in relationships. Moses had a team to assist him. Even Jesus knew the importance of relationships. He had a community or networking team that he chose to walk with him. They were his disciples. Networking produces strategic alliances, which create and increase cooperation and eliminate competition. When there is a strong alliance and cooperation one cannot be defeated. There is value in forming and maintaining a strong circle of relationships and contacts. Bishop Jordan said, “In unity there is power-unity with our own self, unity with the creative principle of the universe. In unity, one increases. In separation for selfish reasons, one decreases.” The condition of the physical world is made up of duality. Duality represents the theory of matter as the Webster Dictionary defines it. It accounts for the behavior of matter and energy under different conditions. Those desiring to become successful cannot work under the

condition of one. Networking creates resources and added energy to produce the most effective and efficient results. Being resourceful is an enterprise, an organized system or business. The added energy brings matter into existence. Your net worth is your value, which determines how useful you are, socially, morally, financially, and even spiritually. The foundation of life is built on relationships, how we commune with God, our inner self, money, banks, employers and employees, business associates, family, and friends. Your network creates a series of branches of interconnecting lines linking you to your product. It forms a unit, a weapon which one cannot defeat. When you emulate your allies in a spirit of harmony you will benefit greatly from your association with them. Networking also lessens the workload physically so one can produce more mentally and financially. Try walking on one leg and you will become physically challenged, making it difficult to accomplish the thing you desire. Two legs lessen the workload of trying to walk on one. This is why God created everything in two's: feet, legs, arms, hands, eyes, nostrils, male and female. "In the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). He created two because one cannot work without the other. God did not intend for anyone or anything to be alone. Solitude is limited to the complete skills and resources needed to succeed. By forming alliances and partnerships with others who have what we do not, we can achieve much more in less time.

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts;  
and though all its parts are many, they form one body.  
So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one  
Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or  
free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink*

—1 Corinthians 12:12-13

God created the body as a community in one unit to represent Him. The body has many different components.

Each part functions differently and serves a purpose, yet working together in a system to serve one purpose. Working within a community creates intimacy or connection amongst yourself and others. Networking is both internal and external. When you commune within you learn how to communicate amongst others. You allow yourself to go into the depths of your inner soul to gather information. Everything comes to you in bits and pieces. It is God's intention for you to commune within your community, gathering all the pieces revealed unto you. When you commune with others, ideas and solutions are generated. Each body adds or multiples its specific purpose. Having your own business and having others do the work for you adds to your time and profit to generate more of a profit. Not all are meant to do the same job. While you're the visionary or creator (producer), another may be the architect (builder and designer), while the others may be the workers (employees who participate in the daily operation and functions to keep the business running). Without one or more of these you cannot possibly produce and multiply to full capacity. Many try to micro-manage their own business because it may be less expensive or raise trust issues. Some may not take the time to connect with others. I have tried doing things alone when I recognized I failed often as one. I've lacked the necessary gifts and resources to run the business among other things accordingly. God asks the question, "Do you have the greater gifts of all that you so eagerly desire?" When you come to the realization of the truth, God says, "And now I will show you the most excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31). The truth is you need something or someone to assist you to fulfill your purpose. You need God first for He is the provider and sustainer. You need two or more to build a family, community or to complete a project. You need all departments within your business to cooperate, working together to keep the business successful. You need all or most departments of the physical body to help you succeed. Both husband and wife must work together to organize, create, and build a successful home or an empire of wealth. Of course, many are successful without

another but imagine if there was one more. The success is far greater and more beneficial.

*Just as each of us has one body with many members,  
and these members do not all have the same function,  
so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each  
member belongs to all the others*

—Romans 12:4-5

God is a huge promoter of building a community. It helps others to mature in their calling. It brings higher revelations shedding light on what the other revealed. Your spiritual journey is enhanced by companions, community, and resources. When you are connected within an inner circle you shed light on God's glory. God loves to see a connection. That connection is what allows His power to be used even greater on earth. This is why a community is so vital. As early as Samuel in the Bible, God began to promote a community. He used Samuel to build a School of Prophets. Samuel called it, "A Company of Prophets" (1 Samuel 10:5). It was there the community of prophets accompanied one another bringing and shedding light on God's plan, word, and His wisdom. When others came into the prophets' presence they began to prophecy without being anointed as a prophet. Because God's glory and anointing was so strong amongst them, people who accompanied them had to be used. They had no choice but to prophecy as the prophets did. When you accompany a certain group, you have no choice but to do and become like them. When someone accompanies or dedicates himself to others who are anointed in a particular area, has willpower, direction, and mastery of his own nature, he slowly develops his own special powers. "Birds of a feather flock together." We are all one mind.

When someone accompanies you it brings power and energy. When you are around those of influence or become the center of influence people respond to you in greater influential ways. We should always pursue or

be accompanied by wise counsel. We may lack certain knowledge that someone else may be skilled in. We may have the ideas but lack the finances, yet another will have the finances and want to invest their money into an idea. Something we need is always hidden in someone else. If you're in a financial crisis, someone in your community may have the resources to get you out. They can refer you to a financial planner, a credit counselor or introduce you to a business opportunity that can produce more money. There are so many resources available, you just have to be accompanied or present in the right arena. We have to make ourselves available to walk into a blessing. God uses men to bring a blessing. Wise men know the importance of networking because it provides information or a connection that is needed. Unwise people risk the consequences of not receiving wise counsel. Sometimes the ego inflates and pride sets in, prohibiting people to seek out wise counsel. Being egotistical and stubborn gets you nowhere in life. "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). You will never get what you want or need until you learn the great power in connecting, connection, and reconnecting. Man is made and built up by many. Even when you reach that desired level, there is another degree of mentorship and impartation. You're always submitting until you become a leader or master of an experience. Even at the point of leadership and mastery you are still submitting. You submit to knowledge, always learning through revelation, experience, and others. Everyone you meet is your teacher. All should aspire to receive mentorship or to establish partnership.

*For lack of guidance a nation falls,  
but many advisers make victory sure*

—Proverbs 11:14

Many tend to shut down when they are presented with life's difficulties. The difficulties of life had caused me to shut

down and isolate myself from the world. I didn't speak about what was going on so no one really knew. I was ashamed and too prideful to talk about what was occurring. I didn't have to speak about the negative things that were happening, but I had to ask for advice in order to get out of it. When you're faced with a problem in life the worst thing you can ever do is isolate yourself. When you isolate you become a target for attack. Your mind is attacked by all these negative thoughts. You begin to have not only negative perceptions of yourself but the world outside of self. Complaining becomes your main topic of conversation. Self-pity arises and sometimes you also blame others. Because I lacked the guidance of wise counsel it felt as if life had come to a halt. I wasn't progressing as I should have. I didn't know how to climb out of this bind I found myself in. Have you noticed when you isolate yourself you feel drained? Isolation is a form of idleness. I'm sure you heard the saying, "Idleness is the devil's workshop." If you're idle there is no movement. Your mind get distracted and lost in wrong thinking and doing. I was often tired, restless, and depressed. I sat around feeling sorry for myself. I was wasting more time and energy and nothing was getting accomplished. If you sit around every day being unproductive you're idle. Your body becomes lazy prohibiting you from participating in your miracles. Second Thessalonians 3:10 says, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." I had suffered and hungered for a spiritual, mental, and financial balance. I hungered for a better way out but didn't know where to begin until I decided to seek wise counsel. I didn't have the strength to think for myself. I felt physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually impaired. I needed direction and a major change.

*Laziness casts into a deep sleep,  
and an idle man will suffer hunger*

—Proverbs 19:15

The advice I received was to get out, connect with people, and network. I thought, "That's the answer!" I wanted to hear something else. However, it was time to come out of the state of mind I was in and connect with others. Remember, your blessing is always tied to another person. Your season of success is determined by the people you meet. It was time to get out of my shell. I had once felt that I lacked the resources to get out and network among certain people. I feared meeting people because of the state I was in. I was afraid of what I didn't have or knew. Since then, I've realized I didn't need the outside sources to connect with others who did. It all starts within the mind and manifests outward. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Whatever you perceive or believe so it will be. If I believed I was an entrepreneur despite my setbacks I could associate with greater accomplished business people and not feel threatened by their company. Your thoughts determine your character and environment. Although, I was afraid to get out, it was time to connect to my breakthrough. I had to heed the instructions of wise counsel and move forward regardless of the physical surroundings which were only an illusion. I had to get in the company of spiritual, positive, creative, productive, and business minded people. You will begin to think, feel, do, and become that which accompanies you. Your network determines your status in life.

Mike Murdock said, "You will never possess what you are unwilling to pursue. What you ignore will move away from you." Some may be unwilling to pursue what they desire because of humiliation, limitations, and the difficulties in obtaining it or the necessary steps that must be made. Something you already possess is the key to your success. Someone you may know or need to know is a key to your promotion. Your network is a photograph of an expected harvest. It produces more than you currently have. It's important to discern those God sent to bless you. They are your angels God assigned to you. You cannot ignore those who God has sent. When you network and accompany influential people your morals are changed, your perception

changes, your energy level changes, and yes, even your financial status increases. Networking and partnership encourages wonderful opportunities. It proves where you're headed. Don't hold off in connecting with others because you may lack the skills or resources. If you're going for a certain job or starting your own business, please don't wait because you do not have the qualifications. An open door will come through a person, not necessarily through your skills. The longer you procrastinate, the longer your blessing is withheld. The longer you remain in isolation, the longer the connection and blessing is withheld. It's difficult to deliver a blessing when you're idle. You must pursue and walk into the blessing. God is always connecting as long as you trust in Him to deliver. You must always establish a network to accompany you. This is how you grow in all areas of your life. That which surrounds you will begin to manifest in your existence. It will manifest because you chose to express it within your surroundings.

Not only realizing the network outside of self but realizing the network which lies within you is important. The self-knowledge of who you are and all the powers and gifts you possess to become successful is most important. You can have a tremendous network of people, but until you realize what the powers in you are capable of doing, you will only make those around you successful. Napoleon Hill in his book, *Succeed and Grow Rich through Persuasion*, said, "Your best self is your most powerful ally." Your best self is the "I Am" in you which agrees with the power to become anything you desire to be. This is the act of communing within the community of the body. The mind is telling its connected branches or community this is what we will work into being. It begins to orchestrate and build its organization to become something more. The Bible says, "He who findeth a wife findeth a good thing and receives favor from the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22). He findeth a good thing because it's the beginning of an organization. It's an investment planted in a life. His life becomes organized as he begins to build a family. This is the purpose of man, to build. God's desire is

to make one strong to become strong for another and build him up. It is almost impossible for man to be strong as one. The most successful men or women have a wife or husband behind them or a powerful partner and networking team. The wife is her husband's neck and backbone to support and encourage the head as he builds. Imagine a builder as one trying to build a tower. It will use nearly all his energy and become almost impossible to complete. He would not have the strength to begin his next building or project. Without a community you're powerless. Without the mind organizing the body to move and become greatness you're powerless. Without a network you're powerless because you're limited. Once you realize the powerful resources that exist in and around you is the beginning of success.

*You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear*

—Ephesians 4:29

Building up of the body or unifying the bodies can sometimes be challenging. Since all are not alike it can be difficult to work together. Similarities brings relationships together. Differences are what add value to relationships. However, some view differences in a critical or threatening way. Elements in us are not always in harmony with each other, and often can work against each other. We often try to subdue and outshine the other instead of building up. Sometimes people will slander others, become envious, hateful, distrustful, and so on. People usually speak against another due to disagreements and indifferences. Each purpose is different. Each vision is different. Each body is different. Each body is unique in its own way, yet when it all comes together it serves a major purpose. When you focus on the vision and purpose rather than the form or indifferences, growth is guaranteed in all areas. Because one is different no unwholesome word shall come out another's

mouth and slander the other. That which leaves your mouth shall be beneficial for the building up of the one willing to hear. Whatever you speak against someone, it returns unto you. Whatever you speak unto another is something within you. God desires to bring his saints into harmony. Of course it is sometimes difficult; therefore you have to be willing to put in the work. This is where love comes in. Love answers and heals all things. If you have love in the heart, harmony comes natural. Harmony is a law. It causes healthy results within the bodies. Without it the body and mind will be dysfunctional. Harmony keeps things in peace, order, and on one accord. To be on one accord all have to be willing to contribute, otherwise harmony will not be present. It will be a dysfunctional organization. It will break the connection established to promote success. Relationships that are not in harmony eventually break up if one person is contributing and trying to make it work and not the other. Relationships remain when a concentrated goal or purpose is the focus. If one person in a department is unwilling to cooperate with others it creates a dysfunctional department, thus affecting the whole team. If the assistant pastor or other bodies of the church disagree with the pastors' teaching, it creates a dysfunctional church. All must contribute in making something work. All are different, with different talents, gifts, and resources, yet together their purpose could be spiritual, financial, or personal growth. This is why support and master mind groups are established. That strong support allows for the accomplishment of a goal. God establishes and permits higher success through relationships. Your harvest comes through relationships. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into this harvest field." There is always plenty but we need people, workers, and the establishment of relationships to bring in the harvest.



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## CHAPTER 5

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# The Aspect of Your Being

*But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he  
have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another*

—Galatians 6:4

What does your work say about you? Are you rejoicing in your accomplishments? What do your characteristics say about you or your work? Character determines revelation. The real defining aspect of who and what a person is, is revealed through the character. Your character reveals your soul purpose. Your traits are all a part of your purpose and the work that you pursue. God has already predestined your life and appointed you certain gifts and qualities to fulfill His purpose through you. Your soul is the essence of your being and has distinctive qualities unlike any other. The character in a movie acts out a specific role. The character of your soul does the same. Not all have the same role and characteristics but may share a connection. Second Corinthians 10:12 says, "We realize it is unwise to compare ourselves with others." You should not envy anyone for having distinctive qualities. You must celebrate and rejoice in your own works, your own qualities which make you special. You may come into connection with a friend or business associate who has wealth, special gifts, and things you're trying to achieve. That person may be a connection to your purpose. Their qualities and possessions may be what you need to accomplish your goals. Hebrews 7:7 says, "And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater." Oftentimes many go

through life with hatred and jealousy because they desire what others have. Some may say, "I wish I looked like that person. I wish I can have what the other has. I wish I had their talent. Why are they getting blessed and I'm not." The list goes on and on how someone wishes to gain the aspects of another, not realizing the harvest given or the potential God has placed inside them. Epicurus said, "Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for." When you don't recognize the ability in you, the focus and envy sets in towards one who recognizes their gift or harvest. Sometimes women have a habit of looking at another and say, "She thinks she's all that. Who does she think she is?" That woman recognizes and flaunts her gifts and distinctive qualities. She knows she is blessed; therefore she flaunts it, and you can't tell her anything.

One thing I have learned and continue to learn through my transformation is the ability to recognize my role and native character in God. You will never find peace and happiness within yourself until you have entered into the awareness of your own soul. Knowing your role and goal in life keeps you in a place of joy, love, peace, longevity, and prosperity. Understanding and defining your own characteristics enables you to define what path you will take and where God is leading you. When you wish for the gifts, talents, and qualities of another you miss and overlook the journey God is taking you through. You misuse the important qualities God has placed in you. Jesus in the Bible knew his role and purpose in life. He knew the Father sent him to market His work; therefore Jesus produced a brand. He did not have to compete with other teachings and talents because he knew his own special characteristics. People were drawn to his brand or in other words his pure spirit and automatically followed. When you establish your brand like minds will be attracted. Jesus was a product visionary; not only engaging in movement but also being. When you recognize your role you will find that you never have to compete. Competitiveness comes from uncertainty of who

you are and what you stand for. If you know the substance within the product, you will know the power it possesses.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully*

—Romans 12:6-8

The body is a gift. In each body God places a unique gift to carry out His specific purpose. When a soul enters the body it gives it a specific assignment and the gifts to fulfill the assignment. We must use these gifts according to the grace given to us. Catholic Priest Thomas Loya calls the body “the language of gifts,” which is why we use body language in expressing ourselves. I read a sermon and story of the theology of the body written by Loya. He said almost every week he receives a phone call regarding relationship problems. You are always tested in the area of relationships, those closest to you, a leader of a church, husband, wife, children, etc. “There are no relationship problems,” Loya said. The problem lays within the theology of the body, knowing why you are who you are and why you are connected to someone. “Happiness in a relationship, in fact all of life, comes down to whether we are telling a truth with the language of our bodies or telling a lie.” Being honest to the order of things is the secret of happiness, especially when it comes to connecting with others. When you’re dishonest with yourself and confused with your role and purpose in life, you end up disappointed. When you’re honest with yourself, submitting to your role, and strengthening your own unique characteristics no one can hurt you. When searching for a relationship in business, marriage, or friendship, it is important to discover and discern why

that person is in your life and vice versa. Ask yourself the question what purpose does he or she serve in your life and you in theirs. If it is someone from God, he or she will multiply your life, not subtract from it.

When past relationships ended, business or personal, no one was to blame but me, or it could have been the end of that contract. There are many soul contracts ending and awaiting. I tried to force my surroundings and people to change when it was I who needed to change. Many usually try to force change outside of themselves when it is within which needs changing. We often try to force things and people to change to suit our own purpose and pleasures. When relationships do not work out or we become disappointed in another, it usually means we've placed too much value in that form. Having high expectations in others usually ends in disappointments. By having expectations in God you are never disappointed. We shouldn't try to force people to change. We never know or understand another's path. Trying to change their path or the process God is taking them through we can hinder their future. We can only concentrate on enhancing our relationship with God and improving our own mind and the quality of our lives. Any change you seek begins with you first. When you seek changes outside of yourself your emotions become distraught. I remember feeling this way in a past relationship. I had high expectations in this person and tried to force change, something he was not ready for. You think you know some men. That is a definite no-no in trying to force a man to change. I had become confused and hurt. I felt as if we did not understand each other. The issue lay in not fully understanding each other's role in being who we were in each other's life. Another challenge we faced was the lack of respect towards each other's role. I later realized my error. I focused on the other person's characteristics, abilities, and role rather than my own, and the purpose God has placed me to fulfill. I began to ask, "Am I in the correct role, acting within my character? How can I change within, to change my surroundings and relationships?" I

then learned to not focus on any other role but to become the director, producer, and actor of my own destiny. I have realized who I am in God and the role He designed for me. You cannot understand your role in life if you're trying to act out and correct another character's part. That is God's role and responsibility. He is the creator of the story, the author and finisher (Hebrews 12:2).

Sometimes you may need to part from certain people and things, to discover your soul purpose, the aspects of your being. It's sometimes difficult to see outside if you're on the inside trying to look out. You then have to step away or outside to see within. This is what I had to do in a past relationship. I couldn't speak to his reasoning for his ways, thinking, and actions, but could only speak on behalf of myself. Nor could I blame him for acting out in the role he felt he was cast. Our disagreements alerted differences that we did not identify. You can never blame or make excuses for any mishaps or hurt brought into your life. For all that occurs is what you allowed to occur. As Loya said, "There is only hurt when you're dishonest." When you're dishonest to yourself, you will be dishonest to others and vice versa. The end result is pain. Pain is the emotion and feeling you experience when God is trying to tell you something or move you somewhere. When I got through blaming others, the revelation of myself came to the forefront. I began to see my faults, the various aspects which disrupted relationships, business and personal. When something goes wrong in your life many are quick to instantly blame others. The first step in correction is accepting that you can be the blame. People may feel they've done everything right and the other person has done wrong. Yes, that can be true. But the hurt you experience is the acceptance and allowance in its occurrence. How long have you allowed the experience to occur? Did you try to change the outside circumstances of the place or person rather than your trust in God's role to correct the situation? When you allow the emotions to move you rather than God, pain, hurt, and confusion takes place. In understanding your role in why your soul is put in that

role is the beginning of life. It is the beginning of a beautiful, fulfilling, never-ending relationship with God, with self, and with others.

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together  
in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know  
that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I  
was made in the secret place. When I was woven together  
in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed  
body. All the days ordained for me were written in your  
book before one of them came to be*

—Psalm 139:13-16

No matter how you were made, just know that you are special, even with all your faults. Concentrate on your gifts and talents, allowing them to mature to complete what your soul was set out to do. Each person has their own identity which identifies that person's aspects. Each person has their own fingerprint, even identical twins. They may resemble in looks but nothing else. Their personalities among other things differ. Their fingerprint enables them to be identified. At some point in your life some may have felt their life or others such as their children were a mistake. It's never a mistake. God knew you before he formed you in your mother's womb. He created your innermost being. God made each one of us specially made and packaged with a stamp that says, "Special Delivery. Handle with care." Your delivery here on earth is for a special and unique purpose. He made all with a unique gift and purpose to fulfill His purpose. When you live everyday knowing your role, your aspect of being, you celebrate and praise God for being wonderfully made. You will celebrate the process of discovering who you are. When you don't feel special remember to latch on to the word of God which says you are. Don't try to act out someone else's role or try to force change to someone else's part. Eventually the person in their timing and God's, will

come to the discovery of their role. Oswald Chambers said, "God is making us spell out our own souls. The only way we can be of any use to God is to let Him take us through the nooks and crannies of our own characters." Sometimes we need to go through the challenges until we realize the purpose and plan of God for our lives, and until we discover our unique aspects. Challenges reveal traits and character. Somewhere along the line we have a tendency to recreate our purpose to suit the needs of others and the self-pleasurable needs, rather than the needs of God. For years, even until this day, people have considered me to be very eccentric. My friends and family found me to be strange. For that reason I often tried to change my characteristics and role. Because of this I had to go through the different nooks of life to discover who I am and why I am made as I am. Later I found out I was made that way for a specific purpose. I am great and specially made for God's specific purpose, not man's. I am now thankful and grateful for my unique eccentric being. I now celebrate it every day. I have a unique and eccentric purpose; a purpose as no other. Remember you are a special delivery. Handle your gifts and unique purpose with special care. Hold on to your gifts and talents and build upon it in a role which allows you to use them. In return your unique characteristics will care for you. As Romans 8:30 says, "And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." You were already predestined. Allow your unique characteristics to glorify the God in you.

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## CHAPTER 6

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# The Enemy of Your Soul

*Without the emotion there can be no motion*

—Bishop Jordan

Bishop Jordan is correct in his observation. Without the feeling, desire, or expectation of something it cannot draw itself into your existence. The great masterpiece in life is to know how to live on purpose. Living in purpose is setting the emotion in motion. The universe is creation in motion. It's always creating, forming, connecting, and in constant movement. Your intent must always progress to motion rather than remaining in an emotion. In other words, your emotions must always lead to thought and action, not allowing your emotions to have an adverse reaction in your life. You must operate within the positive realm of emotions. When you're operating in this realm you're always creating, producing, and multiplying. Thoughts create emotions, which in turn create motion. Wrong thinking imposes frustration. Right thinking causes motion. When you ask yourself why you want a thing and know you're deserving of it, the essence of your desire is activated and you create movement.

When you have a passion for something or know your purpose that heightened emotion of enthusiasm is what causes the motion. When faced at a crossroad or roadblock some tend to get stuck. Wishful thinking then takes place, wishing they had all it takes to fulfill the task, and not engaging in action. You should be careful not to wish in

doubt. When you have an emotion of doubt the motion is stagnant. Do not allow the enemy of your soul to cause you to remain in wishful thinking. You must separate your wishes from your faith. Your dreams and goals will be as the parable of the seed sower. In Luke 8:4-8 it explains how the sower went out to sow his seed and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside. Others fell and were devoured by the fowl of the air. Others sprung up but quickly withered. And others fell in good ground and produced a hundredfold. The enemy of your soul is wishing in doubt. Doubt will cause your seed to fall to the wayside not producing a hundredfold result in all areas of your life. The seed sower must be attentive to the direction and instruction given by God, and where they're sowing their seeds of thoughts. You must become a doer of the instruction and not only a hearer. The parable of the sower teaches a powerful lesson. It shows how many handle and operate in life. Many sow a seed not knowing how to directly care for it. Sowing is not just giving money. It is also thought and time. You must sow money, thought, and time with an emotion of expectancy and faith, not of wishful thinking and doubt.

The definition of wishing is having a strong desire or feeling of wanting something to happen. Webster Dictionary also defines it as a greeting. When you wish in doubt you have a strong emotion and feeling doubting it will happen. You greet doubt at the door and welcome distraction in. When there is doubt there is distraction which moves you away from your goals. The emotion of doubting and frustration is the heightened feeling and sensation of any negative result. We all have a habit of blaming things and/or people for an unfulfilled wish. Many blame God. Many blame the devil. Many blame people and objects as I once did. I desired and wished for a reliable new car. When the car had broken down I blamed the car and sometimes the person I received it from. It wasn't the cars fault or the person I received it from. We all know it's a risk when purchasing used cars. The blame was the enemy of my inner soul, the ego mind which feared getting a new car because

of the payments and my credit, yet I wished for a brand new car. It was my choice to change the dilemma of car troubles and get a new or reliable car.

*Emotion turning back on itself, not leading on to  
thought or action, is the element of madness*

—John Sterling

The enemy of your soul will cause you to turn back from your goals, and not take action. This can lead to anger, depression, regrets, and isolation. When things are not correct in life or going as expected many hide. To tell you the truth, the only thing that is hiding is your blessing. When the enemy of the soul doubts or gets distracted, it hides the truth so everything becomes a lie. Everything in your life may feel as if it's going wrong. Your eyes may deceive you into thinking that things will not turn around for the best. God's promises will seem as a lie. When my spirituality was not in order my emotions were distracted from the truth; therefore I remained in hiding. The more I hid the more the blessing remained hidden. I was missing many opportunities to have a better life because of fear and doubt. The first thing in improving your life is taking chances. The second is being honest with yourself. Most have a difficult time in admitting they're at fault with the way their life is. I was wishing in doubt for many things yet making excuses not to pursue it. I had to take a chance and live life. Live up to my dreams, desires, and expectations. No one can ever be the blame of something not going the way it should in life. We were made the head and not the tail. We are placed above because we're in God's image. Everything else is beneath. How can anyone or anything be the blame when it is beneath you? You are superior to your surroundings which mean you have the authority over any matter. When you realize your superiority, you will refuse to be as the parable of the seed sower and allow your desires for a better life to fall by the wayside.

*Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?*

—Matthew 16:8-9

Many feel the desire to have nicer things or a greater abundance is not possible so the enemy of your soul may doubt the possibility of a thing. In Matthew 16, the disciples desired bread; yet doubted it was possible to have a greater supply. They remained in hiding amongst themselves discussing limitation, which was a lie. They were not lacking anything. When you're operating in spirit as Jesus you become aware and speak truth. "Do you still not understand?" Don't you remember how the Lord multiplied the desire? Your desire to have is the association in connection to your passion and soul's purpose. For example, I desire a house with a library. Do you have any idea how much this will cost? In most cases you find libraries in mansions or mini-mansions; therefore it will cost nearly half a million dollars or more. Even if I decide to build a library I will need to create space which will also cost much more. My passion and purpose as an author caused my desire of a library within a house. I am very inquisitive and have a passion for learning and knowledge; therefore a library is essential. I am always carrying a book and have such great joy when I enter a room filled with books. The answers and treasures always lie within something. Engaging in reading opens up the mind, expands the horizon of the imagination, and rekindles the soul. People would ask, "Why do you desire to pay so much for a house?" It's not because I love expensive things. It is a part of my destiny in which my soul desires. The soul is trying to connect to its purpose of a home library. Yes, it may take some time in accomplishing this but as long as I start somewhere I know I will get there.

Jesus was a fisher of men and some of his disciples were fishermen. Jesus' purpose was to save many souls. Do you see the connection? In the story of Jesus feeding the multitude, not only did he increase bread, but he also increased the two fishes. More than once Jesus increased the fishes and loaves of bread. His association to fish and bread was a connection to His soul's purpose; therefore He increased it. Whatever your purpose may be you will see increase in that area. If you are constantly facing lack, most likely you are not in your assigned purpose or not taking action as you should. How many times do many of us ask how and why and continue to wish in doubt? The disciples were in hiding talking amongst themselves. Because they desired and wished for bread, yet were in doubt, they excluded Jesus out of the equation. When you exclude God out of your equation the mind gets distracted. Jesus said, "You of little faith. Why are you talking about not having?" How many times have you said I don't have when God has shown you many times what He can do? In the story Jesus held up the fish and loaves towards the heaven of the mind and thanked the Father. He knew he had to create it and thank the Father that it was already done. There is a power in thankfulness and not complaint. Jesus was teaching the disciples how to use their own creative power in multiplying things in their life by the act of gratitude. This is why Jesus asked, "Do you still not understand?" All you need is already there. You just have to discover what is resonating within you, thank the Father, and see it already done.

*The kingdom of God is within you*

—Luke 17:20

The Pharisees asked when the kingdom of God will come. Jesus replied, "Do not look for it because the kingdom of God is within you." Your soul has all it needs to function and multiply within this world. There is a life here on Earth, within you. Enjoy life! Look to God first, and then go after

your dreams and desires, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). You do not have to wait to get to the kingdom of heaven because it exists within you. If you don't get to experience it, that is by your own choice. If you're not living in your assigned purpose you may never experience the true kingdom. When you allow the enemy of your soul to disconnect your purpose you will miss the way. When you discover your soul purpose and move in that direction you will awaken the imagination to creating a meaningful life. You have to feel like you're in heaven. I'm pretty sure no one settles in the kingdom, so why must we settle. The Lord wants you to get comfortable in living life, not comfortable in settling in life.

Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu said, "Therefore the sage is guided by what he feels and not by what he sees. He lets go of that and chooses this." The sage or wise person knows to guide his life by the feeling and not the physical facts. The physical facts will cause you not to pursue your desires and dreams. I desired to be an entrepreneur. Yet I once focused on the physicality—"What if I'm not successful, I don't have the money, I'm not aggressive enough, how can I reach clients, how can I risk money to pursue the business when it appears that I'm in debt." If you allow the physical facts to deceive you, you will remain in fear (false evidence appearing real), a lie, and wishful thinking, missing the wonderful feeling and experience of freedom, flexibility, opportunities, and wealth in being a business owner. It seems scary to reach for the biggest desires, taking big leaps in the pursuit of something. I've learned to continuously seek and reach for things way out of my physical reach. I've learned to take hold of my desires through the feeling, prayer, faith, and expectancy. Several times plans and desires did not go through immediately, and I admit I became very discouraged, yet I jumped back on board and connected to something greater. Sometimes your expectancy is less than what God is trying to put in your life; therefore you have to imagine big, sow large seeds of faith, and expect large results. You must transcend and extend your soul's purpose to walk

into its fulfillment. We have all complained about lack and some may have experienced it. When you don't fully extend your capabilities, and transcend the consciousness to know that your desires should be a natural part of you, lack will result. It should feel normal and natural to have abundance, seeing every wish desired accomplished and fulfilled. When it becomes natural to you, with full force and persistence you will reach greater heights.

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls*

—1 Peter 1:8-9

An overwhelming joy will fill your soul in having faith that God will deliver. Though you do not see Him physically, you believe He will deliver whatever you're trusting Him for. Although the blessing may not show right now, you perceive the feeling in receiving the goal of your faith. The salvation of your will and desire to have can overrule the enemy of your soul when you feel the blessing is near. As the sage, you should not be guided by what the physical circumstances appear to be. Remember the physical is only an illusion and is always temporary. The salvation is considered to be the science philosophy of life; belief in the supremacy of life, truth, and love, and in the destruction of such illusions as sin, illness, and death. The enemy of your soul causes sin, illness, and death. Truthfully, your body is just a suit, a form of matter which decays after time. When that is gone the true you is revealed. When you acknowledge and recognize your true identity, the enemy of your soul will never get in the way. It will never deceive you, doubt, question, nor fear. It will just know, be, and move in the path directed by the spirit without hesitation.

*Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you  
need before you ask him*

—Matthew 6:8

I didn't understand this Scripture until I matured in the spirit. I wondered why must I always ask if the Father knows what I'm in need of. When you pray it is not about asking what you are in need of. Prayer is about communing with the Father, meditating in His truths, His word, and reconnecting to your soul purpose. Do not be as the hypocrites and babble on and on of what you're in need of. If you recognize who you truly are and that the kingdom exists within, you would not have to ask but simply state and move towards it in spirit and mind first. You must imagine, visualize, and meditate day and night for what you desire. Matthew 21:21 says, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done." All you have to do is speak and cause whatever thing to move or be removed. Your soul knows its purpose and will move toward that purpose so as long as you remove the enemy of your soul that doubts. How many times will you ramble on questioning God over and over? I have done this constantly until I've realized my invisible power. No longer did I stay in question but allowed my soul to say yes. Yes to a new way of thinking, a new way of life, and a new beginning to discovering the truth which I lacked in years of fear and doubting.

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around  
your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in  
place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness  
that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all  
this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can  
extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*

—Ephesians 6:14-16

The greatest challenges will befall thee before the blessing. When your soul is close to its connection many things may try to get in the way, distract, and deceive you. You will most likely face or have faced the most difficult challenges in your life. I was in the lowest place I think I could have been. I had forgotten my purpose during this state. Weariness had drifted upon me as if I had no life. I've felt a tremendous pain that at times seemed almost unbearable. This is when I doubted and questioned God. I questioned myself. I thought maybe all my dreams and desires will not be met. I thought having to struggle to reach my goal was pointless. How was it possible during this major chaos? This is when the enemy of your soul tries to tell you something other than what God says. I asked, "Lord how can I perform your will if I'm faced with all these challenges? How can I lead others if I can't get through this?" My heart had become troubled. My soul had become disappointed because I had a desire to help others yet it seemed difficult to help myself. I was creating a future of unhappiness based on the circumstances. Through the noisy circumstances, questioning, and doubting, the Lord was trying to express His teachings, His purpose, and His direction to take that next step safely. I had to learn to rekindle the soul's purpose through silence and peace. No matter what goes on in life, know that circumstances and challenges are temporary. Plant your feet in peace and readiness for when it's time to connect to your blessing, it will be major. In your season of the harvest, nothing can stop it. Take up that shield of faith and extinguish the evil thoughts of lack, doubt, fear, negative words, perceptions, and influences. Prepare yourself and get ready as the Lord assembles your dreams and desires to be delivered.

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# SPIRIT

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## CHAPTER 7

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# Investing in your Spiritual Economy

*Men are anxious to improve their circumstances,  
but are unwilling to improve themselves;  
they therefore remain bound*

—James Allen

The spiritual economy is what affects all other economies in our lives. Trying to live a life outside of a higher power can often lead to a state of despair. There is only one power, that which is of Spirit. When we're living outside the Source we're living a life of fear and uncertainty; therefore remain bound. It is not the circumstance that must change. It is the person that must change. The willingness to improve the inner you, will improve your outer world. Creating a prosperous spiritual economy is very important. It is the foundation which sets the stage for all the other changes in our lives. When we begin to study and invest in our own self—improvement, we realize what's necessary to be prosperous. It is information—wisdom. Information provides future discoveries. Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding." Obtaining wisdom must be applied correctly in order to be prosperous. Solomon in the Bible was a man wiser than any other. God asked Solomon, what he would ask of Him. Solomon's response was to have wisdom and knowledge, information which would allow

him to lead in a just and fair way. God was so impressed by Solomon's humility and the willingness to invest within his spiritual economy and not of worldly possessions; it earned him the respect and recognition as the wealthiest and wisest man to have lived. Wisdom allows the knowledge of what's important, separating what matters from what doesn't. As seekers of prosperity, what most people are compelled to be, we are to know how to connect to God. No matter what religion you hold, connecting to a higher power creates ways to proceed and lead through uncertain times. When you are spiritually filled you eventually gain fulfillment and are exalted to a position of greater measures of gifts, wealth, spiritual and material possessions.

*Don't limit investing to the financial world. Invest something of yourself, and you will be richly rewarded*

—Charles Schwab

How do you define prosperity? Many would say money and success. I used to believe this was all prosperity consisted of. I thought investing in the financial world and paying money to attend seminars on how to get rich was information I needed to be richly rewarded. On the contrary, prosperity is mental, spiritual, and physical wealth. It is the state of having the wisdom, resources, and ability to create and accomplish God's will. It is always having something to give. Giving is getting. Giving is a part of servanthood. Giving is investing within yourself because it connects and links you to your next promotion. Excellence in servanthood will decide the invitation of your next promotion. Your worth is based upon what you serve and give. Your worth is also based upon what you create. Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving." When you're not in agreement according to God's law as a creator and giver you create a deficit in your economy.

Today there are major deficits, layoffs, and uncertain times. Many are looking for ways and careers which are recession-proof. Earl Nightingale said, "The biggest mistake that you can make is to believe that you are working for somebody else. Job security is gone." In the material world nothing is guaranteed. Building a career based on God's provision, your accomplishments and success will last. Many may hold onto their money, invest into IRA's, stocks and bonds, which all may be helpful for a certain time period, but what happens afterwards. What if the market crashes as in the Great Depression? In the 1920's when the stock market crashed it was believed that one of the causes was due to a dysfunction in the economy which resulted in a change in the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Because of this the Federal Reserve instituted a "tight monetary" policy. Listen to the term. This is what some have done or will do when times and circumstances are uncertain. When there is a tight monetary policy it means that money is held up and not released. Tight money creates a deficiency and a dysfunction. When you're deficient in your giving it creates a deficit in your life. Giving is a part of life. It is a spiritual law we all must abide by. Malachi 3:8 says, "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' 'In tithes and offerings'." Tithes and offerings is a law, an imperative part of life which determines what we receive. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines "deficit" as a deficiency in the amount of quality. It also says it is a lack or impairment in a functional capacity. We live in a functional capacity, a capacity created by God. All things created by Him are good. It becomes dysfunctional and lack occurs when giving is defied. When you're investing not only in the financial world, but more importantly in the spiritual world, you are investing in yourself. Investing in yourself, sowing tithes and offerings, working within your dreams, and living in your calling, eternal success is guaranteed.

Due to uncertain times, many may and will sell themselves short on dreams that are truly desired. It is easy to forget the most desired things are not easily attainable.

Building and having a kingdom requires much investment, time, and action. Solomon chose to build a temple for the Lord filled with bronze, gold, and silver. This took nearly 20 years to build. A temple as such must be constructed with wisdom and connections. When you're sowing into your spiritual economy you build wisdom and connections which leads to all things. Through wisdom, Solomon was also able to build many temples and kingdoms. He was connected to leaders, those of greatness to establish trade among other kingdoms. This created wealth in more than one area. Wisdom teaches us having four streams of income is a vital part of our growth. When one system fails, there is another income to sustain us. A system teaches and creates a scheme of ideas which organizes a flow of income in all four seasons. Each time I invest within the spiritual economy my creativity increased giving me inspirational ideas of wealth opportunities, several ways to establish streams of income. Each time I've sowed seeds to a worthy cause it gave me the wisdom, understanding, and confidence to invest time and action into each idea. Each time I've sown money or time it opened up connections, others who believed and would invest in my ideas.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal*

—Matthew 6:19-20

Sowing into your future is sustainable for growth. It protects and safeguards your assets, ideas, and career. At the first sign of trouble, some may doubt and participate in things such as selfish acts, fear, deceit, and manipulation. Many make the mistake in feeling they must give up their assets, such as a home or business in order to survive. Today, many modern businesses are safeguarding their assets and

valuable data through insurance, a backup system, and firewall protection. People who have large investments protect their assets with insurance or low risk investments such as mutual funds and IRA's. Some even hold onto their money, keeping it in a place they consider safe, such as a shoe box, a cookie jar, or under the mattress. The government holds money in a reserve account. We all know how money and assets can be lost during economic hardships. Solomon also protected his most valuable assets. However, having an extraordinary amount of wisdom, Solomon knew the safest way to protect himself through any hardship was through prayer, dedication, and tithing. This is the only thing that is certain and guarantees protection. Yes, it is important to have money saved, yet understanding our real treasure lies within our spiritual wisdom. When we come to the complete acknowledgement that we cannot always reap true possessions by laying up our treasures upon earth, we will come into the fullness of our glory. We often make the mistake in putting all other things before our tithes and offerings because we focus on the dark days we may have ahead of us. Some get caught up into worshipping fame, money, cars, and other material things rather than God. Even Solomon himself, made the mistake in worshipping and putting other things before God. In First King 11, God requested that Solomon not set other gods before Him. When we look to others as our resource we are putting others before God. When Solomon disobeyed the covenant, as a consequence, lack resulted. Kingdoms promised to Solomon were stripped away from his children.

*The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life*

—Galatians 6:8

There are many things that will try to influence us. We are strongly influenced by our environment and the actions

of others. Some may look upon others and wonder how are they flourishing and they're not sowing. Some may listen to how the world economy is not doing too well. Some may even convince you not to give. Some may not give because they want to save their money for a new purchase or rainy days. As a result it will cause an excuse to not invest in a spiritual economy. Many may sow towards carnal things. Solomon was greatly influenced by things other than God. He invested in other nations involved in idolatry. He pursued women who were also involved in worshipping false gods. When focusing and worshipping on things outside of God, many may hoard in their sowing and investing in their future. When bills and other things suddenly popped up, at times, I neglected or fell short in my giving. Consistency in giving is important. Often I was tempted to stop giving. The more I neglected giving, the more my needs were neglected. I felt as if my life was headed for destruction. I focused and worshipped on the crisis that I was in. Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, "Whoever watches the wind will not plant, whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." Sowing in the spiritual economy at the time of a crisis is the most important season to sow. It is the very thing that builds hope, faith, strength, expectation, and miracles. Napoleon Hill was aware of the importance of sowing. He said, "It creates an awareness of a relationship between oneself and the source of power to achieve."

Your seed holds the greatest amount of power, influence, and increase during a time of a crisis. In Mark 12 of the Bible, it tells a story of a poor widow who gave very little. She wanted much, yet she sowed her last and reaped a harvest. In God's eyes she gave the largest seed, even among the wealthiest that sowed large seeds. He looked upon what was left over after she gave. It was much in His eyes because she was in a major crisis. She had a deficit in her life. When investing in your spiritual economy you will find the ability to go beyond what may seem like your limit. A seed produces its own kind and multiplies. Sowing seeds of nothing leaves nothing. When you succeed in your giving you succeed in maximizing your return. As long as Solomon

remained true to the worship of God, he prospered. It is important to remember that sowing in the Spirit reaps gifts from God. God and the gifts from Him last forever. The Spirit should always be our goal and when our concentration is of the Spirit, everything we do changes; what we eat, how we speak, what we give, and how we prosper. Our focal point should always be on God's economy.

*For I know your eagerness to help . . . since last year  
you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm  
has stirred most of them to action*

—2 Corinthians 9:6

Giving stirs things into motion and the result is an activity of receiving wisdom, ideas, spiritual and material wealth, good health, and more. It connects today's action to tomorrow's result. It is the solution to life. Sowing brings a picture and promises of the world we have dreamed about. Giving is a tool. Money is a tool and answers all things. There is happiness in giving. Cultivate a nature of giving, loosen up things that are binding and stir things in motion. We must always give of ourselves; in time, compliments, tithes and offerings, inspiration, encouragement, joy, enthusiasm, and love. I remember having \$84 dollars in my bank account. This was all I had for two weeks until my next paycheck. I had many things to pay for, and also needed traveling money. The Bishop of the church called for a \$71 dollar seed. I was nervous and with hesitation I invested my last into God's economy. The very next day a past landlord called and invited me to a barbeque. She said she had something she wanted to give me. She gave me \$420. I asked, "What made you give me this gift?" Her response was, "You gave me love, kindness, and respect. You did favors for me when no one else would. You listened to me when I had difficulties." Because I chose to invest in my spiritual economy, not focusing on the lack, it has stirred this woman willingness

and action to bless me with more. I had given a gift, and in return I was blessed with a gift.

*A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into  
the presence of the great*

—Proverbs 18:21

Prophet Winston Davis said, “The seed is a portal for it is the entry point of salvation.” When you give you open up the heavens to bring a greater return. As Proverbs states, “It opens up a way for the giver and brings him into the presence of greatness.” When you are in the act of giving, you are in the pursuit of greatness. You have no choice but to become great or enter into the presence of greatness. I remember sowing seeds to a ministry. One day the pastor of the ministry sent me a letter prompting me to sow a seed of \$250. He said, “If you obey these instructions God will release a man of greatness that will teach you how to obtain wealth and will help increase the wisdom within you. I had no idea what this meant. I thought this man was going to release money unto me, not me giving money to him. I thought I sowed enough. Nevertheless, I acted in obedience. I had to give gifts to open up a portal to enter into the presence of greatness. God was releasing a prophet into my life. Shortly after, I was introduced to a Company of Prophets, those who will speak encouraging words and inspire the greatness within me. Those who will also guide me to the destination God was calling me in. I had to develop a nature of giving and sowing into greatness. Cultivating giving, cultivates success. When you are sowing you are investing, not only into someone else kingdom, but into your own kingdom. It is important to recognize things and people that inspire and energize you. “He that walks with the wise grows wise” (Proverbs 13:20). I was investing in my life where it mattered most. You must pour your life and seeds into where you see good change, internally and externally. I constantly hear people complain about giving

and making someone else rich. In Second Corinthians 8:13-14 Paul said, "It is not a desire that others might be relieved while you're hard pressed. At the present time, your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality." There is equality if you see it as equality. Giving and investing in God's economy will supply what someone else needs, and in return their plenty will supply your need. Giving and receiving are equally powerful energies. The Lord is always giving even if we don't give. Imagine if you were consistence in your giving. The amount of return will be so much greater. Lao Tzu said, "A wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own."

*... see that you also excel in this grace of giving*

*—2 Corinthians 8:7*

As one approaches the spiritual path, one will find the value in giving. It is the act of kindness and love. It is giving which moves resistance and brings prosperity. Giving is mentioned often throughout the Bible. When a person becomes spiritually aware he or she will excel in the grace of giving. It is natural to give. It brings out the intrinsic quality of our existence. It is the infinite way of living. In some people there is a divine desire to excel in life. The key principle in this factor is gratitude. There must always be gratitude in your attitude. You must always be thankful even for challenges because they are the greatest learning lessons and brings forth the greatest amount of wisdom. When you give, it detaches you from the material world and attaches you to the self-realization that you have and are all things. Everything desired was already there waiting for you. Giving creates an oracle. It creates wise counsel which directs your path. Gratitude and giving unlocks the fullness of life. It turns just having enough, to more than enough. It turns chaos into order, difficulties into favor, a stranger into a friend or business partner, a vision into a reality, and fear into

courage. Giving is consciousness. It creates consciousness. Our conditions are governed by our consciousness and what we are releasing into our spiritual economy. A steady flow of giving will attract a steady manifestation in your conditions. It eases and exhilarates the spirit and mind, leaving a feeling of balance and inspiration. When you are consistent in the attitude of giving, the mind will never waiver but with full force move ahead into manifestation. When you're consistent in your giving you're able to express God, ideas, wisdom, solutions, and all your desires.

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## CHAPTER 8

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# The Art of Expression

*Happiness is an expression of the soul  
in considered action*

—Aristotle

The truest expression is within our movement, how we act and proceed to action. The body never tells a lie because it is a reflection of what the mind beholds. Wherever the mind goes the body flows. We are the human expression of God and until we demonstrate His abilities through ourselves, joy and peace do not occur. An uneasy emotional feeling is typically disturbed when we feel incapable of expressing ourselves in the way that we desire. Oftentimes many then become discouraged and distraught if achievement or accomplishment is not demonstrated. Abraham Lincoln failed numerous times in his business, in the political arena, among other things, which resulted in a nervous breakdown (further details in Consistency Removes Resistance chapter). Although there was failure, persistence had to prevail in order to demonstrate the life he wanted to lead and express. There is often some type of failure in whatever it is we're trying to accomplish. However, when we are in constant movement, we will find happiness because our goals will soon be met. When we're in constant movement we don't have time to focus on the present need or circumstances. At the point you're idle you find unhappiness seeping upon you. That extra push will exert an energy that will remove all resistance. Sometimes all that is needed is that one extra

push to push forth the blessing. You must keep on keeping on, pressing on, and pushing on.

*Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months, and years they spend preparing for it. The victorious performance itself is merely the demonstration of their championship character*

—T. Alan Armstrong

Preparation is what brings self-confidence and a champion attitude. Anything we want to achieve or become requires practice, patience, time, and expression. For example, through research I have learned most college graduates do not pursue a career in their intended field of study. Some did not want to endure the process and time of searching and finding exactly what they wanted. Some may have disliked the starting salary. And some just chose to pursue something different. How can a person master their chosen field if it is not being practiced and they are not expressing their interest or passion? Steady effort towards an interest reaps rewards. Wealth, spiritual possessions, gifts, and talents, are the result of a practiced effort. It takes hours, weeks, months, and years of effort to prepare for what it is we want to achieve, even true spirituality. This is where most fail. Not understanding the process or enduring the process can lead to frustration. The process is a very important step in success. Without it we cannot develop the strength, patience, wisdom, and solutions to complex situations. Our future depends on what we are expressing and demonstrating. If we're expressing ideas, we demonstrate God, solutions, multiplication, and eternal wealth. To believe without evidence and demonstration is an act of ignorance and folly. You cannot be ignorant to the process, but be successful through demonstrative acts. James Allen said, "Do not understand the process, but only perceive the result, and call it chance." I believe this is

what caused Lincoln's breakdown. He tried many times to make his business a success and to be a leader in politics. Lincoln trying repeatedly proved his belief that he knew it was possible. However, he became ignorant to the process because he felt his actions were not being expressed. Your destiny is a matter of choice. Your future is determined by your choice of expression. When you perceive something you recognize it. When you feel incapable of expression, a nervous breakdown, weeping, depression, and anxiety may occur. I had also become ignorant through the process, not realizing it takes time to develop goals, skills, and success. At some point during your lifetime a revelation will occur. Once revelation appears, demonstration must take place, which means practicing and forming successful habits. Simple repetitive acts require a time frame to condition. Once it is conditioned the results are greater than you can imagine.

*If you are leading a life dedicated to the study of spiritual wisdom and if you are keeping your thought centered on spiritual things, there is something in your face that reveals it; whereas if you are busy pursuing the pleasures of this world this, too, is revealed in your face*

—Joel Goldsmith

In any art, the artist expresses their personality and feelings through dancing, painting, drawing, music, or writing. The painting usually tells a story. When you are expressing your ideas you become the artist. Our expression always tells a story. It can reveal a story of the past, present, or future. Whatever painting you choose to express, the universe sees and delivers the result of it. When you feel a certain way it shows upon your face. People will look at you and respond to your expression. They may ask what's wrong or what happened. Have you ever noticed when you're in a bad mood, all things seem to go wrong that day. People will respond to your mood acting in a negative or rude manner. When you're happy people respond with acts of kindness,

love, and charity. There is a saying. "Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important." This is true because people react according to your expression. God reacts according to your expression. You must express God in all your expression, acts of kindness, love, joy, and enthusiasm, good and creative habits which will result in good fortunes. Everything in your life is a result of your expression. When you think and speak negative about yourself or others you draw that expression more into your own existence. When you express love unto others you shall receive love as never before. When you express wealth and wealthy habits you reap wealthy results. When you express the act of giving, the universe gives unto you. Rather it's love, attention, companionship, wealth, recognition, happiness; you must practice it before it can enter into your own existence. The art of expressing is basically the law of attraction. You attract whatever you express because whatever you express brings notice.

*Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven*

—Matthew 5:19

The key to expressing something is forming habits, creating patterns of art to express what the mind or heart perceives. As Matthew 5:19 says, "Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great . . ." Before greatness, practice is the key. Before teaching or in other words demonstrating it, practice is the key. You cannot call yourself a painter and teach painting if you have not practiced your craft. Moses could not have called himself a leader and led many through the wilderness if he had not experienced the wilderness himself. You cannot call yourself a minister if you have not studied and been ordained as one.

Those who are called great are the masters who have years of study, practice and demonstration. They are masters in what they do. They are great in the kingdom. Aristotle said, "The one exclusive sign of thorough knowledge is the power of teaching." When you're knowledgeable in a certain area, your teaching and demonstration becomes powerful and you will be noted as a great orator. When you express your creative gifts, you express the elements of God outwardly. Anything does not become a part of you unless you are demonstrating it. When someone is passionate about something, it is because they demonstrate it every day. I am passionate about writing and it shows in how I journal every day. That passion is imbedded within and is now automatic. This is why service is so important. It is an intangible reward. Some do not like to participate in service or like serving something or someone. However, when service or practice is performed it becomes a part of you and the devotion usually ends in tangible rewards. Oswald Chambers said, "Service is the overflow of super abounding devotion . . . . it is my own little actual bit and the echo of my identification with the nature of God . . . . When I receive His nature and hear His call, the voice of the Divine sounds in both and the two work together." Your service is the echo of expression which identifies your nature. Service becomes a part of your nature and eventually gathers attention where it is recognized in you.

Service is intangible. Some may feel that service is tangible in that it produces physical results. People look for an immediate physical substance to reward the work which has been done. People want a monetary reward for giving their time. People look for recognition for giving their time or anything in that matter because they want others to know what they have done. That's understandable. However, if you go for a certain type of job or career without having the experience or a degree in that area, the pay will be less. Even if you hold a certain degree your skills may not be all the requirements needed to perform to the standards of that particular discipline. You will need to perform service

and years of practice to earn the type of salary desired or to develop all the qualifications needed. You will then need to demonstrate what you have learned to earn the recognition you are seeking. I often hear people complain about having to do the work required to earn what they want. Often because they are not doing something they love or the understanding of why it must be serviced. A few people I know complained about their job tasks and the job they were in. I have also heard people complain about performing service within the church. Many felt it was a waste of time. Some felt they were neglecting their own needs. They did not appreciate, respect, and recognize a reward being given. When you're asked to serve in a particular area, that is the area God is correcting something in you or awarding you in. Resentment towards service causes a problem in receiving. The reward of service was a skill that was being added, developed, and improved. That skill is an intangible gift which becomes a part of you. It grows within you. It cannot be seen or touched because it is developed within. All that is unseen is eternal. Whatever serviced or practiced becomes an eternal gift within, and the results usually end in tangible substance if you are not only practicing it but demonstrating it daily.

The conception through expression always produces manifestation. When you go into your imagination you're able to conceive manifestation because you imagine expressing what it is you want to become. Going into the imagination expresses God. The imagination is the creative mind where you find the resources to become. You visualize and feel your future experiences and whatever it is you're demonstrating. Your imagination is a given gift from God to become the artist and draw your own world. As a little girl I loved reading. I carried those same habits into adulthood. My expressed interest in reading encouraged me to write. I journal my thoughts and feelings every day and by journaling, it influenced me to become an author. I imagined myself being a #1 author. I expressed becoming an author by being around authors, networking with authors, and

having direct thoughts of the finished product as an author. Serving something or someone in order to express what you're willing to have or be exhilarates you. It heightens the senses to move in that arena. Besides being around authors, I volunteered at a family shelter. This is one of the community services I plan to establish. Although I did not receive monetary rewards I received enlightening ideas and uplift in my spirit. My spirit became full of love, joy, and compassion in serving others. Ideas in how to establish and grow my own charitable cause filled my mind. Contributing in your passion causes others to get involved. When others see your excitement towards a worthy cause there may be someone willing to invest in that cause. Service is the gateway to an opportunity, an entrance to an open door.

*My message and my preaching were not with wise  
and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of  
the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on  
human wisdom, but on God's power*

—1 Corinthians 2:4-5

As Paul believed in Corinthians, demonstration is an act, not of words, preaching or even boasting. If your thoughts and consciousness is concentrated on what it is you believe there is something in your face and expressions that reveals it. You have heard the saying, "Talk is cheap." No one wants to hear someone preach, talk, and boast about what it is he or she will do, or what others should do. People have belief in action, what it is you're demonstrating. Paul taught through demonstration. Jesus taught from demonstration. He was a walking testimony. He demonstrated the Father through teaching, healing, peace, prayer, prosperity, wisdom, guidance, and most of all multiplication and love. Boasting all the time about what you will do or become, comes from a place of guilt, uncertainty, and needing reassurance. No one likes arrogance. ". . . Use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their

much speaking” (Matthew 6:7). Someone may say to others out loud, “I am a millionaire. I am going to be wealthy. I am going to establish my own business someday,” constantly affirming out loud to another. That person may feel uncertain or want others to believe what they are saying. We all need reassurance. However, visualizing, affirming, and confirming within can guarantee the confidence needed to move in it. Silence is power. There is thunder in silence or, in other words, meditating. Discussing ideas and plans with others, not boasting, can help you move towards goal achievement. Our world is a self-expression of how we’re using our mind and the gifts given to us. Affirming within and even around others from a place of humility and not boasting will lead to action. Persuasive words are not enticing. Demonstration is enticing. Taking action is showing faith in God’s power. We must share with the world what God has shared with us, through demonstration.

Prophet Winston Davis called one day and said, “You have to express your wisdom.” When you share with others you impart and allocate a part of God. “Why be afraid of who you are? God is expression and loves to be expressed. Keep pushing and expressing until you receive the blessing.” He further said, “Your deliverance and breakthrough will come when you make the choice to express who you are.”

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# NATURE

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## CHAPTER 9

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# Consistency Removes Resistance

*Nature prepares the ground of reception but complete formation is the product of habit . . . . We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit*

—Aristotle

We become by consistent action. We learn the most by doing. High achievers know that it is the consistency that produces powerful results over time; the more consistent the greater the results. Nature always prepares us to receive. The complete formation of achievement is through habit and willpower. To remove obstacles you must develop willpower. To develop willpower you must develop consistent habits and patterns. Your thoughts, words, and actions must all align and be consistent. When any of these are indifferent people will assume you are untrustworthy, hence not believe in you and your goals, and worse reject you as unworthy of their time and attention. This is something I had to learn; to be consistent and show integrity in my words and actions. There always seems to be some type of resistance that follows any plan, hence breaking your focus, but a consistent plan of action sets nature in motion to deliver results much sooner. If you allow any type of resistance to deter your goal, you give yourself permission to get off track. One day of inconsistency leads to another, creating currents of high and low feelings in your life. The effects of inconsistency create feelings of tension, confusion, denial, uncertainty, and frustration. Inconsistency is all based on fears concerning

the self, questioning how something would take place. If you permit yourself to live as the natural man, not turning inwards for the answers, you would be left wondering what is going to happen next and from what direction will your needs be met. At some point in life, there comes a degree of needs and desires which will cause a search for a Higher Power, success, peace, and prosperity. These feelings will prompt motivation to take action. The greater the tension I had in my life, the greater the motivation I had to continue each step until the completion of my goals. Some may start strong, but finish weak. But when you're consistent in working towards a goal each day, even if it's for 30 minutes a day, resistance will begin to remove itself from your life. Aristotle said, "It is easy to perform a good action, but not easy to acquire a settled habit of performing such actions." Acquiring a settled habit is the vehicle of success. Consistency and diligence is the vehicle of success. You drive down this road and you will begin to find the crooked paths straight and what seem like the wrong turn will now be the right one. When you're consistent you build routine and become more productive. You will eventually find that your input has decreased, yet your supply has increased. You will be as an ATM—Automatic Towards Manifestation. Manifestation will be automatic without having to strive to receive.

We go through four seasons of change, yet it is lasting and consistent. It changes but remains the same throughout the seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall. This is how your thoughts, words, emotions, and actions must be. Although circumstances in your life change, the thought, emotion or goal and action must be consistent without change. To keep your balance in life you must always be in motion. When a child first learns to ride a bike, he or she must keep pedaling to keep their balance. Eventually bike riding becomes simple and automatic. Whenever I was so close to completing a goal, challenges seemed to arise which detoured me in a different direction. I had to learn to keep moving to keep a steady balance. I had to keep pushing towards the goal. As

I pushed more, resistance became less. My thoughts were of success and wealth; therefore my actions had to show forth this mentality. Character is nature and shows a person disposition in life. Character is an unconscious pattern of our daily expression. If I gave up because of the circumstances that arose, my character would reveal that I have not matured spiritually, I'm not ready for entrepreneurship or any goal I try to accomplish. We often look for instant gratification; however true lasting and meaningful success requires a continuous and sustained pattern. When you're consistent you feel at ease and everything else around you feels right, calm, and balanced.

There is a key principle that I have come to the understanding and realization of. The world exists and operates in a predictable, yet changing order. We know the planets orbit; the sun rises and sets every day, and the seasons change. They operate in a law because of a consistent pattern. This consistent activity creates power and brings harmony and success. If the sun did not rise for one whole day, it will bring an unharmonious experience and throw the law out of sync. In certain parts of a country, people are used to seeing the sun shine every day. If it did not many would probably think the world was coming to an end and this can cause chaos. It will cause chaos because a law has been broken. We are used to the sun rising every morning. It is predictable, automatic, and consistent. It lets us know it's time to arise. If you're not forming consistent habits, life becomes chaotic and disorganized. Everything may appear to be out of sync. When I stopped sowing seeds my blessings and creativity were not fluent. When I sowed less than usual it delayed my normal receiving. Habit is a law similar to cause an effect. Every act is a cause and effect. When you're repetitious to the cause, the effects will be continuous. Procrastination is a bad habit that can have eternal effects. I've learned to not put off tomorrow, what can be done today. You are what you continuously do. Andrew Jackson said, "Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in." Some wait for permission

and re-confirmation of an instruction instead of taking action.

In *31 Reasons People Do Not Receive Their Financial Harvest*, Mike Murdock said, "Uncommon diligence always attracts attention." When you're diligent in your request and desire you add energy to faith. This is why faith moves God. Your diligent quest is what attracts God attention to move in your behalf. The greatest weakness lies in giving up. No matter what the circumstances are and appear to be in your life, move in uncommon diligence. Look only towards your dreams and desires and the challenges will diminish after time. As you work towards that which you love, provision comes. You cannot plan your success and failure at the same time. You will choke the life from your dreams. James 1:6-8 says, "When he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." As you move towards your goals, it is important to keep your eyes and thoughts on the prize. I have learned through experience, behind every no there was a yes. If something is a thought or desire, it is a definition that it is possible. That desire is what inspires and motivate you to pursue it. Keep knocking on doors. Your faith, persistence, and diligence will open a door. Refuse to sink lower and accept less. Many do this practically all their life. Why should you continuously lessen your abilities, values, and life? The Lord is always trying to get something greater to us. However, we are the ones who limit what He is trying to put in our hands. If you feel you are deserving of a thing you will pursue it until it becomes a part of you. It may take time to get there but continue pursuing and not settling. Life is a process and through the process we grow into our desires step by step. So remember desires may not be met immediately but as you continue moving, it becomes evident. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God." When people say it's not possible tell them to mind their own business, and allow them to sink in their

own doubt. Whatever you seek, whether it's a top of the line car or a used Oldsmobile, \$50 million dollars or \$50 dollars, your own business, or a 9-5 job; that same thing is seeking you. So why not visualize an uncommon goal. It can't hurt. It can only multiply you.

*Strong reasons make strong actions*

—William Shakespeare

A dream is a seed of change. You have to have strong reasons for wanting to fulfill each dream or to want good change in your life. Some may choose to sit in bondage and complain. You will never achieve a dream until you learn to expect and accept change and be consistent. We all go through the bad changes to reap the good. You have to be willing to do what it takes to effect good change in your life. While the dream is something that you hope for, the vision is the mental concept to bring the dream into a reality. A vision board is important as you work towards your dream goal. Writing your goals is also necessary because it becomes a blueprint or map within your journey. The visual representation of things helps you to be consistent in achieving them. A vision is the abstract, which becomes the concrete detail of exactly how you want your life to be. The vision is what will drive your life and the actions you are to take. Nothing gets accomplished without strong reasons. When I needed to complete a project, or even the completion of this book, my actions were strong because I had good reasons in completing it. Yes, I had to stay up all night at times, spend more money and time, but the efforts were worth it. At times I was restless and sometimes wanted to neglect certain projects. Pursuing a goal can sometimes feel like the most bitter time in your life. Remember the famous saying, "When life throws you lemons make lemonade." When you have strong reasons in pursuing your dreams and visions, you will know how to take what is sour in your life and turn it into something sweet. Proverbs 27:7 says,

“He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.” Those who are passionate and thirst for success will not allow any circumstance to get in the way because the end result is so much sweeter.

*Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all*

—Dale Carnegie

Sometimes it's difficult to begin and establish a routine. Sometimes the efforts feel worthless. As you work your way towards success you must remind yourself of its importance and remember that each effort is well worth it and will contribute towards your growth. As you move forward in your goals you will develop willpower to see it into manifestation. The development of willpower initiates the ability to embrace sacrifice. What are you willing to sacrifice to bring about manifestation? Studying the word of the Lord, the history of saints, prophets, great leaders, and successors will help you stay on the right path. There are many powerful influential men and women who have failed numerous times, yet their persistence, consistency, and patience allowed them to come out as winners. The story of Moses in the Bible holds a very powerful message. It displays how most feel incapable of moving forward and pressing on even when the answer is no. When God first makes contact with Moses, He tells Moses he is chosen to lead the children of Israel out of slavery from the Egyptians. Immediately Moses go on and on with different excuses of why he is incapable of the task. Isn't this the excuse many give? God assures Moses there is nothing to fear, just as long as he continues to follow His commands. When God calls upon us to fulfill an assignment we must also know that His anointing will be upon us to get it done. As the story goes, Moses went before the Pharaoh of Egypt and asked him to let his people go. It was not as easy as Moses believed it

would be. The Lord will tell us where He is leading us. He will show us the Promised Land, but will not tell us what we will encounter in getting there.

Many have joy when things are easy, but true maturity is evident when we are at peace in any battle. At the first sign of a problem, Moses complained to God. He asked the Lord why did He choose him and why has Pharaoh denied his request. Moses forgot what the Lord said at the burning bush. In Exodus 3:19-20 God said, "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go." Each time Moses asked to free the Israelites Pharaoh said no. After Moses performed all the signs and wonders before the Egyptians, the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of the country. The Lord was teaching Moses. He was testing and strengthening his faith. There is always a testing of your faith before the blessing. Moses had to gain strength, confidence, faith, and persistence, while remaining true and humble to the word of the Lord. The agony Moses must have felt had to be devastating. His self-esteem and pride was crushed before his people. He must have felt as a failure after being rejected many times. However, the Lord used adversity to train Moses to trust in Him and show those he would lead how to trust in the Lord. After the tenth judgment the Pharaoh agrees to let the Israelites go. However, after letting them go, Pharaoh then changes his mind and set out to capture them. Moses along with the Israelites came to a halt because of the Red Sea. While the Israelites complained of no way out, Moses reassured them the Lord will deliver them as promised. His faith and confidence in God had become stronger during the time God was manifesting the ten judgments on the Pharaoh. In life we seem to always face a major challenge and roadblock. Like Moses we must part the Red Sea and be consistent in moving towards the Promised Land. Moses remembered all the miracles the Lord had performed because he was consistent. He knew if the people

were freed, he was able to trust the Lord again; therefore the Red Sea was parted to allow them to go through. Moses had matured while in his valley and he learned to use his power to perform the miracle in parting the Red Sea. As soon as Pharaoh's army tried to cross the Red Sea the parting closed and they were covered in water. When you're consistent and persistent a greater miracle will be performed right before your eyes. The Lord will use you to perform many miracles through you. You will become a walking testimony. Any adversity that may try and get in your way will be removed and washed away.

Abraham Lincoln, another great successor and rated as one of the best presidents of the U.S., had many setbacks and failures before being elected to presidency. Lincoln being born into poverty and having his mother die when he was nine years old showed his life beginning in tragedy. He was faced with defeat throughout all his life; losing eight elections, several business failures, death among those he loved the most, and suffering a nervous breakdown. However, he was a champion and never gave up. John Ruskin said, "The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it." Through Lincoln's toil, he became a successor and changed the lives of others. Lincoln could have made excuses and quit many times, but he chose to believe in the possibility and became one of the greatest presidents who changed U.S. history.

Like Lincoln, some of us were born into poverty. But we can make a greater future for ourselves. Lincoln has failed in his business and went into bankruptcy, but he tried again. His fiancée died, but he eventually married. He ran for Congress and Senate and lost . . . and finally he achieved the greatest success as US President. Lincoln had more failures than success. To whom much is due, much is required. He was due a position in a higher office with higher authorities so he had to go through many changes, steps, and processes before he realized the greater calling upon his life. Lincoln had a very strong desire to make a difference but he had to be in a position of authority and leadership to create change.

He realized presidency was the key to voice his concerns and make a difference. While in the position of president he opposed slavery and led the civil war. He shaped the destiny of the U.S. with his speech known as the Gettysburg Address. This speech addressed his desire for liberty and equality. Within Lincoln's speech he said, "Slavery is founded on selfishness of man's nature." Although Lincoln referred to slavery as most know it to be, there is a mental slavery that tends to take place in the minds of many. Many want more without having to put in the work. Some are used to being dependent upon others. I was held in a mental bondage. I had to break away from my pharaoh in order to reach a favorable place. When you perceive the true nature of God, as the Source of your good, you will no longer live in bondage and fear. When you're working consistently through the processes, not depending upon any one but the One Source, resistance becomes less. Some may fall short of God's promises and not persist in fulfilling a task. Stay the course. Allow God to take and guide you through your wilderness experience, and you will be rewarded beyond your wildest dreams and imagination.

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!*

—Luke 18:1-5

When you're consistent you never quit reaching. Adversity usually surrounds the birth of your dream and any miracle. Champions don't quit. They make every

effort to try again until they get what they want. As in the parable, Jesus told his disciples, "We all must operate as the widow who will not cease until justice is made against the adversary." Whatever obstacle gets in the way, champions overcome it because they're passionate about whatever it is they're seeking. Passion is something you are not willing to do without. Pursuit reveals whatever it is you're passionate about. Passion and pursuit equals purpose. Tyron Edwards said, "Thoughts lead on to purposes; purposes go forth in action; actions form habits; habits decide character; and character fixes our destiny." When habits are formed it decides our character and determines our destiny. In whatever direction you're heading, there must be a consistent flow of habits in reaching that destination. To become consistent one must change their thoughts. This was a process for me; to relearn, rethink, and change my attitude and thoughts. No matter how hard you work for success, if your thoughts and mind are upon fear and failure, your efforts will be a failure. I had to build courage to pursue my dreams. Dreams usually appear unlikely and sometimes impossible to complete; therefore my thoughts and mind had to be renewed constantly. I learned that consistency requires responsibility, relearning, rethinking, and sometimes revision. You must neutralize your endeavors with positive influence and thoughts and move through any adversity.

Adversity is not something to fear or despise. It offers learning lessons and blessings in disguise. They are motivators to help us take action. Les Brown, a well-known motivational speaker, faced many challenges in his life. The one compelling story he told changed his life and helped him to stay on the path as a speaker, despite his setbacks in lack of education, cancer, among other things. At a young age, diphtheria swept through the neighborhood where his family resided. Brown's friend died from it and soon Brown was facing death. His mother prayed every day without ceasing until he was healed. She refused to see death for her son. At the point Brown's mother thought he was completely healed, he lost his voice due to the disease. She prayed again

without ceasing that his voice would return. She asked the Lord to take her voice instead. The next morning Brown was able to speak. However, his mother was unable to speak for a few hours. As Brown got older his mother reminded him that she would take her voice back if he continued to speak in a rude manner. She said she asked Jesus to give Brown her voice and her prayer was answered. From that day on Brown said, "I intend to use my mama's voice for good, lest I lose it for good. I urge you to use your talents and gifts to their fullest, too." Brown's adversity became his stepping stone for good and he pressed on to become a well-known speaker, a voice and motivator to the masses.

Beethoven, the great composer, handled and played the violin awkwardly and very different from most. He preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him "hopeless as a composer." However, Beethoven continued composing music. And, of course, he composed five of his greatest symphonies while completely deaf.

Twenty-seven publishers rejected Dr. Seuss's first book, yet he continued until someone accepted it and he became the number one author for children's books.

Henry Ford is known for his innovative assembly line. However, his business was not an instant success. His early businesses failed and left Ford broke five times before he founded the successful Ford Motor Company.

Oprah Winfrey, one of the most successful and richest women in the world, faced difficulties before her current position. She endured a rough and abusive childhood and a few career setbacks. She was fired as a television reporter because her manager said she was unfit for TV.

Walt Disney had a rough start. He was fired by a newspaper editor who said he lacked imagination and had no good ideas. Afterwards, Disney started a number of businesses that failed and landed him in bankruptcy. He kept moving and pushing despite his challenges and eventually found the ingredients which worked for him. Today, the Disney legacy is a multi-billion dollar empire from his

movies, merchandise, and the well-known theme parks Disneyland and Walt Disney World.

A friend shared his story of diligence and how his consistency moved him towards success. Winston worked with a donation company. He was warned prior to leaving this donation company to come into his promised inheritance. Fortunately, for him he was let go. It didn't seem fortunate at the time, but later. He was left out there alone to create a way. He got up every morning in a consistent routine as if he was working and receiving money. He began to carry his laptop with him looking for ways to make money. He explained about the hardship and resistance he faced. Eventually his persistence and consistency paid off. God began to show Winston a way. He used what he had learned from the donation company and his father's business to create his own. Ideas in how to make money flashed in his mind. Every day became an opportunity to create more wealth. He became a human radiant magnet attracting ideas and money into his existence. He went from making nearly nothing a day to thousands of dollars a day. He now teaches others how to generate money and prosper during difficult times.

All these people had a belief, a greater substance more powerful than most realize. This substance was the faith to succeed, although failure appeared more dominant when looking at the circumstances. They all were diligent despite of the odds, which is why they succeeded. They believed they were successful despite what others thought. If you don't believe in yourself no one else will. They achieved greatness because they allowed themselves to fall and get back up again. Our greatest glory is when we can fail and rise up again. Greater minds always rise above adversities and rejections. Rejection can feel like the end of the world and make you feel like giving up; hopeless, timid, and passive. These are all the feelings I had experienced and felt. Error lies within the giving up and achievement will feel impossible. When faith and success are our predominant thoughts, they will overrule any position we find ourselves

in. The most dominant thoughts held within our mind will eventually show up. There is victory without force. When the level of consciousness reaches the point of God being the only source, resource, and supply, victory is guaranteed.

*So I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer*

—Nehemiah 6:3-4

Staying positive in thoughts, plans, and action must be achieved through inner talking and meditating in God's word. Self-knowledge is the most powerful key to success. When you know the degree of your own power and are self-disciplined, self-confidence arises. Anything that tries to get in the way will be knocked down because faith prevails much. You will tell whatever thing or person that tries to get in the way, "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down." Four or more times distraction will try to get in the way, and each time the same message must be given and proceed consistently in carrying on the project. All other things do not matter; what matters are the vision, assignments God has given you, and the plan to see it through. In each of us is an inner dream that is waiting to unfold if we just have the courage to admit it is possible. The admitting part is always the biggest task and the most difficult. When I wanted to go back to school for some time I made excuses. It was the money, time, and freedom that I had to sacrifice. Yet the reasoning was so much more appealing. I love learning. I love knowledge. Before anything can come out of the mind something must be put into it. Education is the development of the mind. Experience is the development of picking challenges apart and putting it to work for you, not against you. A degree will help to achieve something higher in life; therefore I signed up for school. I

had finally followed my plan and did not concern myself with the cost and all other things. God continuously directs my footsteps and provides in the cost and all other things. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." As you plan your course, the Lord will determine the steps.

*Make every effort to add to your faith . . . .*

—2 Peter 1:5

Taking the initiative in your actions is what compels God because it shows faith in Him. God or anyone else cannot do all the work for you. This is why the scripture says to make every effort to add. When you're consistent in action you make every effort to add until you receive the blessing. You make every effort to add until the resistance becomes less. John Quincy Adams said, "Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." You must keep adding to the foundation God has laid down for you. When God speaks action must be taken immediately without hesitation or revision. When you have ideas, dreams, goals, take the initiative; stop questioning, doubting, and revising God's plan for your life. He has created you. He knows what's best and what you're capable of doing, being and becoming. Know when you add so will God until it is completed. Forget about the failures, the past, the difficulties, and the mistakes. When I was moving towards my ideas I used to dwell on the past and thought about the days I felt limited. I wondered, if I leave my job to pursue my passion how would I make it. I questioned will I have to go through the same process of lack and limitations. I was then reminded of Second Peter 1:5, if I am not adding to my faith I will not step out in faith and become who God has called me to be. You're only guaranteed success in your place of obedience, where God is placing you. You have to press forward until it becomes inevitable. Difficulties are only present to shape you into your true character. It brings out

the strength in you, the problem solver in you, and the master that you should become.

*Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob,  
but Israel, because you have struggled with God and  
with men and have overcome*

—Genesis 32:28

Sometimes we have to wrestle with our inner enemies and adversities that seem to always challenge our faith. We have to continue to press on until God blesses us. There is an interesting story in the Bible about Jacob who wrestled with an angel. Jacob was faced with a tremendous challenge. He was alone in facing this challenge as he sent his family away. Sometimes we must do this. Jacob's family did not understand the meaning behind his decisions and actions. Sometimes we are ridiculed and misunderstood before our genius is recognized and appreciated. Aloneness from negativity removes the strain and stain of wrong influence. Jacob had to face his adversity, the mistake he made when he stole his brother's birthright. Jacob took matters into his own hands and, at first, did not have the faith to allow the Lord to work out the matter. An angel appeared before Jacob and Jacob wrestled with him. I believe this angel was a part of Jacob's thought. He felt intimidated, fearful, and doubtful to go before his brother; therefore he wrestled with the angel or his thoughts in other words. Jacob told the angel, he will not let him go until he is forgiven and blessed. The angel touched the socket of Jacob's hip causing the joint to come out of place and crippling him. This is how most of us feel or have felt at some point in our lives. The struggle can be intense to the point we feel crippled and incapable of moving ahead. Jacob was persistent in reaching his goal. He wanted forgiveness for the wrong he had done. He did not want to run any longer. Most feel they can run away and hide from their problems. There always come a day when you will have to face it. Daybreak had approached and the angel pleaded for Jacob

to let him go. Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." In any challenge you face you should not allow it to name who you are or the circumstances you find yourself in. At times when I felt limited I had to say and believe that I am prosperous. We must wrestle until we overcome. We are then no longer the same person, but shall be called whatever it is we are becoming.

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance*

—1 Peter 1:13-14

When God is calling you to greatness, He will press and disturb your spirit. He will shake up and disturb relationships and surroundings until you are at a place of movement and development. I've realized the importance of discerning things and people who were time-wasters in my life and needed to be removed. Refuse to fellowship with non-productive people because it will cause laziness among you. The principle of diligence is to give speedy day-by-day attention to an assigned task. When you're not consistent and productive you will find yourself repeating the same cycle of life until you learn the principle of diligence. In the Bible story of Jesus he was in constant movement and change. He was continuously arising, departing, and arriving. Everyone will face adversity, especially at the point of greatness, but not everyone will conquer it. Restoration comes at the point of your obedience. Proverbs 10:4 says, "He becometh poor that deals with a slack hand but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." God will restore things in your life according to your obedience to move. When you prepare the mind to receive, you prepare the mind for action, being self-controlled

setting hope fully on the grace to be given. When your spirit is disturbed, this indicates action that must be taken. You are normally disturbed when something is incomplete. I always thought I had insomnia because I could never sleep. It wasn't that I had insomnia. God was prompting me to complete a project or go into prayer and meditation. When I was not constant with the project I was set out to do, it seemed harder to complete. I became restless, antsy, and sometimes depressed. I no longer had the enthusiasm needed for completion because it was long overdue. Those who achieve their goals are normally content. Goal achievers are always arising, departing and changing old patterns, thoughts, relationships, and places that are not increasing them. They eventually arrive to a new destination of hope, abundance, wealth, love, peace, and joy.

You must do what it takes to effect change. When you arrive to a new place you discover something great. We all should allow discovery to usher change and be consistent and diligent towards that new discovery. This is why praise is so important. Psalms 34:1 says, "I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips." Consistent praise, even during adversity brings you into a new place of discovery and ushers change. It ushers a change of greatness because of the enthusiasm. Enthusiasm breeds excitement and when you are excited it attracts the universe to deliver. When you are passionate and excited about something it attracts others to get involved.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*

—James 1:2-4

Trials are the basis of wisdom. Have you heard the saying, "Enjoy the process?" You must enjoy the process

because it's guidance. The process becomes your teacher. The process is what brings forth the wisdom, awareness, and understanding. You must continue the process until you are mature in consciousness, learned the lessons involved, and apply the principles of what you've been taught through the process. When you reach a level of maturity in the spirit, you have reached a degree of awareness and the understanding of who you are. When you're aware you will know and say, "I am that" and go after it. We have all faced a day of desperation, but there always come a joy of inspiration on the day when you are not lacking anything. No great leader or champion has reached this title of achievement without the patience, persistence, and perseverance. Proverbs 13:10 of the New King James Version says, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." Achievement is a steady action towards a belief. Down the road to achievement the mind becomes mature and complete to handle all circumstances. How we deal with adversity, challenges, and even mistakes define who we are becoming. It strengthens our abilities and gives us a will and determination. In reaching my goals, challenges seemed severe, yet I kept moving. I developed a spiritual awareness and with this awareness I became mature and complete. As I kept moving, resistance became less. It became less because my goal was first to become mature in the spirit. Small steps eventually become giant steps and with each step it moves an inch off resistance and draws you nearer to achievement. Press towards the mark, recognizing the things that are a priority. Write them down in your daily agenda and allow priorities to become habitual. When you focus on the priorities you eliminate confusion and unnecessary things. Complete the work you were called to do for it will bring satisfaction. In John 17:4 Jesus said, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." When we are bringing forth fruit and completing that which we were assigned to do, God is glorified, and much joy and peace enter our lives, and those around us.

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## CHAPTER 10

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# Deeply Rooted

*Everyone wants the flower before the root. Without the root, the flower will not sustain.*

—Prophet Winston Davis

The root is the core anchor of our lives. It is the fundamental cause, basis, and source from which all our substances and nutrients are derived. A tree whose branches are numerous, but roots are few, will fall in the midst of a storm or strong wind. Many want immediate results without the foundation or root. Everyone wants the flower before the root. Everyone wants a beautiful life instantly. A farmer or florist knows the most important element in the process of a harvest. It is to first establish the root. Once the root is established and nourished the process and harvest will become simpler. Sometimes the farmer or florist must pull up the old roots in order to start anew. This is the same process we must undergo, which is why the Bible speaks of the renewing of the mind. Giving up old ways, beliefs, concepts, and habits can be difficult and take time. When we come to some spiritual enlightenment and truth we continually look back and compare this new truth with old beliefs. Because we compare and are reminded of old beliefs, this new truth is sometimes rejected. It is rejected because old ways and beliefs are deeply rooted; every problem existing stems from a root. When we are not purged from some old habits and beliefs there are blockages, and we will continuously repeat the same patterns and remain in penalty of it.

The outer conditions of our world are based on our inner conditions, the root of our being, what we are holding in our consciousness, thoughts, and emotions. Think of a flower and its root system deep in the earth. If the root is being nourished and growing properly from within the earth, the flower then springs and blossoms into something beautiful. If the flower would not bloom, there is something within the root causing death and not life. The same life which flows through the root will later appear as blossoms or wither. Through this invisible root system we understand that there is a greater source within, which helps us to bloom into a flower.

*Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted  
will be pulled up by the roots*

—Matthew 15:13

As we seek a better life and spiritual truths, old ways, habits, and beliefs must be uprooted. There is a saying, “The rich gets richer and the poor gets poorer.” The poor gets poorer because there was not a letting go of old ways and habits. The consciousness of the poor will remain in a belief of lack and limitation and will take and hoard their belongings. Although those who are lacking may attempt to come out of a poverty state, if it has not taken place at some point in life, the level of consciousness or the root must be transplanted and deeply rooted with the mind of Christ; we are not limited. The mind grew in the belief of what the economy, circumstances, the self, or others have said. Yet we can uproot those old beliefs and habits and change them. We must be open and receptive to be enlightened with spiritual truths that we can be wealthy, successful, content, and at peace.

In the book of Genesis, God asked Adam, “Who told you that you were naked?” And the only person who told Adam this was himself, surely not God. And so it is we tell ourselves what we currently are. Change cannot occur with

the same mentality. It is impossible to solve a problem with the same level of consciousness that created it. There needs to be a cleansing and renewing. There must be a pulling up of the old because these roots are not planted by the Heavenly Father. During the process of uprooting and cleansing it may feel like a painful process. As a seed which must break and take root, so as we may feel a breaking taking place before the good root can be firmly planted to see the emerging of a beautiful flower. This is nature. When the Lord plants His seeds into us it will appear outwardly as a flower blossoming more over time, never lacking, never withering, because we are nurtured from a greater invisible life within.

*No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me*

—John 15:4

What we see in nature we sometimes accept that this is just a part of life. Any other feelings outside of fulfillment are not a part of a spiritual life. I used this excuse to attempt to solve the emotional distress I found myself feeling quite often. Those feelings were created by attempting to live without the vine, not abiding and depending on the source within me. Realize that everything connects to everything else. When we are cut from the life Source, there is a withering which takes place. Sometimes old and non-producing branches must wither and be cut off to allow the new shoots to spring and not fail us (Job 14:7-8). God prunes us to weed out all things not of Him, to refine and shape us, so we are able to receive the light, as the sunlight touches a flower allowing the bud to reach maturity and blossom. The transition to flowering is one of the major phase changes that a plant makes during its life cycle. Know that the transition to a flower, reaching this higher state of consciousness and achievement, is the most important process. It is something that must take place, detaching from old ways and thoughts, so a new seed may be implanted and

grow producing its own kind. All that we do, think, and say, lay seeds deep within our minds and one day that seed will take life and grow.

To truly move freely you must be deeply rooted, free from attachment of person, place, or thing. When this takes place you're able to renounce karma and have freedom from it. Because we often attach ourselves to objects, things which are visible, we question why things occur. Many ask and wonder if God exists. If He exists, why do certain things occur? Why must we go through pain and challenges? We live a life of free will; therefore, free to choose our actions and be accountable for the result of such actions. There are seen and unseen forces we may not understand due to universal laws and free will. Some decisions made are not always the right ones; therefore we suffer the consequences of that action. We must be fully responsible and aware that all results are due to our thoughts and choices, not necessarily because of the inevitability of karma. Thoughts and emotions hold so much power and can affect your environment. No matter how much you hold in secret thoughts it vibrates because thoughts are energy. You always reap what you sow. Farmers uproot and till the soil before planting new seeds. If they skip this process, there are chances of weeds forming which can destroy the harvest. Planting seeds in bad soil produces weeds. Planting seeds with negative thoughts produces weeds in your life. The soil must be tilled to bring up the good soil, before planting. This will produce good crops.

*Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord . . .*

—Ephesians 6:8

Why do we fail to do good that we know we should do? Why do we withhold good from someone or thing who deserves it, when we know it is within our power to act? Why do we fear and move below our own standards? Why

do we try so hard to make progress in our lives to find that we have nothing to really show for it? These are all acts of ignorance bought on by consistent behavior of living outside of our means, detached from the vine and root. When you live outside your means, thoughts and actions become manipulative, worrisome, deceitful, confused, and doubtful. When you live within your means, you live from the Source that is within you and no longer does ignorance enter your environment. There is a famous saying, "Do unto others as you want done unto you." Ephesians 6:8 tells you, "Whatever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord." You want wealth, clear up past debt first and establish good credit. You want healthy relationships; first get rid of those who are unhealthy and work on yourself. You want motivation, motivate others. You want love, show others love. This is a law known as karma debt, action and reaction, or cause and effect. In most cases, whatever we do return to us. We know that what you sow, you will also reap.

Matthew 5:23-26 says, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth you will not get out until you have paid every penny." This scripture exemplifies sowing into unresolved matters. The root of the matter has to be resolved before the seed will take effect. The world is like a mirrored reflection. It reflects the image of your heart. If you are manipulative in some way or form, manipulation will occur. What you do will be returned unto you in some way or form. You must clear past debt in order to live and lead a new life. Clearing up past debt also means forgiveness. Apostle Paul in the Bible was once someone who committed murder and threw Christians in prison. It

is interesting to note that most of his ministry and teaching involved him being stoned and thrown into prison.

A friend told me a story of someone who owed him money. He said an associate he conducted business with had cheated him out of money. He did not hear from this person for weeks. He had prayed about it when the Spirit revealed that he had to pay back what he owed others. He neglected for some time repaying others, when it was in his power to do so. Once he paid all his debts, the person owing him money was arrested the following day for something else he had done. The Bible story of Jacob is very similar. Jacob was considered to be crafty and deceitful because he first lived outside his means. His problem began when he stole his brother Esau's birthright. Jacob wanted wealth, but thought he had to use deceit in order to come into wealth. He didn't have to fight, cheat, or scheme to come into good. He just needed to learn how to use the Source from within. Because of this act, Jacob fled. His father had forgiven him, but Jacob had not forgiven himself. He fled in order to gain a fresh start. He went into the land of Haran and worked for his uncle. In Genesis 29:15, it is said that Jacob's uncle asked, "What shall thy wages be?" Jacob responded, "Rachel, thy youngest daughter." After seven years of work, he finally married. However, Jacob was deceived. He married the oldest daughter Leah, and had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. The importance of this story is that Jacob accepted this by realizing his past error. Because he took the responsibility in repaying his error, he worked another seven years to receive what was due to him. When you lose, do not lose the lesson. When you realize you have made a mistake, take immediate action to correct it. Jacob eventually settled his debt and asked to be released for he knew he had now cleared up any past debt. He increased his uncle's flock and it was time for him to increase his own. When I think of this story I think of how credit operates. When we abuse credit and become incapable of repaying it back in the appropriate time, we pay double interest and fees in order to repay the debt.

*But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion  
and will bring each of them back to his own  
inheritance . . .*

—Jeremiah 12:15

Jacob's old ways of thinking and actions had to be uprooted in order to walk into the inheritance God intended for him. The principles and truths of the Lord are so important in life. It will lead to peace, forgiveness, love, and multiplication if it's deeply rooted within you. When you sow into good ground, you allow God to become deeply rooted within you. A farmer plants a seed deeply into the ground and packs soil over it. After he covers it in the soil, it is hard-pressed for safety and security. When that seed begins to sprout up, birds, bugs, or a storm may try to destroy it. However, because it is deeply rooted the roots spread and nest securely. It cannot be lifted and pulled out. Not even the weeds can choke it. This is how God works. He has to firmly install and hard-press His principles deeply into our being. When His teachings are firmly secure within us we become firmly secure in all that we do. No longer will negative thoughts and fear enter the mind. Everything existing in you will be all good, which will attract all goodness in your relationships, career, finances, thoughts, and simply your very being. Success is not just in business, relationships, and wealth. It is being in tune with a higher power and having extraordinary benefits and fulfillment within yourself and in the lives of others. It is an ongoing feeling of peace and contentment. And when you truly know God and who you are, you become successful.

Many want success quickly. Shortcuts are nothing but shortcomings. When you take shortcuts, increase may come but only for a short period. I realized while building a business I couldn't take shortcuts. I have heard stories of business owners who tried to do things underhandedly to hold on to profits or cut costs. The result led to people who misled them and cheated them. When you are living

a righteous life some may try to cheat you, but you always win. The unjust will always have a plot that fails. In the Bible story of Esther, Mordecai became adviser to the King. One day, Mordecai overheard two people plotting to kill the king and immediately informed him and saved his life. Haman, a wealthy dishonest man who acquired riches by seizing the treasures of another king, was appointed prime minister because the king was impressed by his wealth. Mordecai and Haman experienced tension from a past incident. Haman worshipped idols. At the time of Haman's induction as prime minister everyone had to bow down to him. Mordecai refused because he worshipped one God. Haman could never forgive Mordecai for humiliating him in the past and swore to kill anyone who was a Jew. As prime minister this was a chance for Haman to plot Mordecai's death. Haman made a list of wrong accusation against the Jews and warned the king that they should be killed. Mordecai was a Jew so he too would be put to death. That night a prophet appeared in Mordecai's dream and warned him of the wicked scheme that had been plotted against the Jews. The next morning he quickly ran to his niece, Queen Esther to inform her of what was to take place. Esther, having tremendous faith, went to her husband to first inform him she was a Jew and remind the king how Mordecai saved his life. Esther also plotted a scheme to reveal the heart of Haman. She requested a banquet and invited Haman to attend. The night before the banquet, the king's sleep was disturbed. When God is trying to get your attention, He will disturb your sleep. The king wondered why his wife would invite Haman to their banquet. He questioned if they both were plotting against him. The king requested the Book of Chronicles, which speaks of past events. As the book was opened the first thing read was how Mordecai saved his life. Finally going to sleep, the king dreamt of Haman standing over him with a sword and was suddenly awakened by the footsteps of Haman. He called Haman into his room and asked what shall be done to an honorable man. Thinking that the king was referring to him he boasted of all the good that shall be done. The

king then said, "Do all this honor unto Mordecai." The next day Esther made her request known to spare the Jew's life. Haman had plotted for all to be hung, and eventually his plot was turned against him.

*For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless  
will remain in it*

—Proverbs 2:21

When you do not take responsibility for the things that go wrong in your life, you will remain confounded. There is no closure and things will remain open to reoccur. The upright will live in a land of fulfillment because they have accepted their wrongs and accepted correction. When you allow God to uproot you certainly it is painful. It is painful because it is a process of undoing, changing, and then expanding. When a child is born it is painful. During labor the woman's muscles are stretched to expand, but eventually the pain is rewarded with an addition to the family. It is also painful because it is an act of releasing. Sometimes it hurts to let go of certain things and people. Release is an important process in the life cycle. It shows you have now outgrown something and are ready to move on. Your good is expanding. Your consciousness is expanding or should be expanding. You will experience the labor pain because something greater is being born. I admit change is difficult; however, it is necessary for growth. The mystery unfolds in life when you allow God to come in and be Him. Allow him to scorn, correct, and rebuild you. The rewards are so much sweeter. We all must become deeply rooted within God's principles and allow His truth to bring peace. I can share a lot of stories and experiences in my growth process, but that is another book in itself. I can now say that within me is a root so deeply imbedded that success has to take place because I am living upright in my thoughts and action. I can now be free to live out my purpose and passion, inspired by the Lord.

Success requires uprooting and change. Social psychologist, Kurt Lewin speaks of the human aspect of

change. His interest in people led to a research project focusing on factors that influence people to change. Lewin's two views of the change process are:

- 1) **The Calm Waters Metaphor**—This is a three-stage theory needed to make change successful—unfreezing, which can also be referred to as uprooting (changing the status quo); changing (new state); refreezing (make the change permanent).
- 2) **White Water Rapids Metaphor**—Being uncertain, rough, chaotic, and predictable.

Although Lewin referred to these theories in business, it applies to the individual also. The mind has to unfreeze or uproot its behavior away from the status quo. In other words the worldly condition or state of affairs that may currently exist in the mind must be undone. The unfreezing process is the most important process. It is the realization that change is necessary. It is the process of moving out of the comfort zone into action. In the unfreezing process restraining forces which hinder growth are removed. The point at which Jacob left his family to regain a fresh start was the unfreezing point. His status quo was changing, clearing up old debt to walk into favor and prosperity. Once past debt has been removed, the mind begins to renew and is introduced to the next stage—change. When the mind is renewed, change itself can be implemented. In the change process the mind is opened and receptive. This is the transitional phase and the building up of a foundation. The process of change can be quite difficult. The inner activity in the mind and the decisions we make in reaction to change determine our next destination. Jacob's struggle with the angel was a turning point. Jacob's mind refused to let go of the angel. He was aware of his wrong and wanted to be forgiven. In the transitional phase keeping a clear picture of the desired outcome is vital. If you are not focused on the desired outcome you can get stuck and repeat the same process continuously until the good change becomes evident. The last process is the refreezing

stage. This is the established stage. You will trust in the Lord, and as you do, “so shall ye be established” (Chronicles 20:20). Whatever you do or think becomes automatic. A new perception occurs. With this new perception inspiration occurs and innovation is created. When Jacob entered the refreezing point he established a covenant with the Lord. He became aware that he did not have to lie, manipulate, or cheat to walk into an inheritance. He had to give of his tithes and trust in the Lord in order to prosper. As Jacob established a covenant, his mind was renewed. Jacob’s perception changed. He knew wealth existed within. He was inspired to create ways to walk into prosperity. Jacob then became innovative and created riches from raising newborn cattle.

Traveling the White Water Rapid is the process of changing with the wind and tides. The process is rough, uncertain, chaotic, and unpredictable when you try to fight against it; therefore, good change is most difficult. The lack of stability causes a person to go into survival mode. When in survival mode one may do whatever it is to stay afloat. When Jacob knew his father would give the inheritance to his brother Esau he went into a mode of survival thinking. He deceived his father by appearing as his brother Esau to steal the inheritance. Survival mode is reasoning, finding reasons to survive and holding on to all things. When reasoning enters the mind so does doubt. When doubt enters some may rob God of tithes and offerings. Some may rob, cheat, and manipulate others to survive. The ambiguity and uncertainty of change will cause the resistance of change. When you resist change, you go through a very rough and rocky period as in white water rafting. The concerns over personal loss of friendship, relationships, money, job, authority, or convenience may keep you in the White Water Rapid stage. I had to get out of the mind-set of holding on to everything because the process was too rocky. Sometimes the occurrence of a crisis will cause change. You get tired of the difficulties which get in the way of your growth. After the occurrence of too many crises I accepted change. I identified

elements that needed change in my life. I became adaptable and flexible to the leading of God's spirit in my life. In order for growth we all must embrace change and remove things and people from our life that prohibits, resist, and cannot change. The super-conscious must be deeply rooted with the mind of Christ. When the mind of Christ is deeply rooted our minds become free of burdens. Joel Goldsmith said, "There is no penalty once we recognize and acknowledge our mistakes . . . . Every penalty for our ignorance of yesterday is wiped out in the moment of recognition that the law of God is our governing influence." We must therefore admit our mistakes and accept change to avoid the "White Water Rapid" process and recognize God's law is our influence to change.

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# TIME

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## CHAPTER 11

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# The Valley of Shadow of Death: The Time of Testing

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands  
in moments of comfort and convenience but where he  
stands at times of challenge and controversy*

—Martin Luther King Jr.

How often have you set out to obtain something you desired, only for it to appear that the thing desired is so far away, as if it will never appear? There is always a season of testing before the blessing. There is always a season where the testing and trials may seem to overtake you. God gives you a vision and all of a sudden darkness befalls you. You may receive a dream, vision, or desire before any adversity pops up in your life. That picture will be the very thing to help you get past the challenge. To succeed you need to find something to hold on to. That thing, that vision is what motivates and inspires you to keep pressing forward. In Genesis, God had given Abraham a vision an instruction to move forward. He was to go into a land to take possession. All of a sudden darkness, a huge dreadful cloud lurked over him and he began to question God. "But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" When darkness surrounds, many panic forgetting the vision. Questions arise in doubt that maybe it wasn't meant for you, it's not the right time, or how will it come about. However, challenges make you discover things about

yourself you never knew. The ultimate measure of a man and his character is revealed in moments of controversy and challenges. It brings the revelation of the self so things can be corrected in your life. Failure is an opportunity to begin again, this time more wisely. How you handle these challenges measures your character which determines the measurement of your blessing. The willingness to stand in battle for your dream, qualifies you for its achievement. Darkness is where all creation begins. Without darkness how would you see the reflection of who you're destined to become—a STAR! God created the most amazing thing in darkness. In the darkest periods of your life, God's presence begins to move deep within your inner spirit to bring you to another level in Him. During this period He will shape you into the vision, His purpose for your life. God is more evident during the darkest periods of your life. If everything was perfect, there would be no room for growth. Propelled by our discomfort we are likely to step out of the rut and search for a more meaningful way of life.

*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast*

—1 Peter 5:10

The greatest achievements were formed from the origin, in darkness and under pressure. The earth was made in darkness. In Genesis 1:2-5 it says, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." Diamonds are formed in the darkness, the core of the earth, which may take thousands

of years to form or be discovered. They are formed when enough pressure is produced for long enough and ninety miles below the earth's surface, along with temperatures of 2200 degrees Fahrenheit. Without these particular conditions, diamonds can't be formed. The pressure needed to produce a diamond is necessary before it can form into this beautiful gem. Finally, after so much pressure, diamonds eventually push their way to the earth's surface, oftentimes through volcano eruptions, to be later mined and discovered. In their most natural form, diamonds are not beautiful. They often appear rough with no luster or shine. Before it becomes a thing of beauty it must go through a process of heat, pressure, cut and polishing. This is often the process many go through and must endure. There may be feelings of rough periods and not being able to shine. Along the way there are cuts, bruises, heat, and pressure; nevertheless you are being refined and strengthened. The amount of heat and pressure a diamond endures the stronger and more suitable it becomes to be used within the industrial market as a cutting tool and to cut other diamonds. After the diamond seem to have suffered a little while, it is restored to something greater, made stronger and more firm. Henry Wilson said, "He who finds diamonds must grapple in mud and mire because diamonds are not found as polished stones. They are made." Therefore, you must sometimes trample through the mud, the dark period in your life, and remember through the dark periods you are made into something beautiful. The Lord will then restore and re-establish you, to make you strong, firm, and steadfast.

Jeremiah 2:6 describes this valley and shadow of death a land as a barren wilderness, a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives. Everyone at some point in their life goes through their own wilderness, each having a sense of abandonment, barrenness, confusion, drought, or utter darkness. Jesus had to go through it. He spent 40 days and nights alone in the wilderness without a word from God. He then was tortured in many ways. But the bigger picture and the importance of this story was the huge harvest at

hand. His gain was the resurrection, the life of many saved souls. The bigger your harvest the more obstacles you may experience. Happiness comes from the clues you find buried deep in the shadows. The deeper the valley you may find yourself in, the higher the mountain you will stand upon. Winston Churchill said, "Mountaintops inspire leaders but valleys mature them." Discouragement may always try to seep in, but remember the enlargement at hand. Think of the magnificent feeling it is to be on the highest mountain.

Oposing forces are more relevant when the blessing is near. I didn't understand why I had to experience so much pain. Some were brought on unintentionally and some by my own intentions, my thoughts, choices, and actions. Your thoughts control your outcome. We are what we think, we do what we think, and we become what we think. The more I pursued and moved towards a goal the more I seemed to suffer. I suffered physically, mentally, spiritually, and especially financially. Sometimes the pain seemed unbearable, but God never gives you more than you can handle. In the process I've felt as a failure, lost, empty, confused, alone, helpless, emotional, and drained. I felt so drained that I didn't want to continue, but I had come so far, I knew I had to keep pressing through all the fire, pressure, and mud. Although I was restless I got up again and lethargic feelings were eventually replaced with an enormous strength. A new way of thinking emerged, clarity became my portion, wisdom, and then understanding filled me. At that point, I realized I had reached a new level. If God took me so far and allowed me to get through that rough period, He will take me further as long as I trust in Him to keep going, allowing Him to discipline, train, strengthen, and comfort me.

*You will also leave that place with your hands on your head, for the LORD has rejected those you trust; you will not be helped by them*

—Jeremiah 2:37

Many who experience the valley of shadow of death wonder when will they recover and be discovered. Some look for attention and to be discovered because they need help. Looking for help from different places and people will leave you at a place feeling confused and rejected because they could not help. Solutions come from within you. Listen to the phrase "shadow of death." A shadow is dark. It is the surface that falls behind somebody or something, blocking the total light. When you look for solutions outside of yourself you create this shadow, following after things and people for help. You will wonder why people have rejected you. It's because the trust has been placed in the wrong area. The more I leaned on people and things, the more my view became obstructed. I felt as if I was in total darkness. However, I was in training. The Lord was disciplining me. I was learning how to depend totally on Him. Darkness is another terminology of death. When you go into darkness you die of your old habits, becoming that which God has originally created, not affected by things of the world. You become a complete follower of the Lord's intentions, instructions, and purpose for your life. You become one with God. A shadow is not a separate entity but is the surface which falls behind the entity, a reflection. In a spiritual sense, night or darkness signifies a state of shade brought on by falsity. When you separate yourself from the Divine being within, you often become faced with this shadow of death. You go back into this place called a valley when you reject the light of truth. The Lord's light is continually flowing, but can be rejected for believing in things outside of Him. Psalms 91 says, "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." When you establish a true meaningful relationship with God, the light will shine, removing the darkness that lurks over, around and in you. You will follow the shadow of the Almighty. Under the Almighty shadow you will find refuge, nourishment, and trust, and no longer will you fear the terror of night.

*Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you*

—Deuteronomy 8:3-5

*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father.*

—Hebrews 12:7

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it*

—Hebrews 12:11

When I went through a rough period I felt helpless, shameful, hopeless, unloved, and worthless. I became timid and passive, accepting what people said to and about me, because I was stripped down to nothing. I went into silence, isolation, and felt as if I was in a stranglehold. I was stripped of my self-sufficiency and common sense. That time I spent in my own shadow of death was a time of discipline to amount to a greater wisdom. I became humble and sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. As U.S. Anderson said in his book, *Three Magic Words*, “We must reduce ourselves to nothing so that we have eyes to see at last, eyes to see the

towering dimensions of our true being . . . We must get ourselves out of the way so the power can flow through.” As we decrease, the power of God increases in us.

Abraham in the Bible went through years of silence, where all his self-sufficiency was destroyed. There was no possibility left of relying on his common sense. When you let go of self-sufficiency and self-interest you awaken the real interest God has in you. Your purpose is awakened. God will sometimes bring you to a place, a wilderness where you learn to allow Him to lead. That season of silence and darkness is a time of discipline and teaching, not of displeasure. It may seem unpleasant at the time. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness, peace, and plenty if you allow this time to teach you lessons, bring wisdom, understanding, and peace.

*But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.*

—Isaiah 49:14-16

Often we can get so easily caught up in the darkness. Many may feel the Lord has forsaken them. The Lord’s feeling towards you is like a mother who has carried and delivered her child into the world. A mother always shows compassion but also teaches her child right from wrong, as the Lord disciplines and teaches us right from wrong. Some may form a shell and blockage, isolating themselves from the world because of feelings of shame, guilt, anger, confusion, and depression. A young woman I know would call me from time to time, but she wouldn’t say much. I knew she was reaching out but I could sense a guard she continuously put up. As I engaged her more in conversation, I discovered her vulnerabilities. She was in her wilderness, but allowed

herself to stay there far too long. She focused on the opinions of others and allowed those words to feed her. When you're in this dark place, you become as a baby in a mother's womb, fragile and sensitive. In the womb you're alone, in utter darkness, relying on one source, the mother who feeds you. While in your dark place, it is important to feed upon inspirational things, books, music, and people who inspire you. This young woman fed upon the wrong influence. She didn't understand why she was in this place. When you're not learning the lessons involved during the wilderness period nor have a mentor to guide you through, it is easy to remain in this dark place. Many feel afraid to move forward after this time of displeasure. Some don't know how to move from that stranglehold. If you wait on the Lord, trusting in Him to nourish, develop, and guide you, in due time, your appointed time, restoration and restitution will come. The thing that stands before you and your blessing is time. Allow that time to teach you.

*This is what the LORD says:*

*"In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'" They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them . . .*

*For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.*

—Isaiah 49:8-13

Be careful not to remain in the stranglehold or dark place. To those afflicted and endure, always trusting in God He will have compassion. In the time of the Lord's favor, He will bring salvation. He will show favor upon you and cause men to have favor concerning you. The Lord will make you and

place you on high, recognizing your faithfulness during the time of trial and testing. You will be as a new person entering the world. As you wait upon the Lord he shall renew your strength. Isaiah 40:31 says, "They shall mount up with wings as eagles they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint." You will be as an eagle soaring to greater heights. An eagle has the ability to endure greater heights. Yet there is a time when it must restore its strength. After some time, the eagle's strength begins to deteriorate at the point survival becomes difficult. This is what happens to too many of us. We get to the point that survival becomes difficult. We need to go to a place where we are retrained, renewed, and restored by the word of the Lord. There is a time the eagle retreats to the mountaintop where it knocks off its beak, plucks its talon and feathers. Each removal goes through a stage where the process of re-growth and rebirth takes place. Eventually the eagle's strength and attributes are renewed enabling the eagle to live nearly another 40 years. You must be as the eagle allowing God to renew your strength, change you conscious, and expand your mind and horizon to soar to greater capabilities and higher heights. You must be broken down and rebuilt in order for God to use you. The Lord always uses rejects. Many, by whom you were rejected or disregarded, will now recognize you as a different person. So remember during the process, find every bit of strength to focus your energy. Prayer, praise, and worship are the things that bring you through. It knocks down doors that seemed to be locked. It removes barriers that seemed to get in the way. The gift of the tongue brings power, life and death. Every morning and night I recite Psalms 23 as part of my praise and affirmation to help move me towards the place the Lord is leading:

*The Lord is my Shepherd (relationship)*

*I shall not want (supply)*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures (rest)*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters (refreshment)*

*He restoreth my soul (healing)*

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness (guidance)  
For His name sake (purpose)  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death (testing)  
I will fear no evil (protection)  
For Thou art with me (faithfulness)  
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me (discipline)  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine  
enemies (hope)  
Thou annointest my head with oil (consecration)  
My cup runneth over (abundance)  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life (blessing)  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord (security)  
Forever (eternity)*

—Psalms 23

*But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the  
stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and  
went to the forest of Hereth.*

—1 Samuel 22:5

In time you will always rise up again. This is why maintaining a spirit of praise is so vital. Praise will bring you out of darkness, into the land of opportunities and growth. David in the Bible had such great pride that God had to strip him of that. God had to bring him back to a place of knowing, it is the Lord who giveth thee power. He brought popularity and greatness upon David, yet caused King Saul to turn on him. Because of this David fled in hiding. "Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father that he is trying to take my life?" Although David's life felt as if it was stripped away, he couldn't stay in hiding too long. It was not God's intention to keep him in a cave, or a dark place. God had placed

great favor upon David and it was time to move towards his purpose. God was bringing growth, honor, and riches into David's life. He was preparing David for a tremendous harvest. Many of us like to stay in hiding when confronted with challenges. The biggest thing I had to learn is getting out in the world and facing whatever challenges that were in my path. I thought because I faced challenges I had to bury myself to prevent other challenges. Joel Goldsmith said, "Let each follow the light as it is given to him of God, and then he will live by grace." Sometimes we hold ourselves in bondage to punishment due to guilty feelings, fear, shame, and unforgiveness among ourselves and others. As we learn to follow this light, this Guided Source, we will move out this place of hiding to confront and overcome our displeasures. David had to confront the King and his whole army. Can you imagine the fear he must have felt, having to face an army? Nevertheless, the Lord was on David's side and he was able to defeat a whole army. Though many times he was faced with death knocking at his door; the Lord made David's enemies his footstool and King Saul was at the hands of David. David could have killed him but instead spared his life more than once. He did not take matters into his own hands, but allowed the Lord to fight his battle. At the time of discipline, David learned how to rely on the Lord. He learned how to overcome his fears and challenges. Eventually Saul was killed in battle, and David became King David. He had to face his greatest challenge to walk into that which he was destined to become. Life challenges are a blessing in disguise. Life challenges are presented to bring correction to things that are within us. You're greatest challenge is sometimes your greatest strength. Sometimes it's one of the greatest blessings approaching. Challenges shape us into masters, problem solvers, and allow us to speak encouragement and guidance in the lives of others.

*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who*

*enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way  
is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

—Matthew 7:13-14

Nothing in life comes easy. Typically, the easier route leads to destruction. The way to freedom and life is through the narrow gate. Those who find it are the chosen few who trusted in the Lord during their journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The great challenge is to prepare ourselves to enter these doors of opportunity.” The doors of opportunities always challenge our faith and strength. The Israelites were led through the wilderness which greatly challenged their faith. Exodus 13:17 says, “God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter . . . So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.” Although we don’t understand the Lord’s reasoning and plans, His ways always leads to life. The Lord’s plan was to cover the pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea. However some of the Israelites missed the learning lessons and the blessings disguised. Paying attention to subtle opportunities leads to greater ones. The Israelites’ freedom was an opportunity, however, most focused on the hardship. They did not understand the preparation of the promotion, a land flowing with milk and honey. They were used to being slaves, living a life of convenience, yet bondage. Before any blessing is delivered, you go through a process and preparation. Before Jesus was sent into the public, to heal and teach many, he was sent into the wilderness to prepare. Follow the Lord’s lead as he guides you through the narrow gate. Rejoice in Him and remember how He has led you out of the wilderness to a place flowing with peace and prosperity. Remain in the knowledge that this too shall pass, for weeping may endure for a night, but joy does come in the morning. Stay in good encouragement and faith. During the test you may be hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but

not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. "For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you" (2 Corinthians 4:8-12).

*Know that your morning is near.  
Then nothing in life can defeat me  
For as long as this knowledge remains  
I can suffer whatever is happening  
For I know God will break all of the chains*

*That are binding me tight in the darkness  
And trying to fill me with fear-  
For there is no night without dawning  
And I know that my morning is near.*

—Helen Steiner Rice

*Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will  
shine on you*

—Ephesians 5

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## CHAPTER 12

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### Seed Time and Harvest

*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest . . .  
will never cease*

—Genesis 8:22

It took me sometime to grasp the principle of seedtime and harvest. I thought of it as a concept instead of God's law. His law is firm and will not and cannot change; therefore it shall not cease. When seedtime is thought of as a concept it affects your ability to plant seeds because the perception of giving is thought of as man's personal need, instead of a spiritual law. In the natural world, it is law to pay taxes, giving a percentage to the government before you have access to any money given to you. In the cycle of life, we see there are always seeds which are planted to reap a result of something. Each seed sown has a greater potential than most realize. One tiny apple seed will produce an apple tree and millions of other seeds. That seed contains everything necessary to blossom into a fruitful full grown tree. Our good we seek comes to us through the principles of life, seedtime and harvest. In her book, *The Millionaires of Genesis*, Catherine Ponders explains the concept of Adam who was sent to till the ground. She explained the hidden mystery of the word "till." She explained it as an inner law of prosperity, seeding, waiting, and reaping the harvest, not working by the sweat of your brow. There is a season of the sowing. There is a season of waiting. There is a season of reaping. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a

season for every activity under the heavens.” Those in life who reap nothing will have a difficult time in understanding or following the principle of seedtime and harvest. What you reap is measured by what you are seeding. Life is judged according to this, not just what you reap. In Matthew 19:29, Jesus reminds his disciples of the hundredfold result if his principles are followed. A huge harvest is nearly impossible if you’re not planting seeds. Planting seeds are not just money but it can be building a business, searching for a career, establishing relationships, etc.

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men,  
but as wise, making the most of your time.*

—Ephesians 5:15

The Lord has already promised you a harvest in due season. You must be willing to trust in the season of waiting. It is called seedtime and harvest because time is the season between the seed and harvest. Patience and perseverance is the art of anticipation, hope, and expectancy. God loves those who believe in Him and expect a miracle. In a matter of desperation and determination, many want an immediate result. That is possible if you’re sowing sparingly. Second Corinthians 9:6 says, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” After planting a seed some may become discouraged when something is not fulfilled. You allow time for the seed to reach its essence. Time is of the essence, and indeed it’s an essence. There is an intricate process which produces the form of something. Nothing comes forth with great quality unless it is developed over time. Timing is a gift from God. A thing done over time becomes quality and useful. Aged wine is considered quality. An older person is considered wise. Researchers say aged cheese contains probiotics, which is good for digestive health. A person who is considered a master is one who has developed a skill over time. When something is rushed or

produced before its time the result is an unfinished product. A baby born before nine months can be a risk to both mother and child. Understanding the importance of time and how to use that time will bring greater results. Every day is a gift to recreate your tomorrow. During the seasons of the seed and harvest, the way you use your time is a vital step in the process.

*Patience is bitter but its fruits are sweet*

—Jean Jacques Rousseau

Patience and time are the most powerful warriors. Time is the currency on earth. It is the hidden ingredient in a harvest. Delay is never denial. Although it is bitter, the fruits of it are sweet. In not all seasons are we able to buy certain fruit and vegetables and enjoy it. During their seasons fruits and vegetables taste wonderful. Try buying strawberries in a particular location during winter months. It will have a bitter taste. However, there are particular locations you're able to purchase ripened strawberries at a higher price. This is how the seed works. There are certain places and time to plant seeds in order to reap a sweet harvest. Deuteronomy 26:2 says, "Take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name." I had learned to discern where my seeds were being planted. Besides time, location is an important factor. Sometimes I tried to force the season and suffered in greater loss because it was not the time. Disobedience leads to penalties and cost you more. Not tithing results in penalties. Having a prophet and mentor in your life help you to discern which season you are in or approaching. Prayer, meditation, obedience, and self-discipline help you to discern which season you are to sow and reap. It also helps you to recognize if you are sowing into the right dwelling.

*See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near*

—James 5:7-8

As in any seed a farmer plants, it must be firmly planted, take root, and spring forth fruit in the right season. There is a process and time involved in the life of a seed. It may be easy to sow and reap but the difficulty comes in waiting. You must plant your seed and let it go through its process. When you ask for a thing and aim your seed, believe in expectation that it is done and let it go. Feel that you are worthy of a thing and it will show in the right timing. Let God assemble it together for you. Lao-Tzu said, "Allow the natural forces to follow and shape the flow of events and not to pit oneself against the natural order of things."

Proverbs 19:2-3 says, "It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way. A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord." Minister Creflo Dollar explained the meaning of "offended" in an interesting way. He said, "When we are offended we give up and walk off the scene or in other words walk away ending the plan of God, the blessing intended for us. We then question the Lord and wonder why something did not come to pass." Impatience causes frustration and can cause you to walk off the scene and plan God has in store. We often see this in relationships. Partnerships fail due to impatience and frustration. When things do not happen immediately as expected or promised, it is important to stay the course and allow the natural forces of the seed come to life. Hastiness misses the way. A seed must stay in the ground until the development of time. You will kill a seed by doubting the word of God. After directing your seed cling to the promises of God, not doubting or wavering. Don't allow ploys to entice you into thinking you have to settle for less. Don't allow the enemy of your soul or others to discourage you.

Substitutes should never be an option so never consider an alternative to your expected harvest. A seed must be watered and properly cared for to keep out the weeds. Weeds are the negativity spoken against the harvest. Weeds are the doubt and fear that the promises of God will not come to pass. I have planted in tears, pain, turmoil, poverty, and crisis. Planting during a crisis is the most important time to sow. Many times it appeared that the promises of God were not possible. Through the seasons of waiting I've learned a greater mystery. There is power in waiting. Patience is a virtue and a skill. Through it, you develop self-discipline and control. "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD" (Lamentations 3:26).

*The soil doesn't want your need but your seed*

—Bishop Jordan

The seed is the only exit from our present circumstances. Some will guard their seed by holding on to it because of their need to save or spend it elsewhere. The tithe and offering is the guardian of our gates. It protects, connects, and attaches us to whatever it is we are seeking. When you sow you sow with the solution in mind, not the need. Elijah gave the widow a picture of what her seed would produce. He did not feed into her need, but gave her instructions to follow to receive a harvest. Some disobey a financial mentor because they are afraid to lose or have less. Proverbs 13:18 says, "Poverty and shame comes to him that refuseth instructions." When the focus is concentrated upon the need, fear comes in. The soil doesn't want your need because it is a seed of destruction. Every problem has in it the seeds of its own solution. Once you plant a seed, the solution automatically comes. You begin to find ways to live out each vision. In order to fulfill a dream there must be a seed. Johnny Appleseed had a need and a dream. He envisioned the American wilderness filled with apple trees to feed the hungry and bring a harvest among the settlers. He set out to explore a new land, now

called the Great Lakes, in search of good fertile soil. He spent most of his life living in the wilderness building his vision. He didn't care about all the wild animals and the weather because he focused on the cause and not the symptoms or need. He went into the wilderness alone with bags of apple seeds. He didn't focus on how the dream would be fulfilled because he knew the seeds he had planted. He trusted in the Lord and continued his dream based on the purpose. He sold apple trees for pennies and bartered seeds in return for food, clothes, shoes, and shelter. Johnny Appleseed put seeds in the ground to produce a harvest. He did not put his need in the ground. He did not sow with doubt in his mind. He sowed with the expectation that his seeds would produce a harvest and feed many. Without a sense of expectancy, the desire loses its value.

Wallace D. Wattles said, "A seed, dropped into the ground, springs into activity, and in the act of living produces a hundred more seeds; life, by living, multiplies itself. It is forever Becoming More; it must do so, if it continues to be at all." The act of planting the seeds was an activity to produce, sustain, and maintain life. The planting of the seed multiplied life to become more, an apple tree. This is why sowing the seed and not the need is so vital. You want to produce a harvest of life, not a harvest of need. At one point in my life I said I need this or I need that. I had to change my speech because I found myself sowing into a need. Sowing with expectation reaps abundance. Sowing with need reaps lack because you will always be in need.

Intention is linked to the process of giving and planting. We all have come to this world not only for a purpose but to be purposeful. Purposeful is the activity you perform for a certain purpose. Planting and giving is purposeful. It is a universal law. You should give with an expectation and purpose in mind. When there is a goal in mind, aim your seed with that purpose. A seed is an act of instruction. It activates and permits something into being. Always name your seed. In Genesis 5:28 Lamech named his seed and its purpose. "He named his son Noah and said, "He

will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." And because Lamech named his seed for the purpose of comforting, Noah comforted by building an ark to save many from drowning. Expectation creates enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is about the subject which creates an emotion. Why do you give? Why should you give? A person is judged according to their seeds and deeds. Worth is according to what a person gives up and sacrifices. When you give of yourself, you get the best out of others. There is happiness in giving. When you are cultivating in a nature of giving, you are loosening up things that are binding. To cultivate means to prepare the land for crops. It also means to nurture and improve or develop something. As you sow you are preparing the land to reap the harvest. As you give you improve the quality of life as you develop wisdom and a wealthy consciousness. As one grows in a wealthy consciousness the expectancy enlarges. You will come to find that your ability to give increases because your expectancy to receive increases. Have you noticed the wealthy gives freely towards a worthy cause? They give with a buyer's consciousness because of the blessings given to them. Deuteronomy 16:17 says, "All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God." They are able to give and purchase freely without window shopping hoping and wishing to have what is in the windows of their mind. They do not window shop because many of them understand the creative power they possess. They can give and purchase freely because their ability to create is powerful. Sowing is power. It promotes purchasing power.

*The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn, the bird waits in the egg, and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities.*

—James Allen

A dream, vision, or desire is a seed of change. It is the revelation and inspiration of how it can be your reality. When the factors for change outweigh the factors against change, you will make the change. The measure of success is not the difficult problem we have to deal with, but how we face it to bring change. It is not the problem that we all face and conquer; it is the inner voices we face within ourselves. Every dream was at first a seed implanted by a waking angel. Although it seems small it develops into an amazing tree. To see things in the seed is an amazing quality. Lao-Tzu said, "To see things in the seed that is genius. To see things in the seed is to see the cause of manifestation. Look beyond the physical, there's magic and real power. Beyond the physical, envision the 'what and why' and allow the 'how and when' to unfold. Water them with optimism and solutions and you will cultivate success." When you look beyond the seed you see the solution.

*Then the LORD replied: Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.*

—Habakkuk 2:2-3

Time is the acceptance of an idea served through a term or period. Within us are millions of seeds. God always gives something to begin your future. He will give you a revelation to move you from your present circumstances. Write the vision down. Write your goals down and make it plain so that a herald will run with it. A herald is a sign who proclaims and publishes something. Writing the vision down is a seed and a sign that change is on its way and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it and it will certainly come. Every seed is a golden opportunity to walk into a brighter future. You must first recognize a seed which is something already given to you before you can recognize the

harvest. If a farmer has never seen what an apple or orange tree looks like, I don't think he would plant apple and orange seeds. It is important to discover the seeds already given to you. It can be people, money, inner gifts, talent, or time. Use those seeds and invest them wisely and you will impact change. While the vision is a covenant of change, the seed is the covenant which makes the change.

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MATTER

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## CHAPTER 13

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# Matter Doesn't Matter

*Spirit is the real and eternal;  
matter is the unreal and temporal*

—Mary Baker Eddy

Science tells us that matter is anything which has mass and occupies volume and space. This is also understood in general terms as the substance of which all physical objects are made. This definition, however, is always changing and modified due to evolution and new discoveries. There are always new theories being developed in hopes to find more meaningful explanation of matter. Ancient philosophers such as Descartes, Aristotle, and Plato believed matter to be on a deeper level, dealing with spirit, mind, and body. Some thinkers believe matter does not exist. Some put spirit and matter in separate categories. Everything existing in the universe comes from a Higher Source. In any definition of matter it is a physical substance in which most place their focus upon. Spirit is the real and eternal matter which all substances are derived. All physical substance is temporal. Once it's gone what's left is energy, an invisible force which moves matter.

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.*

*For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

—2 Corinthians 4:16-18

What lies outside of us is nothing compared to that which is within us. If we place our focus on the inner self we will achieve an everlasting joy and peace, and can define the true purpose of life. Though things in life may seem to waste away, it is a process which allows the renewing and new things to enter into our lives. At one point in my life I questioned, "What do I do?" Doubt and hope raises the question, "What shall I do?" However, this unforeseen force called faith steps in and say, "I am, I can, I will, and I have done." Some look at faith and consider it a natural form of human faith, believing in the material as the source of all substance. Hebrews in the Bible is a powerful book based on faith. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is both the substance of things hoped for and the evidence that things exist that are not yet evident. "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." Faith is the invisible force in action. It is what science may call mechanical energy. We live by faith and not by sight. If we base the world or our circumstances on sight we will be destroyed. We will not pursue a better life. We will be controlled by other people, circumstances, and the world. Faith is what breeds our expectation to receive.

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry*

*about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

—Matthew 6:25-34

I will never forget a phone call I received from a friend because it changed my life and thoughts forever. That day I felt like I had lost all hope. Every material matter was stripped away. This friend had known what I'd been going through and did not show any comfort or pity at all. People often look for pity, comfort, and help from other people. Later I learned to never feed upon another's negativity; by doing so you enter into agreement with that person, giving the negativity power. Feeding into pity you will find yourself within a pit. Instead of showing pity this friend gave me inspirational and empowerment books to alter my mind. The secret of living a life of greatness is a matter of thinking thoughts of greatness. It is a matter of programming our minds with the kind of information and substance which will set us free. When he called the first time this friend said was, "Do you know what matter is? Does matter really matter?" I was confused. He then repeated the question and said he wanted me to ponder on it and that he would call later. He wanted me to absorb what this had meant. Later that evening he called and for a third time repeated the question. He then began to elaborate, "What happens to the body after

it decays? What's left? All that is left is spirit, energy. So why does anything matter? Why do you worry about the things that are temporary? 'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?' O ye of little faith. What is unseen is eternal, which is the spirit. You need to work on the spirit. Seek ye first the kingdom and all things shall be added." These words echoed in my head and a light was turned on. I was forgetting about what really mattered. I was worshipping material things, the loss of a job, money, clothes, relationships, etc. It wasn't really a loss, but it was breaking away so new things can be added. I had to be fortified in the spirit to not allow life circumstances to deter what God can do.

*Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.*

—Ecclesiastes 5:10

The Bible tells us who ever loves money never has enough. It also tells us in Hebrews 13 to keep your life free from the love of money. Although money is important to maintain life, it is the love of it which can cause unhappiness and destruction. This probably explains why some have committed deceit, manipulation, suicide or even homicide due to lack of it. Nothing of this world is worth losing your life. In Matthew 6, it explains that no one can serve two masters of both God and money. Either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. The love of money will cause selfishness. To free your mind from it and open your hands to circulating—giving and receiving, understanding how objects work in life will help to achieve it. Looking beyond the object and finding the subject of the matter will help you discover its function. Money is not the currency, but it is the exchange. The energy which moves it is the currency. Your mind will go beyond material matter

and find what really matters. Your mind and faith will be the currency which moves things in your life. When seeking a better way of life, it will present itself to you, if you're fortified in the spirit, not seeking person, place, or thing.

*What material success does is provide you with the ability to concentrate on other things that really matter. And that is being able to make a difference, not only in your own life, but in other people's lives.*

—Oprah Winfrey

In all of my earlier life I looked for comfort in the wrong places until I discovered what mattered most. It seemed as if I never had enough and was never satisfied because I worshipped something other than my true source of supply. My source and supply is not found outside of me. When I looked for comfort, supply, and happiness in other places, it often caused a subtraction. I didn't understand what was taking place in my life. This was the first time I began to seek God fully. I had always known God but not the truth; His existence within me. Always in tragedy people seem to seek out God. I believe that's why things occur in our lives, to bring us closer to Him. Without tragedy we don't come to know God for who He truly is and what He can do in our lives. Without tragedy we don't fully expend ourselves and triumph to our greatest abilities and strength. Without imperfection it will not be room for perfection. With tragedy wisdom becomes more potent within. The process of obtaining wisdom refines life. The quality of wisdom is essential for a fine life. The absence of wisdom brings ignorance. Without wisdom it causes your life to be in frustration. Without wisdom you will remain an emotional and physical wreck in trying to obtain material substance.

*Spiritual substance is the source of all material wealth and cannot suffer loss or destruction by human thought. It is always with us, ready to be used and to make potent*

*and fertile both the soul and the body consciousness. In this connection Jesus said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not, Teach us to Pray*

—Charles Fillmore

After talking to several individuals I came to the realization this is something that most have a hard time moving from. We tend to dwell in a place of physicality. Our supply and support is governed by something that is familiar with substance as most know it to be, money. Poverty comes through the mental hold of a familiar substance. Peace, joy, and prosperity come from the unfamiliar unseen substance known as faith. Someone I mentored was in a hard place. She couldn't seem to get past material matter and the perception of other people's thoughts about her. Friends and family judged her based on her material possessions. Actually many of us are judged based on material things. She was in her process of shedding the old to bring the new. A shedding must always take place to bring gain into our future. I had to remind her to bring her focus back to a state of well-being, focusing on that which had true value, the spirit, her ideals, ideas, and goals. She had been caught in idle thoughts, not concentrated in movement towards the goals of her faith. She focused on what others had and what she didn't have. When we focus on the seed planted within us; the gifts, talents, and vision the Lord has given us, we then multiply our gifting which will bring a greater return in due time.

*If we are to go forward spiritually, we must not waste our thought stuff in idle thoughts, in thinking thoughts of poverty, discontent, and jealousy. We should positively weed out of consciousness all thoughts of poverty and failure, and in thinking or speaking of our affairs we should use the very highest and best language at our command.*

—Charles Fillmore

People will always judge and speak against you but remember we always rise above if our thoughts and speech is spoken in the best language of positive influence, which will influence our well-being. If your focus is upon that which truly matters, although, your physical substance may show less for a time being, nevertheless your consciousness is transcending. In Maya Angelou's poem, "And Still I Rise" she said, "You may trod me in the very dirt, but still like dust, I'll rise." People and circumstances may trod you into the dirt, but still you will rise. The spirit in you will always arise, again and again no matter what matter is taken away, and no matter what takes place in your journey to greatness. Day by day you are being made over from within first which later shines forth outwardly. There is something special being built inside. Isaiah 41:11 says, "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish." Know that there is a future hope for you which will not be cut off. After the inner work within you is done, a new being will be established and emerge and will not be cut off. The Lord will always make provision but you have to trust that matter will come to fulfill His purpose.

Neale Walsh said, "Life is not about our physical or material possessions, it is about the agenda of our soul. When material possessions serve that agenda, they can be wonderful and are to be celebrated. But if they come between us and the soul, then we may very well be delayed on our holy journey." Matter or material possessions are meant to serve the purpose of the soul to connect in the journey in reaching your goals. Life is not about and based on our material possessions but is based on the content of the package. Happiness is based on worldly possessions. It is a mental attitude and a state of being. But joy is based on an internal presence, the unforeseen force called faith. It is in your faith that the Lord will always provide. While material possessions are important, because it allows you to accomplish God's purpose, it is what lies within the person,

their character and gifts which matters. It is the gifts given by God which allow you to bring matter into existence.

*We should bear in mind that God is our silent partner and that His wisdom and strength, His energy and skill are ours to use. We should realize that in every soul there is undoubtedly a great reservoir of radiant Spirit substance, which is ready and eager to be tapped and freed so that it can supply our every need.*

—Charles Fillmore

The story of Ebenezer Scrooge sends us a message and should not be taken for granted. Scrooge lived in a world of material wealth, yet filled with darkness, bitterness, and hatred. He focused on things which didn't matter and didn't use the wealth to serve its purpose. His mental attitude was screwed up. All the wealth in the world could not satisfy and make him happy. Suddenly, three ghosts of past, present and future appeared to renew his spirit and give him a new hope and outlook on life. Three represents resurrection. The three ghosts had to resurrect the spirit and bring new light into Scrooge's life. They revealed his heart and showed him what life would be if he did not change his thoughts and attitude. They showed him how he could use his wealth and make a difference. When we're making a difference, most will find they are more content. After the visit, Scrooge was a changed man. His heart was filled with love, compassion, and a spirit of giving. He decided to give what he had because he realized it didn't matter. What mattered was the spirit. You have to allow the spirit within to emerge and bring forth light, peace, harmony, and prosperity in all areas of your life. When the lesson is learned that matter doesn't matter, it's then you will move forward. You will discover the true source of all your needs, desires, and wants have already been met. Within all are a radiant substance and when that substance is realized, matter takes form.

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## CHAPTER 14

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### Creating and Forming

*Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

—Genesis 2:5-7

The first step of creation is planting. We see this in the beginning of Genesis. The Garden of Eden was planted and created, but had not yet formed. “Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed . . . The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Creativity is a way of life which we all should embrace. An artist loves and embraces creativity because it’s a matter of performance and transformation into something beautiful. The creative idea transforms into something beautiful, rather on paper, in words or through instruments and building; as an architect plots a blueprint of a building that is later built as a place of occupancy. We are the gardener, while our ideas are the garden. Ideas are planted within so we can tend to it as a gardener tends to his crops. I used to think God does all the work for us. This is true to a certain extent, because he prepares us to walk into that which He has formed, by

giving us an idea. With that idea we are to discover its form. What do I mean by this? Things were set in place on earth for Adam to discover it and name its purpose. In Genesis 2:19 it says, "Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name." What would happen if Adam could not or would not name the things God had formed? He probably would not have dominion because he would be incapable of creating and forming how things should be. Christopher Columbus was implanted with an idea. The idea was based on the circumference of the earth, that it was possibly round. Based on the circumference there would be a shorter route to Asia. With this idea, Columbus set sail to discover there was a New World outside of his own. The form had already been established, Columbus had to follow his idea and create a way to discover it and because he followed his idea Columbus discovered there was existing land outside of his familiar territory. Often the Lord will plant an idea into our minds. If the idea comes, the form has already been established. Just as the Lord put man in the Garden to work and take care of it, He gives us ideas to work and care for it.

*Creating like unto our Divine Master is the only way of  
rising toward God*

—Paul Gauguin

Planting and creating is a way to life. Planting is secretly introducing something in order to influence its behavior. When you plant a seed into soil, you influence the behavior to produce something greater. When we sow seeds into a business, ministry or some form of worthy cause, that seed spreads and an investment of something greater. The Lord will give you a creative idea to form a better life. I remember having a discussion with someone about creating. She felt my way of thinking was incorrect. She felt as if I was cutting

God out of the equation because I said we are the ones who create the life we have and things that are in our lives. Some may feel it's impossible that they have the power to create so they sit and wait until something is done. If that is the attitude, nothing is ever accomplished. Performance is an act of creativity. You have to perform which means to fulfill a requirement which is stated or required to do. The two parts of the word "perform" are "form" meaning create and "per" meaning for each or according to something. We must perform according to each of God's instructions to create the life desired. God has given us talents and gifts to create. How we create from them is our gift back to Him. French painter Eugene Paul Gauguin knew that you rise when you're creating like the Divine Master. Creating as the Master you will become a master of your life. You will know how to handle whatever situation arises. You will become a problem solver. You will master what flows in and out of your life. You will become a money-making machine and will never lack. I usually had financial problems, yet had all these money-making ideas. At some point I felt like I was disconnected from God. Those feelings of lack and disconnection were due to not performing to the idea and instruction given. I had to take the steps needed to bring the idea to physical manifestation. As I became more creative I knew I had reached some degree of mastery. Success requires discipline, diligence, and commitment in creating and performing according to God's word. You must know that it's already formed otherwise it would not enter the mind.

*A finding is not a finding at all, it is a creating. And the jump-start of creation is gratitude. You must have an attitude of thanks and appreciation.*

—Neale Walsh

Creativity is so important because it produces novel, useful ideas, and ways to give in order to receive. Creativity also allows a person to understand, pinpoint, see beyond

something, make decisions, and the necessary adjustments. I finally understood what I needed to do to correct the things in my life. I had to show gratitude in my giving to the Master Creator so I could become a master creator. I had to thank the creative idea by giving towards it. I also had to be appreciative of the circumstances I was in, even if it seemed terrible. Why? Because that circumstance caused me to push further into creating a better life and pursuing each goal with all my might. I continuously give thanks to the Lord for blessing me with the creative potential to manifest. I believe giving is the first step to creation and manifestation. Giving is an act of love and thanks. You must ask by planting and giving thanks for the end result that it is already formed. When you are giving and planting you create a portal. Let's look at the meaning of the word "portal." It has several definitions. It is defined traditionally as a large gate or an entrance; and recently as a website that provides links to information and other sites. It is also considered a tunnel entrance or system. When I sowed into a worthy cause, a charity, ministry, or a business idea it opened up a tunnel entrance; a system of passages, information, and links to creating a better life. Give unto people and things that are qualified to promote you and a complete reorganization of life, thoughts, and consciousness will take place.

*Insight into the nature of gratitude relates to the truth of  
action and reaction, Beyond the Laws of Thinking*

*—Bishop E. Bernard Jordan*

Knowing the nature of gratitude brings power. Gratitude holds power because it shows trust in something you desire is already done. When you're acting or moving in action it stimulates a reaction of form to take place. When you are working on creative ideas you are bringing them into form. In time you will see money forming from different angles to start the process. You will see an organization formed. You will see employees forming to fill this organization.

A chain of reactions forms because of the creative thought. When I began to work on my business ideas or even this book, things in my life had sometimes caused me to think it won't happen or question when and how it could happen. As I tried to hold on to my time and money to handle certain matters I was reminded of my attitude towards giving. "You must have gratitude in your attitude." The painter Picasso said, "I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them." We are given a powerful tool called imagination. With the imagination we learn to paint our thoughts and things as we think them to be, not as we physically see them. Seeing life the way it should be will decide your action. As a creator we learn to change the facts when it doesn't fit into our notion by changing our thoughts and attitude. To gain control of what we desire the right thinking is necessary in using the mind constructively to bring about the right results. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). The question is not how to be creative, instead, we ask God to learn to create good for His purpose, to improve the lives of others, not just ourselves. As you go forward you will learn you are a creator. Get ready to empty your mind from the former things so the Lord can create space for new ideas and a new life of success.

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See,  
I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it*

—Isaiah 43:18-19

Having a goal and taking the action to fulfill that goal changes all facts about life. The route to success is creativity, becoming a problem solver, making plans, decisions, and taking action. We all have a habit of dwelling on the past which prohibits our actions. The Lord is always doing something new in us. Do you not perceive it? What you choose to perceive and believe you will receive. It is known

as the law of attraction. It doesn't matter where you are in your life. What matters is the decisions you choose to create a better life. It took some time but I had to realize I could not make progress without making a decision, even if it was the wrong decision. You will never leave where you are until you decide where you want to be. The day you make that decision your world and everything in it will change. You will see the formation of something new. When Christopher Columbus made the decision to discover a new route despite the lack of funding and challenges, he discovered something new. This New World was flowing of spices and opened up trade to bring in an additional harvest. You must be willing to make the discovery to make the change and change to make a new discovery. When I decided to pursue my own business, I questioned if I was moving in the right business. However, if I didn't make the choice to move in it, I would have never discovered if I made the right or wrong choice. The answer to my question was based upon a decision to act and make the discovery.

We all have some form of creative potential. Everyone differs in their inherent creativity. When confronted with a decision-making problem, the creative potential can arise if we would all learn how to pull ourselves out of the psychological ruts we find ourselves in. The psychological rut is the belief of some form of limitation; something needed to move forward. So many pray and ask for that need. Sometimes when the prayer is not answered they find themselves in a rut believing they're unable to move forward because the Lord has not answered the need. We know the Lord always answers and give us what we need. Perhaps what is asked for is not what is needed. Columbus was faced with a decision-making problem. He wanted to prove his theory about the earth, yet he lacked funding. Then he received a breakthrough and his creative potential saw a way and made the way on a journey to discovery. A breakthrough is based on the discovery and the creative way to move in it. Your breakthrough is in your exploration, dreams, and discoveries. On the journey there are always discoveries;

discoveries of weakness and strengths; discoveries of old and new things and experiences. The journey is really about discovering the inner you; all your abilities, potentials, strengths and talents. On the journey to greatness there are discoveries which forces change. Intolerance of the present forces change and creates the future. When you are tired of your present circumstances you will create and discover divergent ways in facing whatever challenges arise. When I became tired of not having enough I became tired of being afraid that my decisions might be the wrong ones. When you become tired of limitation fear diminishes and your courage maximizes. I decided it was time to walk into my breakthrough and discover something new. I discovered ways to create funding to finance my needs.

*And when we pray, let us pray with a purpose. Purpose gives life a real meaning. Purpose gives joy and zest to living. When our eye is on the goal we are not so easily perturbed. Purpose awakens new trains of thought; purpose directs these trains of thought into new fields of achievement. Really to succeed we must have some great purpose in mind, some goal toward which we are to work. But above all, we must always purpose in our heart to achieve spiritually.*

—Charles Fillmore

When you're taking this route to discovery you rise as the Divine Master. When you fervently believe through a mastered plan and vigorously act out that plan you move in a spirit of all knowing. The spirit of all knowing knows that God has already created the form. As God's co-creator we must then create a name for it. This name is how you want the form to show in your life. There is power in naming and renaming. It changes the human condition. As Albert Einstein believed, "The facts sometimes do not fit the theory, so you must change the facts." The facts in your life will usually seem like they do not make sense; however your

thoughts must create pictures that do. Rename your obstacle as an opportunity. We must be as artists and shape ourselves and our lives. Creators or artists are receptacles in all walks of life. Their emotions are always filled with creativity because they see art in all aspects. An artist looks at a piece of paper and appreciates it. He sees beyond just a piece of paper. That paper can be made into a paper plane, a tool to write on, something to paint on, or papier-mâché which can build sculptures. Viewing things with an optimistic point of view will bring good change. Being appreciative of God's formation in all things you will have a life-changing experience. As I matured in the spirit my emotions were as a receptacle. I knew how to turn what seemed as negative emotions into positive motions. I saw a way to make money in all things because I learned to see beyond what something appeared to be in the physical. I have been taught that wealth lies within our own backyard (within you). This is true because when you learn the art of creativity you find a way within you to create the life you desire. You will see an opportunity in all things. You expand when you create something new. You expand when you create a new you. You always achieve by creating.

*Language is the dress of thought; every time you talk  
your mind is on parade*

—Dr. Samuel Johnson

During my life experiences I have learned, and actually am still learning, to dress every word in a positive manner. Every word that comes out of my mouth is a thought which displays within my own life. Your identity is exposed by your words. Every word spoken is an act of creativity. We have no choice but to create because we are in the likeness of the Divine Creator. Language is an art because it is the use of signs, gestures, or sounds to communicate something. Language communicates or displays our thoughts, environment, and what takes place in our lives. Every time

you speak you are creating something whether it is today or years from today. “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God” (John 1:1). Before anything else there was a word and from that word creation and form took place. Every word and thought is a seed which forms. You must constantly, persistently, and diligently visualize, speak, and act in good deeds to spring forth good seeds. Every night before going to bed and first thing when you awake, it is necessary to meditate, visualize, and affirm a better life. Your language and attitude should be dressed with gratitude because now the form is already taking place. Your language should be aligned with God so your actions will bring forth the manifestation of all the good that God desires for you.

In the business of life and creation, what you see is what you get. If you think life is bad, a bad life is what you will manifest. If you see joy and abundance all around, this is what life will throw back at you. In the process of creating you must allow the imagination to critique and fine tune every detail you want your life to form. When I had struggled I repeated often that I was tired of struggling. Although I was moving and trying to do things to prevent struggling, I usually seemed to find myself in that position. I then realized, although my actions were different, my thoughts were of struggle. I had to remove the word struggle from my mind and vocabulary. A thought only enters the mind when it is something within your heart, something a part of you. Our mind, thoughts, focus, and action must be at the center of the Divine.

*Mastery is not measured by the number of terrible things you eliminate from your life, but by the number of times you eliminate calling them terrible*

—Neale Walsh

The words we speak must align with our consciousness. It is the heart and the consciousness that God hears and sees. The truth of you will never speak what you are not.

We learn to master our lives when we learn to eliminate seeing and calling things terrible. There are only two ways a man sees. This is through the physical eye or the spiritual eye. Facts are seen through the physical eye. Reality is made and seen through the spiritual eye. When we look through our spiritual eye and understanding we see greatness all around and within us. We learn to name our reality and move towards it. That which dominates your imaginations will rule over your thought and form in your life and in your character. God has given us this wonderful tool and gift and the insight to understand the abilities we possess. Within the imagination we are able to recall and create the wonderful memories of inspirational thoughts and ideas to fulfill God's purpose. Imagination is everything. As Albert Einstein said, "It is the preview of life's coming attraction." While visualizing, imagining and creating is important, it is imperative to take action in God's word. We must remain active in faith and not passive to the beliefs of our facts. Allow your prayers through the wonderfully imaginative nature to grow you in the wisdom of God, to walk into the purpose of God.

*Be ye builders, vital, doing,  
Architects of life and fate,  
Ever striving and preparing  
For a higher, nobler state,  
Not in sighing, aging, dying,  
Is the measure of the man,  
But in growing, building, living  
Life fulfills the Master plan.*

—Charles Fillmore

# Conclusion

*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

—Ephesians 1:18-19

*Always remember that God wants you to prosper and live abundantly in your purpose. May you enter into the joy, peace, wisdom, and abundance in your journey to greatness.*

—Kaneen Morgan



## About the Author

With the publication of this book, Kaneen is finally fulfilling her childhood dream to be an inspired author. She is working on three other books, one of which is a children's book. She is the founder of Language of Life Coaching and helps women and children find their creative expression. She enjoys reading, writing, learning the mysteries of God, and inspiring others, especially her teenage son and his contemporaries. Through her trials and tribulations she discovered a greater purpose in her life which included a prophetic calling. Kaneen is a member of POME, the Prophetic Order of Mar Elijah where she practices how to perfect her prophetic gift. She uses that gift in coaching and ushering good change in the lives of others.

For more information on Kaneen and her coaching practices, books, upcoming events, and for booking speaking engagements, please visit [www.languageoflifecoaching.com](http://www.languageoflifecoaching.com).

