

THE POWER TO PROSPER

*Empowered by 7 Powerful
Principles of the Kingdom*

- ◆ Live an Extraordinary Life!
- ◆ Overcome Life's Obstacles
- ◆ Reap Eternal Rewards

Larry J. Raad

A Blueprint for true Prosperity, Transformation and Success

A powerfully transformative book to consider some of life's most important questions about faith, life, purpose and your destiny.

P Pollock, #1 Best Selling Author, Psychotherapist

Larry Raad has put together the roadmap we all need to discover how to leverage our capabilities toward fulfillment. I was struck by this quote from the book: "What you love the most reveals the greatest gifts you contain. Passion is the path to your purpose. When you know what you love to talk about, think about and learn - that is a clue to your place of assignment and purpose"
M Dillon, Artist

This book covers practical and essential points on living whole: spirit, soul and body which is required for a prosperous life in all areas.

M Seymour, #1 Best Selling Author, Entrepreneur



Larry J. Raad

Read What These Top Achievers Are Saying About the Author.....



**Jim Peterson, CIO, CEO
and Options Trading Expert**

I met Larry a number of years ago when I attended one of his “Power to Prosper” seminars. The knowledge and inspiration imparted upon me there inspired me to go forward in life and in business and to accomplish some things that would not have been possible had I not gained understanding from this experience. I have studied economics and international finance for over 5 decades, and I can say that Larry’s teachings enabled me and gave me the confidence to put the ideas and desires of my heart together and to go forward and accomplish something. Larry’s experience and education in the field of human development is unsurpassed. Most importantly, he is willing and able to devote his time and effort to help others change their life. He has helped many people to focus on their personal and spiritual growth and to begin to live lives with purpose and accomplishment.



Glenn Dietzel, Business Coach

Author, Speaker, Coach of one of the fast-growing high-level business coaching companies today! Awakened LLC (colleague)

Larry has a depth of experience as a corporate Human Resources Leader, Entrepreneur and as a Coach which puts him in the top drawer level of those you'd want to work with. Add to that his partnership with one of the top Stock Market geniuses of today with Income Strategies Academy, owner Jim Peterson, and one of the top Masters of Internet Marketing and Personal Development, you get a team that has the capability to generate income systems that work. The material I've seen in my work with Larry is something you need to get access to.

It is such a privilege for me to be on Larry Raad's team!

I truly enjoyed his webinar training...he hit it out of the ballpark!

Everything he shared was dynamo-powered and I believe will "tear down" the strongholds of the poverty mindset and any conflict in people's minds about the spirituality of creating wealth.

May the Lord continue to exponentially grow his businesses and ministries because of the powerful principles he so freely shares with others.



Carolyn Bryce, Entrepreneur

Larry Raad's wise counsel has been extraordinarily important to me for the past four years. His advice is always prioritized in accordance with his upstanding character. When you come from this space of integrity, it is always a winning package for the client. I wish everyone that wants to get ahead, has the chance to work with him.



Patty Hall, Educator

When I signed up for Larry's Program, "The Power To Prosper", I wasn't sure if I could dedicate the time to another pull away from my job and my home time. After the first session, I came away amazed at how much useful information was presented and in a fashion that could be applied to just about ANY job, career or personal projects! WOW... the lessons.



CJ Holbrook, RE Expert, Author

Larry Raad is a great inspirational and motivational coach. He will help you define your goals and show you how to start accomplishing them. Larry brings years of experience as well as a wealth of resources to those he coaches. If he is your coach, you will prosper. I know; I have!



Dr. Becky Slabaugh, Multiple, #1 Best-Selling Author, Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor, Radio Personality

Larry Raad's "Power to Prosper" material is RADICAL, providing cutting-edge resources to catapult you to the next step of your dreams and destiny. Larry's coaching and resources will give you deeper and profound insights to apply for your life's purpose. Thank you, Larry, for inspiring the world with these resources with rich wisdom and Godly counsel.



Erika Scannell, Business Owner, Author

I have learned that in many cultures a tremendous passage of sound financial teachings from a father to a son is of the utmost importance. But sadly, not all and some of us lack that knowledge and guidance. Mr. Larry Raad encompasses that missing link and his teachings of Kingdom Principles are rich and abundant; overflowing with grace and wisdom they will motivate and change your life spiritually, financially and even emotionally. He is a blessing and being a part of his class is an honor.



Dennis Eagle, CEO, Best-Selling Author

Larry Raad is the quintessential “Come Back Kid”. In work, he was known to be skillful at evaluating an employee’s personality and workplace potential. It was his insight and skill with people that propelled him to a top leader of Human Resources for a large corporation; a position he held until retirement. But Larry’s goal wasn’t retirement, just simply the end of another chapter in life.

With nice savings and his retirement package, Larry entered the field of Real Estate where he built a successful business, that is, until the market collapse of 2008. Larry lost millions in the business that year but instead of “quitting while he was ahead”, Larry began again to build his business. It was then that he envisioned a coaching system for training others for life’s abundance.

Having been raised in a Christian home and learning the basic Biblical principles, Larry set his heart on empowering others. Today Larry and his wife, Judy live near the beach, in the beautiful and exclusive town of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. It is from this quiet life that Larry enjoys his dream of sharing God’s plan for prosperity with those he mentors.

I know Larry. I have stayed in his home and eaten at his table. I respect him for his personal integrity, vision and work ethic. Larry is my friend.

The Power To Prosper

**Empowered by 7 Powerful Principles
of the Kingdom**

Volume 1 from Series



By Larry J. Raad

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Dedication



I dedicate this book to my heavenly Father. He is my all in all and the great I Am! In Him I know who I am and Whose I am and that my life is in Him for His glory.

Also

A Special Thank you to Wyoma Raad, my wife of 30 years and mother of our sons. I am grateful for your enduring patience in the many relocation moves you endured. My life has been enriched because of you.

And

To my beloved sons; Kurtis and Michael

Always seek all the Lord has for you!

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Seek Him first, love Him above all else, and then go fulfill your complete destiny through His love, wisdom and grace.

Richest Blessings to you, always!

Contributors



My sincere thanks for the contributions and resources of my many mentors: friends and Christian brothers and sisters who have contributed to the completion of this book. Judy Raad, Wyoma Raad, Jim Peterson, Tom Holt, Ed McMullen Jr, Alan Niedbalski, Dennis Eagle, My Synergy Group, Jackie Morey, Jo Ann Worthington, Mary C. Schlumberger, Leslie Bower, Ted Ciuba, Lanse Wallnau, Kenneth Copeland, Rick Warren, Mike Murdock, John Bevere, Don Brown Cover illustrator.

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Why I wrote this book

Several years ago, sitting on my deck, enjoying the beautiful day and the beautiful view of Lake Michigan, I inquired of the Lord, “What is Your Will for me? What do You want me to do with the rest of my life? You have blessed and gifted me with capabilities and influence. My desire now is to maximize all the gifts you have given me and use them for Your glory.”

God spoke to me. Words filled my spirit and He told me what my true purpose is and what I must do for Him to fulfill my purpose.

Fortunately, I always keep a notepad handy for jotting down ideas. This time, I quickly wrote down God’s will for me to fulfill my destiny.

There were seven principles, each impossible for me to accomplish without His help. I will start with the first two principles.

God told me I was to be more Christ-like each day.

Next, God told me to teach the principles of the Kingdom. To accomplish this task, He called me to write this book series.

Reading and studying this book imparts inspired wisdom to enrich your life from my years of studying and listening to God’s Word,

Larry J. Raad

the Bible and the teachings of many illustrious Bible Scholars and Pastors; who have studied the Bible and followed these proven principles:

This book is the result of years of dedicated study of the Scriptures and the pursuit of applying the principles to create a successful and meaningful life. Many mentors and influential friends have contributed to this book through their sharing of the gospel and our discussions. It is my hope that this book will introduce these principles to you in a form that will make your spirit full and your mind long for more Spiritual Knowledge. This book is an introduction to some of the things I have learned and experienced.

This is a practical book dealing with the art of living a fulfilled life based on wisdom, correct thinking, and corrective actions. With correct thinking and right actions, you will experience transformational prosperity. Change your thinking and you will change your destiny.

These principles are based on laws that have long been acknowledged by Priests and wise men. As a man thinks, he will receive. If you think thoughts of prosperity and abundance, the feelings generated are positive and optimistic which causes you to take actions that are affirmative and the results are positive and abundant.

Likewise, fear and lack thoughts create feelings that are negative

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and disempowering and that thinking will lead to apathy or actions
which will return poor results.

Think of your thoughts as living things. Guard your thoughts and
your emotions. Your thoughts create cause and effect actions and
consequences. We will be held accountable for our very thoughts
and our actions when we come before The Throne of God.

***For we must all appear and be revealed as we are before the
judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive his pay
according to which he has done in the body, whether good or evil
considering what his purpose and motive have been, and what he
has achieved, been busy with and given himself and his attention to
accomplishing. 2 Corinthians 5:10***

The sobering truth is that every single thought and deed we do has
eternal importance and consequences. God wants to reward us for
the good that we think and do eternally.

Someone asked; if you knew that what you do in the next 24 hours
will impact you for the next 10,000 years, would that cause you to
act differently?

How will you live your life knowing that The Book of Life holds
every thought, word, and deed you have thought, spoken, or
committed for your entire life?

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We are on a journey and at the end of our journey there are no “do over’s”; there may be course corrections and regrets, but you cannot go back and change an action or one word once it is spoken on enacted.

The intent of this book is to help you master your thinking and to empower you to take the correct action so that you can live a transformed life and collect eternal rewards later.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove; what is that good and acceptable and perfect Will of God in His sight for you. Romans 12:2

I have discovered that there are basically two different mindsets from which people conduct their lives: One is either motivated by the prosperity mindset or its direct opposite—the poverty mindset. One is about abundance—having more than enough and the other is about lack and not having enough.

Which mindset do you have?

Your mindset is partly inherited from what you have learned from your life experiences and what people have taught you, as parents, teachers, counselors, and spiritual leaders. Secondly, by what you heard from significant others.

If you were taught that you didn't have much, and there was lack all

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around and that you had to work extremely hard for whatever you have, you most likely possess a poverty mentality.

In contrast, if you were born Prince William and grew up initially in Buckingham Palace or a Kennedy or Rockefeller, you would feel surrounded by wealth and abundance and would undoubtedly possess a prosperity mentality.

Regardless of your origins, the good news is that at any time you can change your mind. By re-programming your thinking, you can create a prosperity mentality by looking at things from a viewpoint of abundance instead of lack. These feelings will change your thinking and feelings and you will act positively and produce abundance.

Formula- **T+F+A=R. Thinking** leads to **Feelings** which causes **Action=Results or Outcomes.**

With the application of divine wisdom, you will experience the power to prosper and live an abundantly prosperous and successful life, all because you changed your thinking, which changed your feelings which caused you to act in a different manner. It really is that simple.

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Chapter 1

Definitions and A Personal Transformation Story



In order to experience transformational prosperity, it will be very important to be aware of, understand and apply the certain principles.

We shall call them the principles of the Kingdom of God.

In order to have a kingdom, there must be a king and principles of operation for the kingdom.

The King we are speaking about is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The principles, right thinking and actions that are discussed in this book are based on the principles of the kingdom. They will be revealed and discussed from the source of divine

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Scripture. Other discussions will be from proven practices that have worked for hundreds of people that have gone before us.

What is the meaning of transformation?

When a caterpillar transitions into a butterfly: that is transformational.

When a person transitions from ordinary to extraordinary, that is transformational.

When a natural person is “born again”, they are transformed into a spiritual being; and that is transformational. They pass over from death to eternal life.

My transformation was a bit traumatic. I will share part of my story to illustrate a transformation.

I grew up in a Christian home and some might say we were very religious. We lived in a protected community and I was as they say spoon fed the gospel from when I was first able to understand anything.

I attended a private Christian school.

We would go to church twice on Sunday and had midweek catechism classes. I remember when I accepted Jesus Christ as my savior. One Sunday morning after church, I can't remember why

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my dad drove the car that day to the church because we were walking distance from church, but he did that day. After church I sat in the car and listened to the radio. There was a minister on the radio that was sharing the gospel and asked if there was anyone who would like to give their life to Jesus. I thought to myself well I do and then we spoke a prayer and I accepted Jesus into my heart and became born-again. At that time I was about six or seven years old. That was the time I was spiritually transformed and I knew it.

I had another experience shortly after that and I was in my neighbor's yard looking into our yard. And I don't recall what I was thinking but I had this unusual sensation and awareness that I had become a spiritual being.

It was revealed to me somehow in my spirit that I was chosen for a special mission and that I was supposed to be a minister. You know when kids are asked, what are you going to do when you grow up? I never was bothered by that question because I knew that I was going to become a minister.

Even though my family was so-called religious there was strife in our family that I did not understand nor realize the effect it

had on me. The teachers always told my mom that “Larry could do much better and he is capable of so much more.” As a classic underachiever, I didn't care too much for school. As I grew into adolescence I desired to be treated more like an adult than I was at home.

When I was in high school I was introduced to alcohol. I became a drinker, not a drunkard but a drinker and it became a habit all throughout high school. I guess I even developed a not so good reputation.

After high school, which I did not graduate, I got a job in a factory. And I was considered to be an adult. I had a nice car and a second shift job. After work, which would be about midnight, we would go drinking and partying and sometimes I met my mother in the morning as she had gotten up to get breakfast for my dad. She was not happy when that occurred.

I told you all that to tell you this, one night I went to a party and was accompanied by a girlfriend who had just broken up from her boyfriend. Her boyfriend was infuriated that I was with her. He unexpectedly came up behind me and hit me with an object and I was knocked unconscious. He then proceeded to kick me severely.

I woke up with head injuries and pain everywhere.

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Because they were underage drinkers at this party, and me being one of them it didn't occur to me to call the police and charge him with assault.

After being cleaned up a bit I went home and went to bed.

In the morning I could not get out of bed because I ached all over although I don't have any broken bones. He had kicked me in the head and I was fortunate not to have lost any teeth or major damage.

However, my head was in the form of a football and it was twice the size of normal of course because of the trauma. Both eyes were black.

When my mother saw me she just about fainted. And she asked me what happened and then she went to get my dad and he came up to my room to look at me. I expected a heated lecture but he just looked at me and said, son, do not think about getting revenge. Just learn a lesson.

I was not sure about the lesson he was referring to but I thought of a few.

I was able to go to work as usual except my head did not look normal. All of my coworkers were astonished at how I looked. I looked really bad.

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You could say that that episode in my life was a significant emotional event.

I made a critical decision at that time. And it was something like this; if you keep hanging around with that crowd you can expect more of the same and probably worse. At that time I decided that I was going to change my life. I was going to rededicate my life to serving God instead of my wayward life. At that time I was transformed into a new life based on a new decision.

I was fortunate that I did not have permanent damage. There was, however permanent damage to my past life and ways.

Shortly after that, I was drafted into the US Army during the Vietnam War era. When I had returned from the military and got reacquainted with some of the people I grew up with, they, remarked how I was changed from the military.

What they didn't know was that I was changed before going into the military but they didn't know it.

I had been transformed and I knew it and others could see it.

What is the definition of prosperity?

Dictionary definition: **Prosper**:

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To be successful; to succeed, to grow or increase, to thrive; to make a gain

Prosperous: advancing in the pursuit of anything desirable; making gain or increase; thriving; successful

In the context of this book, prosperity is more than money and wealth but also all the other things of life, such as relationships, possessions, self-fulfillment, being purpose-centered, accomplishments, affirmation, appreciation, and recognition. Others...

What is true prosperity?

True prosperity is the ability to use the power of God's Kingdom principles to meet your needs in every area of your Life – spirit, soul, body, financially, socially, in ministry and family.

True prosperity is your ability to help someone at the very moment of their impossibility and take their needs as your own needs and help them.

True prosperity is when you make it your need to get salvation into the hands of people and when you make it your purpose to share the good news of the Gospel to the unsaved.

True prosperity is walking with God equipped to do for others

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whatever needs to be done.

The Word says: And my God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory so that I have all sufficiency in all things so that I can abound to every good work.

True prosperity is when you are in a position to be able to give. Jesus said it is better to give than to receive.

I like to think of prosperity according to the Word.

And God is able to make all grace every favor and earthly blessing come to you in abundance, so that you may always under all circumstances and whatever the need to be self-sufficient, possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation **II Corinthians 9:8.**

The reason for true prosperity is so that you can give and give and give. That will produce a return now and for all eternity.

Our motivation for accumulation should be for distribution.

The word says in **Genesis 12:2** *I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing to all nations.*

Be concerned for not merely your own interests, but also each

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for the interest of others. Philippians 2:4

A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses but in the abundance of things he shares with others and bringing souls into the kingdom.

Giving is the very heart of prosperity.

As the result of your giving you will be in rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through your generosity, it will result in thanksgiving to God.

II Corinthians 9:11-12

God's word commands us to be prosperous and make money because we are God stewards on earth with the responsibility to distribute His wealth.

That is transformational prosperity at work.

Joshua was told, *Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and you shall deal wisely and have good success. Joshua 1:8*

That is true prosperity.

What is a principle?

A dictionary definition: a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or a chain of reasoning.

i.e. "The basic principles of Christianity"

It is a process that works under all conditions. It is like a law that works; like the law of gravity.

Chapter 2

Purpose For Fulfilling Your Destiny



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV

Did you know?

You may not realize this, but you are a walking masterpiece.

You are a living, breathing structure built of 206 interlocked

bones...640 interwoven muscles...And 95 billion neurons, all shooting energy, and messages endlessly to each other,

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every moment of the day. On top of all that...You breathe 20,000 times per day...You blink your eyelids 28,000 times per day...And your heart beats 115,200 times per day...ALL without even thinking about it!

Isn't that amazing? How wonderfully you were made by your creator, knowing that you must be convinced that you have a high calling and purpose for your life.

The Purpose of Fulfilling Your Destiny

If you're Christian, God has a purpose for your life that will put you in the right place at the right time to fulfill His purpose in your life.

After I get to know someone pretty well I like to ask them the question, if they know what their life's purpose is.

To my astonishment, many people do not have an answer to that question. For many people their purpose is elusive. Too many of God's children are living a lifestyle of constant failure and futility because their lives are not focused on a purpose or their purpose is not the plans that God has for them.

One of Satan's tools is to keep Christians blinded and out of focus to what their main purpose in life is. He keeps them in a life filled with strife, distractions, and failure.

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In the following pages, you'll discover the hopes and desires God has always had for your life.

It is important for us to understand the serious implications and long-term implications of our day-to-day living as it relates to our purpose.

Why is it important for us to live purpose centered lives? Here is what scripture has to say about that.

The reason why:

For we must all appear and be revealed as we are before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive his pay according to what he has done in the body, what his purpose and motives have been and what he has achieved, been busy with, and given himself and his attention to accomplishing

II Corinthians 5:10

We seek to win people over.

Everyone will receive his own reward, according to his labor. For we are fellow workmen joint promoters, laborers together with and for God, you are God's garden, Vineyard, and field under cultivation, you are God's building. I Corinthians

3:8

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God shall bring every work into judgment, (evaluate) with every secret thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14

For He will render to every man according to his works; just as his deeds deserve. But glory and honor and heart peace shall be awarded to everyone who eventually does good. Romans 2:6

For God shows no partiality undue favor or unfairness. With Him, one man is no different from another.

I saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and the books were open. Then another book was open, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what they had done, their whole way of feeling and acting, their aims, and endeavors in accordance with what was recorded in the books. Revelation 20:12

All work is tried and each case is determined by what they had done according to their motives, aims, and works.

We have no time to waste.

One of our earlier questions was why are we here?

We are not here by accident but we have been created for a specific purpose and a specific problem to solve.

If you think about any profession, service that is performed or

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product that is made, it is to solve a problem.

Every product that has ever been created has been created as a result of a person's thinking and how they could solve a specific problem.

Your purpose is to be discovered more than it is to be chosen.

We can choose to go into a profession such as a lawyer or a doctor or teacher but that does not necessarily mean that is your purpose.

I know people that have chosen a profession because of being influenced by their parents or because they thought that was a place where they could make the most money or other reasons other than being purpose centered and their specific purpose.

To live that transformational life it will be important for you to discover your purpose and to live it to the full.

The Word tells us in **I Corinthians 2:9**

God has specifically prepared events and situations for those who love him: I have not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, but things which God has prepared for them that love him.

To discern or discover those things connected to your purpose

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you need directions from the Holy Spirit: But God had revealed them to us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yeah, the deep things of God. I Corinthians 2:10

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Matthew 7:7

Your gifts and skills were given to you by the Holy Spirit:

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But all these work's that one in the self-same Spirit, dividing to everyone severally as He will. I Corinthians 12:4, 11

You were sent by God to this generation, your agenda has been predestined in the mind of God. God not only has a plan for you and your life but his plan for your life will require obedience.

His plan for your life will require a personal decision on your part to cooperate.

He tells us that His plan guarantees His blessing.

And it shall come to pass, you shall hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command be this day, that the Lord thy God will set the mighty high above all the nations of the earth. Deuteronomy 28:1

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And all these blessings shall come and overtake thee if thou shall hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shall thou be in the city and blessed shall thou be in the field.

Deuteronomy 28:2-3

You are the product of God. And He is the only one that can reveal your true purpose that He has decided for you before your birth.

The key verse for the Power to Prosper is found in **Deuteronomy 8:18**

You shall earnestly remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which he swore to your fathers as it is to this day.

Your purpose will require your total focus. Often when people fail it's because of broken focus. I know for myself, that is a challenge. I have had a short attention span from when I was a baby to the frustration of my mother. I have to be so on guard against being distracted or off purpose.

From observing and speaking to many people I have observed that one of Satan's important goals is to simply break the focus of God's people off their designated purposes. The evil one wants to “run the clock” out on you.

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Especially in the 21st century, everything seems to be accelerating at an accelerated pace. Learn to be a good finisher. We all are really good at starting things but not so good at finishing. Not just finishing to be finished but to finish well. I do not have to remind you about the blizzard of emails we receive every day. How about the endless hours we spend mindlessly on social media of all types today? You don't? Excellent!

I have a friend who is completing a complex book to be published and he has decided that he will not watch television until completion. That is his decision.

As we consider that all things have eternal importance it should be our desire to strive to hear the words, “well done good and faithful servant”.

If we focus on anything that consumes your time, energy, finances and attention so that our focus can be blurred, then we're off your game and not being productive for which our purpose was designed.

Jesus encouraged his disciples to keep their focus on the kingdom of God. He assured them that their financial provisions and everything they needed would be produced as a result of focusing on Him.

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Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

Focus determines your mastery of a subject. If something has the ability to capture your attention it has mastered you. Therefore, progress toward the completion of your purpose will require every thought and effort of your life.

That focus will require energy.

Think about a time when you're relaxing, not thinking about much of anything and someone interrupted you with a total focus interrupt like an emergency and you jumped into action. That action required energy. That's the kind of energy you will need to complete your purpose.

In psychology there's a term that says what you focus on expands.

The apostle Paul focused on his future when he said: ***Brother, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:13,14***

That is an excellent example of focus.

Broken focus creates insecurity and instability in everything you do.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:8

As we consider more important questions first, then we will return to the topic of purpose and help to determine your purpose.

Have you heard the Teddy Stoddard story and how two people on purpose made a difference?

Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same.

But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard. Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant.

It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners ... he is a joy to be around."

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His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well-liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's.

His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents.

Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children.

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Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer.

The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD. The story doesn't end there.

You see, there was another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died couple years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was reserved for the mother of the groom.

Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that

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bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made

sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you, Mrs. Thompson, for believing in me.

Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Never underestimate the Power of Purpose. YOU can make a difference in someone's life today and every day.

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Chapter 3

Some of Life's Most Important Questions



God questions

To begin thinking about this Kingdom it will be instructive for us to answer some specific questions.

Some of Life's most important questions:

These are not easily answered but it is important to give them serious consideration. I like to call them God questions.

The most important question of all in life is this:

Who is Jesus Christ?

The answer to this question will determine how you live your life here on earth.

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The answer to this question will also determine where you spend the rest of eternity.

What does He mean to me?

What is it that He has for me to do?

Why am I here?

Why am I here; geographically?

Where am I supposed to be?

What gifting has been given me?

What is my area of anointing?

What are my greatest dreams for a fulfilled life?

What are my goals:

To become the person I am meant to be?

To do the things I wish to do?

To have the things I wish to have?

Throughout this book, we will be discussing principles that will help you answer those questions.

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Chapter 4

Who Is Jesus Christ? The Premier Question!



Who is Jesus Christ? And, why is this question the most important question you could ask yourself?

One reason is that you will stand in front of your maker and give an account for the answer to that question. It has eternal significance. You see if you just recognize Him as a man and not God, then you would not make Him Lord of your life. Your value system would be earthly not Kingdom focused.

If you make Him Lord of your life then your motivation will be to seek His will and not your will. You will live by a key principle of the kingdom. That is, we are stewards of all we have been given most of all our very life.

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It is not like the question, does God exist?

Very few people question whether or not Jesus Christ existed.

It is generally accepted that Jesus was truly a man who walked on the earth in Israel 2,000 years ago. When we discuss the subject of the identity of Jesus that is where the debate begins.

It is widely held by every major religion that Jesus lived and was a Prophet, a good teacher or a godly man.

The Bible says that even the demons believe in God. **James 2:19.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus was infinitely more than a prophet a good teacher or a godly man.

You must make your choice either this man was and is the Son of God or else a madman or something worse.

You can shut Him out of your life in unbelief, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can follow Him and call him Lord and Savior.

What if you are ambivalent? In other words, you know in your mind that He is God but you do not take Him into your heart and develop a relationship? Said another way, what if He is not Lord of your life?

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Again, your behavior would be worldly not Kingdom minded.
That has eternal implications of significance.

He has not left the option open to us that He was just a great
teacher. He did not intend to. So, who did Jesus claimed to be?

Who does the Bible say He is?

Jesus said in **John 10:30** I and the Father are one.

*The Jews took offense at those words and stated that they were
going to stone Him for blasphemy because as a mere man He
claimed to be God. John 10:33*

The Jews understood Jesus statement as a claim to be God and
in the following verses, Jesus never corrected the Jews by
saying I do not claim to be God.

That indicates Jesus was truly saying He was God by declaring, *I
and the Father are one. John 10:30*

John 8:58 is another example.

*I tell you the truth, Jesus answered, before Abraham was born
I Am.*

*Again, in response the Jews took up stones in an attempt to stone
Jesus. John 8:59.*

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Jesus is announcing His identity as, I Am, is a direct application of the Old Testament name for God.

Would the Jews have wanted to stone Jesus had they not believed His words to be blasphemy?

That is, His claim to be God?

John 1:14 says the Word became flesh, this clearly indicates that Jesus is God in the flesh.

Thomas the disciple declared to Jesus my Lord and my God John 20:28. Jesus did not correct him.

The Apostle Paul describes Him as ***our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13.***

The Apostle Peter says the same, our God and our Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:1

God the Father is the witness of Jesus' full identity as well but about the Son he says, your throne O God will last forever and ever and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. Old Testament prophecies of Christ announced His Deity.

For to us a child is born to us a son is given and the

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government will be on his shoulders and he will be called wonderful counselor mighty God, everlasting father, Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6.

So as CS Lewis argued, believing Jesus to be only a good teacher is not an option.

Jesus clearly and undeniably claimed to be God. If he is not God then he is a liar and therefore not a prophet, good teacher or a godly man.

Attempts to explain away the words of Jesus, modern scholars claim the true historical Jesus did not say many of the things the Bible attributes to him. Who are we to argue with God's word concerning what Jesus did or did not say?

How can a scholar 2,000 years removed from Jesus have better insight into what Jesus did or did not say than those who lived with served with and were taught by Jesus Himself?

Jesus asked the Disciples, who do men say that I am? After various answers Jesus asked them, but who do **you** say that I am? Peter immediately and spontaneously blurted, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Then Jesus answered him. Blessed are you, Simon. Flesh and blood (men) hath not revealed this to you, but my Father Who is in heaven.

Is that clear as it can be?

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Why is the question of Jesus' true identity so important; why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God?

The most important reason that Jesus has to be God is that if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world.

Only God could pay such an infinite penalty. Jesus had to be God so that he could pay our debt.

Jesus had to be a man so he could die. Salvation is only available through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' deity is why He is the only way of salvation.

Jesus deity is why He proclaimed, ***I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.***

John 14:6

Who else is Jesus Christ? And, who is He to you?

The Mission of Jesus is important to know. Shouldn't His mission be your mission as well?

When I was in my corporate life I learned that it was very important that I fully understood what my boss's mission was. What was he intent on accomplishing? I was employed to help him accomplish his goals.

Mission -The What

1. Preach good news to the Poor-spiritually

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Proclaim the good news of salvation.

2. Release for prisoners and captives and those in bondage;

Proclaim release from strongholds (obstacles, roadblocks) which keep people stuck or plateau-ed.

Help those who are in bondage to drugs and alcohol or other bondages.

3. Recovery of sight to the blind

Provide a vision of hope for those without a vision

4. Bind up the brokenhearted;

Provide deliverance to the oppressed, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity. Repair and enhance lives.

5. Proclaim the year of the Lords Favor.

Proclaim the favor of God. Luke 4:18

Vision – The Why

To introduce the facts that, God so greatly loved and prized you that He gave up His only begotten Son so that you, when you believe and trust in and rely on Him, you shall not be destroyed or lost, but you will have eternal life.

The Bible has the answers to all those questions.

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Jesus is the creator of the universe. The Bible starts by saying *in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*

In the Gospel according to John, it says, *in the beginning was the Word (Christ) and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made and came into existence through Him: and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. John 1:1-4*

Why is that important? Do you see that your very life comes from the creator of all things including you?

Not everyone believes in life after death. For those individuals, it is irrelevant what they believe, the fact is their belief does not change the fact that we are going to live forever and ever somewhere. Do you know where you will spend eternity?

That is another reason why the question of who Jesus Christ is has eternal importance to you.

I knew of a brilliant scientist who was President and owner of a sizable Manufacturing Co., where my Dad worked for forty years. He and my Dad became good friends.

The company owner had three distinguished careers. During World War II he was a senior physicist, at John's Hopkins

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University.

He had a Ph.D. in astronomy and physics.

He taught astronomy at the University of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Northwestern. He wrote several books about the moon and helped with landing a man on the moon.

This brilliant man who had studied science and the stars and taught and influenced countless lives did not believe much in eternity. He stated that he assumed it would be endless monotony. He lived well into his 90's. He is somewhere and where he is now is not known by men.

A brilliant man who studied the stars could not see the creator. He said that he made up his mind about that while at the university as a young man.

I am not judging the man but *what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life in the Kingdom of God? Matthew 16:26 Amp*

That is another reason why the question is of utmost importance. **Who else is Jesus Christ?**

He is Judge.

Even the Father judges no one, for He has given all judgment entirely into the hands of the Son. John 5:22

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Each of us shall give an account of ourselves to God.

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory and majesty, and splendor of his Father with his angels, and then he will render an accounting and reward every man in accordance with what he has done. Matthew 16:27

He is our advocate.

But if anyone should sin, we have an advocate one who will intercede for us with the Father – it is Jesus Christ the all righteous, upright, just one, Who conforms to the Father's will in every purpose, thought and action. 1 John 2:1

King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Savior, Friend, Brother, Reward Giver

For it is written, as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God, acknowledge Him to His honor and into His praise. John 14:11, 12

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Chapter 5

Who Are You, Really? Do You Know Who You are, Really? And Whose You Are?



You no doubt have heard people say to you, “who do you think you are anyway?” It is meant as a put-down. Maybe in your own self-talk, you have said the same thing to yourself. The fact is that if you really knew who you truly are then your performance and accomplishments could be substantially greater than they are currently.

The good news is that Scripture tells you who you are. When you become fully aware and operate according to that realization, you will be unstoppable to excel in everything you put your hand to accomplish.

When the world says you are worth nothing then you better know who you are and Whose you are!

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Here is what Scripture says about you if you are in His Kingdom.

You are God's workmanship, Ephesians 2:10

*You are a new creation, 2 Corinthians
5:17*

*Alive to God in Christ Jesus,
Romans 6:11*

Heir of God, Galatians 3:29

*We are heirs with Christ, 2 Corinthians
6:1*

Sons of God, Romans 8:14

Holy and blameless, Ephesians 1:4–5

*Instruments of righteousness, Romans
6:13*

Children of God, 1 John 3:1

*Members of the body of Christ, Romans
12:4*

Temple of God, 1 Corinthians 3:60

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The fragrance of Christ, 2 Corinthians 2:15

Ministers of the new covenant, 2 Corinthians 3:6

Being transformed into the image of God, 2 Corinthians 3:18

Carriers of God's treasures, 2 Corinthians 4:7

Being renewed day by day, 2 Corinthians 4:16

Those who walk by faith, not by sight, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ambassadors of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:20

The righteousness of God in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Boasters of God, 2 Corinthians 7:14

Approved of God, 2 Corinthians 10:17

Boasters in our infirmities, 2 Corinthians 11:30

Carriers of the power of God, 2 Corinthians 12:9

We are strong in God, 2 Corinthians 13:4

Complete in him, 2 Corinthians 13:9

Inheritors of the promise, Galatians 3:8

Sealed for the day of redemption, Eph 4:30

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Blessed by God, Galatians 3:9

Chosen before the foundation of the world, Ephesians 1:4

Predestined to the praise of his glory, Eph 1:1

Sealed with the spirit of promise, Ephesians 1:11

Filled with the fullness of God, Ephesians 3:19

Made to sit in heavenly places with Christ, Eph 2:6

The workmanship for good works, Ephesians 2:10

Filled with the fullness of God, Ephesians 3:19

Given the spirit of wisdom and revelation, Eph1:17

Been made alive in Him, Ephesians 2:1

The next time your circumstances rise up and tempt you to lose hope, just remember, who you are and whose you are! Do not let the world define who you are, or whose you are!

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Chapter 6

Why am I here?



You Are Here On Assignment!

The School of Animals – A Story About Using Your Strengths

I used this story in my corporate life when I would conduct career development discussions.

Once upon a time, the animals decided that they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world, so they organized a school.

They adopted an activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer, all of the animals took all of the subjects.

The duck was excellent at swimming. In fact, he was better than his

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instructor. However, he made only passing marks in flying and was very poor at running. Since he was so slow in running, he had to drop his swimming class and do extra running. This caused his webbed feet to become badly worn, meaning that he dropped to an average mark in swimming. Fortunately, “average” was acceptable, therefore nobody worried about it – except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of the class in running but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because he had so much makeup work to do in swimming.

The squirrel was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class because his teacher insisted that he start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He developed cramps from overexertion, so he ended up with a C in climbing and a D in running.

The eagle was a real problem student and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing class, he beat all of the others to the top, but insisted on using his own way of getting there!

The principle here is that we each have our own strengths and need to be working hard to maximize them, not handicap our potential by becoming good at something that isn't natural for us.

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If you're a leader reading this, think about who the ducks, rabbits, squirrels and eagles are in your organization and how you can best use their unique skills and strengths rather than trying to get the same level of average performance out of all of them.

Recognition of your Purpose, You are here on Assignment

Everything God created is a solution to a problem. Your eyes see. Your ears hear. Mothers solve emotional problems. Dentists solve teeth problems. Lawyers solve legal problems. Doctors solve health problems.

Your purpose or assignment here on earth is to solve a problem for somebody, somewhere and receive a reward for it.

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called." I Corinthians 7:20

When your purpose is unrecognized, you're not celebrated. When you are not celebrated, you are not rewarded. There is no torment on Earth equal to the torment of living a life unrewarded for the gift and the solution that lies dormant within you.

Learn 10 Facts Regarding Your Purpose

1. Your purpose is always to a person or a people. ***For thou shall go to all that I shall send Thee and whatsoever I command that thou shall speak Jeremiah 1:7***

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Paul understood this. *"Whereunto me I was appointed a preacher, and then an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles"* 2 Timothy 1:11

2. What grieves you the most is, a clue to what you are assigned to heal or restore.

What makes you cry is a clue to the problem God has qualified you to solve.

Nehemiah understood this. *"The wall of Jerusalem also was broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."* Nehemiah 1:3-4

3. What you love the most reveals the greatest gifts you contain. Passion is the path to your wisdom. When I know what you love to talk about, think about and learn about – that is your place of assignment and purpose.

You only have wisdom for something you love. What do you love the most?

The proof of love is the investment of time. When I find where you are willing to invest your time, I know what you love. That is your assignment and purpose.

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That is why Moses was willing to counsel with people from daylight to dark – he loved his people with all his heart. **Exodus 18:13-14**

4. Your purpose determines the suffering and tests you will encounter. When Paul describes his appointment as a preacher and teacher, he explained this.

"For that cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and then am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. " 2 Timothy 1:12

5. Your assignment is geographical. Where you are matters as much as what you are. Geography matters. It controls the flow of favor in your life.

Who sees you determines who promotes you. You will rarely receive favor unless someone sees you. Geography affects the increase of your favor. That's why Jesus taught to go where you are celebrated instead of where you are tolerated.

Abraham left his father's house. Ruth left by way of following Naomi back to Bethlehem. Geography plays a major part in every success story.

Deuteronomy 12:14, 26

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6. You will only succeed when your purpose becomes an obsession. That explains the Apostle Paul's uncommon achievement.

This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before me, I press toward the mark for the price of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14

7. Your purpose will require seasons of preparation.

Study to show thyself approved unto God; a workman that need not be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of truth Timothy 2:15.

You will experience seasons of insignificance, isolation, waiting, warfare, persecution, injustice, silence, and promotion.

Jesus invested 30 years of preparation for a 3 1/2 year ministry.
Luke 3:23

8. Your purpose may be misunderstood by your own family and those closest to you. Jesus experienced this. For neither did his brothers believe in him.

9. Your purpose will always have an enemy. The servant is not above his lord. Jesus declared. *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.* "The servant is not

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greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. John 15:18–21

Your enemies are as necessary as your friends. Your friends provide comfort. Your enemy provides the promotion. Enemies turn nobody's into somebody's.

The only difference between obscurity and significance is the enemy you decide to conquer.

Without Goliath, David would remain hidden without significance in the pages of history as a shepherd boy on a hillside.

10. Your purpose is the only place your financial provision is guaranteed. God instructed Elijah to go to the brook where the raven would feed him.

He received his daily provision. One day, the brook dried up. Why? His assignment had changed. 1 Kings 17

Lack is a clue that God is changing your assignment. Elijah's new assignment was to visit Zarephath, where a starving widow would receive her financial miracle throughout the remaining part of the family.

When God sends you to a place, provision is the promised

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incentive for obedience.

When you discover your purpose there is joy. Your peace is like a glory cloud around your life. Depression leaves. Fear dissipates. Uncommon favor enters your life daily because you are at your place of purpose and assignment.

Recognizing your purpose is of utmost importance.

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Chapter 7

How Do You Hear From God?



God said, “Be still and know that I am God.”

God wants you to hear His voice. In **John 10:27** *he says my sheep hear my voice.*

If you are a believer you can hear his voice.

God is speaking to you all the time. Do you hear him?

We also speak to ourselves all day long, and I suppose all night long.

Our normal pace of speaking is around 350 words per minute.

Our self- talk is about 750 -1400 words per minute.

What is it you're saying to yourself? What is it that God is saying to you?

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How do you hear from God?

Some have told me that they never hear from God and they do not understand what I'm talking about.

You might want to get a special notebook that is really nice so that you can capture all of your and God's thoughts on its pages.

Then it's good to find a quiet place without distractions or interruptions.

It's a good idea to pick a place that inspires you. A good time to do this is early in the morning or just prior to going to bed at night.

The 21st century seems to be full of noise in the flurry of activities that seems to be spinning at an increasing rate.

In order to be still to listen to Gods voice, to meditate on what you hear takes a conscious and concentrated effort.

King David in the Bible listen to God and he shifted his focus by recalling and rehearsing and seeing all of God's goodness to him and the people he was responsible for.

There is a right way to enter into this timeframe and the word says to enter His gates with thanksgiving and come into His courts with praise.

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Making melody in your hearts to the Lord and turning your gaze and song upward Colossians 3:16

The ideal state is one where your soul can be at peace still, quieted you have gratitude in your heart.

Listen to what God has to say. You will not hear a loud thunderous voice but you hear through thoughts; the prophet Elijah referred to it as a still small voice.

I remember a time when I audibly heard the voice of God through thoughts.

I had purchased property on the shore of Lake Michigan and the house was quite close to the edge of the bluff. Many homes were falling into the lake as a result of high water and erosion.

Many people built the walls and other methods to stop the erosion. I had just built one of those walls across the whole length of property at the toe of the bluff. To protect the wall I needed riprap stone in front of the wall for the protection.

The cost to do that was going to be an additional \$10,000 which I did not have. As I was walking down the beach inquiring of the Lord of how I was to obtain those funds. He spoke to me as if audible,

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except I didn't hear anything audible but in my spirit. He said don't worry about the wall my son I will take care of it. He did because shortly after that the water level receded and the wall has never been tested and it did not need the reinforcement and never has.

While we are still listening we often will see things also.

In Habakkuk 2:1-2, The Prophet said I will stay and watch to see what he will say to me. Then the Lord answered him and said write the vision make it plain and tablets.

Not only will you hear but you will see certain things. You picture in your mind the things that you are hearing. Your subconscious mind responds to pictures rather than words.

My mother used to say, “well, let's wait-and-see”.

She also used to say “well, I'll believe it when I see it”. I think she had that wrong; actually, it is I'll see it when I believe it.

After you listen and watch to see, write down the flowing images and thoughts that come to mind, suspend all judgment about them, just write down all of the thoughts and things that you see.

If you think about the story of Jesus, where he said the kingdom

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of God is like a net that caught all kinds of fish and the net was dragged up so the fish could be separated into categories, good and bad. After you have written all the things you see in and hear, you can reflect on them and determine which things came from God and which things came from you.

Those are some ways that you can hear the voice of the Lord. When you are attentive to what He says and you write it down, you honor His voice. This is a time where God will download blueprints for things he wants you to build into your life. The more you practice the skill to hear the voice of the Lord the more opportunities you will take advantage of and you'll make fewer mistakes.

My Dad was a master machinist and the company he worked for always gave him the impossible jobs to find a possible solution. One particular problem went unsolved for a long period of time and was costing the company plenty. He was continually thinking about the possible solutions. Then one day he stepped out of the house to get into his car to go to work. He looked up at the sky and saw a blueprint vision of the elusive solution. When he arrived at work he excitedly went to apply what he had seen and it worked. The seemingly impossible became possible. That problem was solved and his employer profited handsomely.

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Always start with a prayer.

Lord, I thank you that I am your child and I want to hear your voice. What do you want to say to me?

By faith begin to write, the Lord says... The Lord shows me a picture of...

Have you wanted to hear God more clearly and consistently in your life?

Have you ever heard God speak to you, but nothing ever came of it?

Maybe you wonder whether the things you are hearing spiritually are coming from yourself, God or other sources.

Perhaps you have never heard God speak to you at all?

These are common questions that people ask. I believe that I have been hearing God most of my life. There are things you can do to sharpen your abilities to hear God.

My hope and prayers are that you will be able to save time and even pain as I share with you on your journey to hearing God's voice clearly. God speaks to us most of the time in the form of a small, quiet voice inside us that unless we train ourselves to listen to it; we consider it to be a coincidence.

God speaks in so many ways, yet most people are not aware of

it. One thing that Jesus often taught in the parables is that in the Kingdom of God we must have *eyes that see and ears that hear*, **Matthew 13:16b**. He was talking about seeing and hearing spiritually so that we may come to know His voice and His ways. Most people have conditioned themselves to listen for God's voice only.

Throughout the Bible God also spoke in ways that required us to see as well. God truly is speaking all the time, but most people are either missing it or not understanding what is being said to them. Especially in our 21st Century accelerated pace of life.

I base everything I am sharing with you on **Ephesians 1:17: *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.***

The sole purpose of hearing God is so that you may know Him better! The closer we get to God the clearer His voice becomes. Many people have stopped believing that God still speaks today. Learning to hear the voice of God is a lifelong process, but it is simple enough that even children can do it.

You may hear God differently than others because we are all uniquely created by God and have different gifts and styles. ***Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27***

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Here are questions people ask about hearing God:

How do I know if what I am hearing is from God or myself or the enemy?

I am afraid of being deceived, so how can I trust what I am hearing?

I have stepped out before and responded to what God spoke to me, but why was it that nothing happened?

I often have dreams, but how can I know which ones are from God?

Learning is a process and it takes practice and time to develop and mature. Just because God might speak to one person more clearly does not make them special or better. God loves us all the same. Prophecy and revelation is given to us by God through the Holy Spirit and is intended to be a function in our lives and community.

It is also intended to be encouraging to people who need a breath of life. ***But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. I Corinthians 14:3-7.***

The Old Testament is full of examples of judgmental prophecies. But this was to get God's people, the Israelites, back on track. That will not work with people who don't have a

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biblical foundation to begin with, such as with our society today.

It was also done before the people of God had the Holy Spirit in them like we do in the New Testament times.

I realize that not everyone who is reading this is in the same place spiritually. I know that some of the things I am talking about might sound controversial or even stretch you at times, but they are built on a biblical foundation. We can be “naturally supernatural” so to speak. Hearing God does not need to be mystical.

I like to think of the supernatural things of God as being a natural part of our lives. You don't have to be a prophet to hear the voice of God. I believe that He longs to convey messages of love, comfort, guidance, and warning through a variety of different methods.

Maybe it is through dreams and visions, **Job 33:15–16**, through the Bible **Daniel 9:2**, through a conversation we have with someone, or through the arts like music, dance, paintings, and sculpture. The possibilities are endless.

I believe that God longs for us to spend time with Him. Sometimes He gives us a puzzling dream just so we will search out the answer. And when we find the answer, it might seem insignificant.

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God loves us so much that He said in **Psalm 37:4** *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart*

We can often miss God's still, gentle voice if we do not slow down long enough to listen.

There are so many different ways that God can speak to us. The most common way people hear the voice of God is through a verse in the Bible. Other times it is something that flashes through your mind. Not everything that we hear is necessarily from God. But practice will allow you to more easily discern what is and what is not from God.

When you truly hear from God, it will never:

Violate principles from the Bible
Do anything to harm others
Ask you to do something illegal

Sometimes you may get something internally in the form of a picture in your mind or something quickly pops into your spirit. It may not necessarily be a complete thought, but you sense it is from God. Be discerning, because not all of our thoughts are from God. It could come as a single word or phrase, or a song. You may suddenly see a picture of a rose. You then think about what it represents. A rose brings nice fragrance and beauty wherever it is.

There are also impressions from God that may come to you externally in the form of a vision or picture, or something externally that catches your eye. These could be repeated numbers on a clock, colors, or anything that God brings to your attention. For example, for a split second you are drawn to the pen on the table, and God nudges you that writing is significant for you. Or you might remember that you wanted to write a thank-you note to a friend.

Dreams at night can be a great way to hear God. Though not all dreams are from God, once you understand how God speaks through symbolic language, then you can trust God to guide you. Over one third of the Bible is made up of dreams and visions. Jesus often spoke in parables, and dreams are very similar to “night parables.” *For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction. In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man.* **Job 33:14–17 NKJV.**

There are many more ways that God can speak to us. Jesus said more than 15 times that we must have “**eyes that see and ears that hear.**” He was referring to seeing and hearing spiritually.

Through stories, Jesus taught powerful principles about the Kingdom of God using parables.

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These symbolic stories from real life situations conveyed a deeper spiritual truth. Even Jesus' disciples who were close to Him did not understand this way of communication at first. See **Matthew 13**

God may speak to us through other people. What may seem like a normal conversation with a friend could be God trying to communicate something to you. Remember, God can speak through movies, music, and the arts.

God often speaks through nature or natural things. Take a walk in the woods and allow creation to speak to you through its beauty and splendor. Often things that are happening in the natural realm are reflective of what is happening in the supernatural.

There are other ways to hear God, which may include things like supernatural experiences, angels and hearing an audible voice from Heaven. These are all biblical, and though they are not as common, they cannot be ruled out as a means of hearing God. Keep in mind that you don't need a dramatic encounter or to hear the audible voice of God.

Some people are waiting for an angel to show up or a major sign from Heaven to drop in front of them. Remember, God is speaking to you daily and He longs for you to pay attention to the small prompt He is already giving you.

God sees you as who you are becoming even though you will

still need to go through a process of development. God is not impatient with immaturity and enjoys relating to you as you grow. You would never expect a four-year-old child to drive a car. In the same way, God does not expect more from us than our current level of maturity allows. As you grow and mature, God will test you for the purposes of promoting you to a greater level of influence and maturity.

Here are 5 Steps to hearing from God on a daily basis. It is important to not become legalistic about doing them. There is no formula to follow and you are not a bad person for not doing some of these things daily.

These are simply guidelines you can use as a place to start.

1. Believe: There Is A Lot Of Power That Happens When We Believe. *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* **James 1:6** Most people believe that God still speaks today, just not necessarily to them. And if we continually focus on not being able to do something, chances are we never will. But if we change our focus and accept that God loves us and longs to speak to us, there is a good chance we will begin to hear God in ways we never thought possible.

Unbelief chokes out supernatural experiences from God. An example of this spiritual principle is found in **Matthew 13:58** *when*

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Jesus was not able to do many miracles due to the unbelief of the people. God really does desire to communicate with us. Most of the time, we simply need to clear away some of the unbelief and busyness in our lives to perceive what He is saying. Believing activates our faith. It is necessary to develop an atmosphere of faith in order to open up the spiritual principles necessary to mature in hearing God daily.

We all are driven by our belief systems whether negative or positive, known or unknown. Most of us our beliefs are formed at a young age. It is necessary at some point in your life to evaluate your beliefs and look for ones that may be hindering you from hearing God more clearly.

2. Make Sure You Are At Peace *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16* We must have peace in our lives if we want to hear the voice of God daily. When we are hurried or stressed out, we are less likely to consistently hear Him. Many people hear God when they are in the shower or taking a bath. This may seem surprising, but it's because it's one of the few places where we are alone and able to listen. It is good to set time aside regularly—daily, if possible—to quiet yourself.

The best time for me is first thing in the morning. I know we are all wired differently, but morning seems to be a good time for me because there are fewer distractions, and things are the

quietest.

Each morning I spend a few moments getting focused on God. For me this includes praying, reading the Bible and asking God to speak to me about my day.

Maybe you feel that you do not have time to do this, so do what you can. It would be nice if we all had quality time with God. But the truth is that any time you have with God will be beneficial.

God will often speak to us by impressing a verse on our minds. Reading the Bible regularly will help condition us to be more spiritually sensitive. Sometimes God speaks to us clearly, and other times He is not as clear. God often conceals matters and requires those who really want more of Him to search for God as they would uncover hidden treasure. *If we spend time with Him, we will access the treasures of kings! It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2-3*

3. Remove Hindrances To Hearing God, *Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders* ” Hebrews 12:1 There will always be hindrances to hearing God daily. A major hindrance to hearing God can be our own theology. If we were taught that God does not speak today, then this will affect our ability to hear Him.

Realize that God is speaking all the time. There is no one way or

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method for hearing God. He is multi-faceted, and when we try to put Him in a box, we will miss the unlimited power and creativity available to us. It is a good idea to start noticing the ways God tends to speak to you. As you put your attention to it then you can grow and develop more.

Another major hindrance to hearing God is being too busy to listen. Sometimes we can fill our time with activities that appear worthwhile but actually hinder us from hearing God daily.

There are hidden prophetic messages in movies and music. So even if you watch TV or surf the Internet you can tune in to the “Holy Spirit Network” and ask God to speak to you.

One more hindrance to hearing God is to assume we know what He is saying. This is called assumption or presumption. Often God speaks to us to reveal barriers and blocks in our relationship with Him. Our own beliefs, ego and pride can block the real meaning of what God is trying to show us. We may think He is speaking about something or someone else and not about our own issues. When we hear from God we need to first look at our own lives before we attempt to try to help someone else.

4. Activate What God is saying, *but the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. Luke 6:49a*

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As God begins to speak to you, it is a good idea to value what you are hearing and write it down. Your life purpose and destiny depends upon these fundamental daily practices. It will help to start a notebook, a prayer journal, or take notes on your computer or mobile device. Find a way to record what you hear God saying in ways that best fits your personality and style.

Get into the habit of writing down the words you sense God is telling you. This will help you keep track of them. Give thanks to God when you see them happening, because it helps your spirit to focus positively on God's good nature.

If we want to hear God consistently, we must be quick and develop the habit of responding every time He speaks. Sometimes God will remain silent until we do the last thing He told us to do.

Stop for a minute and ask God to show you whether there is anything you need to respond to. Hearing God is so awesome and it is amazing that He wants to speak to us.

A major key to hearing God daily is to activate or respond to the things that God speaks to us. Jesus said, ***Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*** **Matthew 7:7** Notice that the words ask, seek and knock are all proactive steps. They also are an acronym: ASK. Jesus did not say, "Believe and the door will be opened." Or even, "Sit around and wait for God to open the door." Again, there is

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power in believing and power in waiting on God. There is also power in taking action.

In order for you to grow in your ability to hear God and to find and fulfill the destiny God has for you, you will need to take steps and be proactive.

There are many other similar principles in the Bible that are keys that will unlock and open the door to your future. They will also close doors to negative things from your past. The problem is that most people only believe these principles in their minds and have not practiced them consistently in their daily lives. When we do them we will start to see the radical transformation of a new life.

You can activate something you hear from God by taking some small, practical steps to make it come alive in your life. Things like writing it down, doing research, reading a book on the subject, sending an apology, praying. The list is endless.

There is power in doing small things. This is doing small things over time toward the things that you feel called to or that God speaks to you. If you make a habit of this then you will create an atmosphere of breakthrough, rather than one of avoidance. Develop a breakthrough mindset to cure procrastination, unclear vision or feelings of being stuck.

5. Practice, *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant*

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use have trained themselves to distinguish, good from evil.

Hebrews 5:14 Just know that God loves you, has grace for you and wants to use you. He wants to speak to you and you can trust the process.

Many people are afraid of being deceived when it comes to hearing God's voice. The remedy for this is to train yourself to distinguish between good and evil. This can only be done through practice. We must learn to be sensitive to the differences between God's voice, our own ideas, and those of demonic forces.

The easiest way to do this is to study your own experiences of how God has spoken to you in the past. Let's say you hear God and there is clear evidence to confirm that what you heard was really God speaking to you.

Use a journal to record and study what it felt like to hear Him. Remember how it came to you, the sense you had in your spirit, and the peace you felt.

How Can We Practice Hearing God?

First, ask God to begin to train you. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to His voice.

Write down what you feel God is speaking to you.

Track your experiences and make notes on things you heard in

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advance that actually happened. We are not trying to predict anything or be a prophet; we are simply asking God to speak to us so we can learn. It takes time and practice to recognize the difference between our own thoughts and words from God.

I pray 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 His holy people.

Ephesians 1:18

Exercise: Practice Hearing God for Yourself

Here is an exercise to hear God more clearly. Don't be discouraged if you are not able to hear Him clearly on any or all of these. It is a process.

1. **Hearing God through the Bible:** Ask God to give you a verse in the Bible that will speak to you personally. Close your eyes and don't think hard; just wait until something comes into your mind. This may take a few tries to get something practical. Ask, what blocks me from developing a more intimate a relationship with you? Where is my thinking out of alignment with yours?

2. **Hearing God through writing:** Take a piece of paper or use your computer, and begin to write what you feel God is speaking to you. Think of it as a love letter from your Father. Let it flow

from deep inside you. Again, it should be positive and uplifting and will not condemn you. God loves you and wants you to succeed.

Ministry questions

1. There are things God has put into your heart that you must begin to embrace, bring forth, and explore. Think about King David son Solomon, when he was young God visited him in a dream and ask him what he wanted. It's interesting that by this question it shows that God explores what's in our heart and works with our desires for our journey. His plan for our lives incorporates our desires, therefore as it says in **Mark 11:24** *Whatever things you desire when you pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them*
2. Ask the Lord what is the primary ministry you would have me doing at this time? If you already are working in your ministry, ask how you can be more effective in that ministry.
3. Your work – if God came to you like He did Solomon and told you that you could have whatever you wanted, what would be the perfect dream ministry/career for yourself? What would it look like?
4. What are your greatest dreams? Ask the Lord as you look at your dream list what are your thoughts and how do you see it?

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5. Ask, what do You want me to see from those dreams?

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Chapter 8

How Do You Overcome Obstacles, Failures and Fires?



Walk Through The Fire

We are tried in the fire to bring us forth to really be refined as gold.

We have a choice to avoid or escape the fire by compromise or by integrity. Choose wisely, be godly.

I want my life to represent God's best for me. He wants to consume something out of me. When God puts me in the fire he wants to remove something from me.

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Jonah started his own fire, it was pride.

Job did not start his own fire.

Joseph did not start his own fire but contributed to it by bragging.

Relevant questions:

Did I start it or did God? God doesn't want to destroy me.

1. What is God trying to burn off me?
2. Did I learn anything from the fire?
3. How long will I be in the fire? Walk through it, don't stop.
4. What is God doing in this circumstance?
5. God is with me in the fire.

The result is His promotion. Don't die in the fire keep going.

My Personal Fire Story

I know what it is like to be in the fire of the circumstances of life. I have suffered cancer at an early age and had it surgically removed and have been cancer free for over 20 years. I have suffered the disappointment of a broken marriage that, in my

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forward thinking was an improbable and impossible likelihood. But the unthinkable happened.

I have been living and studying personal development for most of my adult life and career in business. One of the interesting experiences I have had, and will never do again, is a firewalk.

One of the programs I attended was called “Warrior Training”. It took place up in the mountains near Vancouver, Canada. It was an intense program of body mind and soul training. One of the exercises was a fire walk at night.

This was a physical and mind focusing exercise. Imagine a perfectly clear fall night in the mountains far away from any city lights. The starry host was spectacular.

Back to reality, there was set on fire the largest wood bond fire I had ever seen. The fire consisted of a huge stack of tree lumber and the flames were as high as the roofline of a house. This, of course, was done for effect. The embers from that fire were used for the fire walk. It was a 50 feet long, 3 feet wide, fire walkway filled with red hot burning embers like you would see in your charcoal grill.

We were given specific instructions of how to walk the line without getting burned. This took skill and a certain technique to accomplish safely. One of the things we were taught was how to control

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your mind and to focus. Feel the fear and act anyway to overcome it. That does not mean to do stupid things, although you may think walking on fire is a stupid thing to do.

There was a team member at the far end of the fire walkway to place your focus. I focused on the completion of the journey and the person at the end. I got totally focused within and without and began the walk, and completed the walk. It was the briskest walk I ever did without breaking into a run. The instruction was not to run because you would be severely burned by splashing embers.

The walk was completed by me and hundreds of others who over time had attended that training program.

At the end of the walk, there were wetted pieces of thick sod to wipe your feet to remove any ember residue. What about my feet? They were not burned or damaged in anyway. The next day the bottom of my feet felt like they were sunburned, that was all.

The application is to stay focused on faith for the best outcome, keep your eyes on the Savior, do not stay in the fire and do not die in the fire.

What Should We Do When We Face Tests and Trials?

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What is a Christian to do when faced with disappointment, disaster, and despair? Scripture teaches us that *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* **Romans 8:28** Yet when we encounter difficulties, we often wonder, **Why?** Searching for answers and learning to *view “bad things” as “good things in disguise”* are disciplines that God wants His children to develop as they mature spiritually. See **I Corinthians 2:14 and Romans 8:1–17**

When you respond to God’s grace and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are; “born again” into the Kingdom of God. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your spirit. He confirms your relationship with God, comforts you, and leads you into all truth. See **Romans 8:16, John 14:16–17 and 16:13**

God begins the supernatural work of transforming you, His child, into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ, Who was and is perfect. See **Romans 8:29** **As you mature in your faith, God uses tests and trials to develop your character and ministry.** By responding to trials in the grace of God, you will experience the power of God’s Spirit, which will be manifested in your life through the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. See

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Galatians 5:22–23

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. I Peter 4:12–13

The Trials and Tests We Encounter

Below are brief descriptions of eight types of tests that every Christian will likely face:

Fiery trials: intense encounters or struggles; bursts of anger, grief, or lust

Infirmities: physical limitations and illnesses

Reproaches: ridicule and rejection on account of faith or holiness

Persecutions: harassment and oppression due to religious convictions

Necessities: wear and care of daily responsibilities

Distresses: disappointments and deep hurts

Tribulations: unusual pressures and challenges

Temptations: opportunities to yield to our sinful nature

Your Response Makes All the Difference

The Apostle Paul regarded these “tests” as opportunities to grow spiritually. Instead of despairing when he encountered trials,

Paul said he would glory in his infirmities so that the power of Christ would rest upon him. See II Corinthians 12:9 We like

Paul, choose to trust God and accept the grace He gives us,

Christ’s character will be formed in us. ***We glory in***

tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh

patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:

and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us

Romans 5:3–5

Unless you accept God’s grace to deal with suffering,

inevitably you will become bitter. However, if you choose to trust God to bring about His purposes through the suffering, you

can avoid the trap of bitterness and grow in the grace and

knowledge of the Lord. See **II Corinthians 5:7, Ephesians**

4:31, Hebrews 12:14–15, and II Peter 3:18.

You can be confident that God will not allow anything to happen to you without His permission, and **He will not let any “bad**

thing” happen that will not ultimately bring you more

good than destruction. See I Peter 4:12–13, Romans 9:14–

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24, Isaiah 55:8–9, Job 1:6–12, Genesis 50:20, and Psalm 121.

How can we take advantage of these opportunities to mature spiritually? The following five responses are keys to enduring tests and trials through God's grace:

1. Give thanks.

Sometimes being thankful in a difficult situation is the most difficult thing you can do. Yet, Scripture is very clear about this response: *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* **I Thessalonians 5:18** To be **thankful rather than to complain** takes a conscious act of the **will** and a sacrifice of natural desires. **Psalm 107:22** appropriately speaks of this choice in terms of a sacrifice: *Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*

Unfortunately, most of us respond with murmuring or complaining when we face hardship of any kind—emotional, spiritual, mental, or physical. However, through trials, *It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*

Philippians 2:13–15

Thanking God in all things does not mean that we thank God for evil. It means that we are thanking God for the benefits He intends for us when He allows things to happen.

2. Rejoice!

Along with giving thanks, we also are instructed to rejoice in all things: *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”* **Philippians 4:4** *Thanking God is an act of the will, but rejoicing is a response of the spirit.* Therefore, it is possible to be sad and joyful at the same time. We cannot escape the pain of a difficult situation, but we can learn to rejoice in God Himself and in the good things God will do through our suffering.

We should try to discern the positive benefits that could come about through the situation. Ask the question, “What am I supposed to learn from this?” Tests and trials give us opportunities to come to know God better and to bring glory to God.

The Apostle Paul stated: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. . . . We are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this*

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present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:14–18

When you experience a trial, choose—by faith—to put your trust in God. This choice will help you be more objective and consequently more alert to the reasons why God may have allowed the trial to occur.

As you deal with the difficulties, remember the following truths:

-Gaining intimate knowledge of Christ exceeds the value of gaining more possessions. See **Philippians 3:8**

-Developing stronger character is more important than getting your own way. See **Hebrews 5:8**

-Demonstrating self-control is more heroic than dominating your competitors. See **Proverbs 25:28**

-Eternal treasures are more valuable than earthly riches. See **Matthew 19:21**

3. Cry out to God.

Perhaps the greatest reason God has for taking us through the trials of life is to bring us to the firm conclusion that we need God. What is God's purpose in giving us commands that seem impossible to carry out? He desires to work powerfully

through our lives; therefore we must learn to depend on Him. **He alone must become our source of strength, provision, protection, and direction.**

God has the ability to protect us from every trial or distress. Instead, He often chooses to deliver us in the midst of trials. In **Psalm 50:15** we are told, *Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.* God's goal through our trials is to strengthen our dependence on Him. We must trust Him to work in the ways and in the time frame that will produce the best in our lives and the most glory for His name. As we call to the Lord in our distress, He will deliver us.

4. Believe and act on the Word of God.

When Jesus was tested in the wilderness, He responded to each temptation by quoting Scripture. For example, when Satan urged Christ to turn stones into bread, Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3: *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.* **Matthew 4:4** We can follow Jesus' example and successfully engage in spiritual warfare by proclaiming the truth in the face of tests and temptations. **Ephesians 6:17** describes the Word of God as *the sword of the Spirit*—the only offensive weapon in our spiritual armor. Jesus said, The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. **John 6:63**

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They are also the authority by which we can claim the promises of God, since we are told, *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you* **John 15:7**

As you meditate on the truth of God's Word, which is living and active see **Hebrews 4:12**, you can learn to effectively battle the enemy of your soul, Satan, with the sword of the Spirit.

5. Overcome evil with good.

Jesus gave His disciples a clear set of instructions for responding to those who made life miserable for them. See **Matthew 5:44** These directions are completely opposite to what we would naturally do:

Love your enemies.

Bless those who curse you.

Do good to those who hate you.

Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Such responses would never be a person's natural tendency, but they do reflect the heart of God: *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.* **Romans 12:21**

God promises to give a blessing to those who reward evil with

good. Although we cannot fully predict or describe that blessing, we know that it will include the power of genuine love. *Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren . . . not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. I Peter 3:8–9*

If you react to a person who offends you and become bitter toward him, you actually put yourself in an emotional prison. Bitterness will control your thought life, your emotions, your free time, and your health. In order to be freed from this prison, you must forgive.

Scripture provides many examples of those who forgave offenders, including Job, Stephen, and Jesus Christ:

Job’s companions were about to encounter God’s wrath, but Job prayed for them and God delivered Job: *And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends” Job 42:10.*

Stephen prayed for God to forgive his murderers, even as they were stoning him: *And they stoned Stephen, [who was] calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59–60*

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Because Jesus was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities see **Isaiah 53:5**, we are among the group of people He released when He said, *Father, forgive them*; **Luke 23:34**

The Rewards of Responding With Grace

As God faithfully pours out His grace upon us in the midst of each fiery trial, we can endure hardships and overcome the enemy in God's strength. See **II Chronicles 20:15** Scripture reveals that there are great rewards for responding to trials with grace, including those listed below:

Exceeding joy in God's glory

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy I Peter 4:12–13

The strength of Godly character

We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
Romans 5:3–5

God's strength in our weaknesses

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Most gladly, therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. II Corinthians 12:9–10

Fellowship with Christ

I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ . . . that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death Philippians 3:8–10

Heavenly rewards

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Matthew 5:11–12

Reigning with Christ

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with

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Him. II Timothy 2:11–12

God has assured us that He will not permit us to be attacked with trials or temptations that are too overwhelming for us to handle. He will grant us grace to be over comers. In **I Corinthians 10:12–13**, the Apostle Paul exhorts us with these words: **Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

Inspiring Failure Stories: Transforming Failure to Success

Consider the inspiring stories of common people; some of whom became captains of industry and who have overcome adversity, setbacks and seemingly impossible circumstances.

Colonel Sanders had the construction of a new road put him out of business in 1967. He went to over 1,000 places trying to sell his chicken recipe before he found a buyer interested in his 11 herbs and spices. Seven years later, at the age of 75, Colonel Sanders sold his fried chicken company for a finger-lickin' \$15 million!

Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing

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his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him hopeless as a composer.

Henry Ford failed and went broke five times before he finally succeeded.

Albert Einstein did not speak until he was four years old and didn't read until he was seven. His teacher described him as "mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams." He was expelled and refused admittance to Zurich Polytechnic School. The University of Bern turned down his Ph.D. dissertation as being irrelevant and fanciful.

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor for lack of ideas.

Disney also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.

The movie Star Wars was rejected by every movie studio in Hollywood before 20th-Century Fox finally produced it. It went on to be one of the largest grossing movies in film history.

Louis Pasteur was only a mediocre pupil in undergraduate studies and ranked 15 out of 22, in chemistry.

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When NFL running back Herschel Walker was in junior high school, he wanted to play football, but the coach told him he was too small. He advised young Herschel to go out for track instead. Never one to give up, he ignored the coach's advice and began an intensive training program to build himself up. Only a few years later, Herschel Walker won the Heisman trophy.

When General Douglas MacArthur applied for admission to West Point, he was turned down, not once but twice. But he tried a third time, was accepted and marched into the history books.

After Fred Astaire's first screen test, the memo from the testing director of MGM, dated 1933, said, "Can't act! Slightly bald! "Can dance a little!" Astaire kept that memo over the fireplace in his Beverly Hills home.

The father of the sculptor Rodin [The Thinker Statue] said, "I have an idiot for a son." Described as the worst pupil in the school, Rodin failed three times to secure admittance to the school of art. His uncle called him uneducable.

Margaret Mitchell's classic *Gone with the Wind* was turned down by more than twenty-five publishers.

Babe Ruth, considered by sports historians to be the greatest athlete of all time and famous for setting the home run record, also holds the record for strikeouts.

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Eighteen publishers turned down Richard Bach's Jonathan Livingston Seagull, before Macmillan finally published it in 1970.

By 1975 it had sold more than seven million copies in the U.S. alone.

Richard Hooker worked for seven years on his humorous war novel, M*A*S*H, only to have it rejected by 21 publishers before Morrow decided to publish it. It became a runaway bestseller, spawning a blockbusting movie and highly successful television series.

When the first Chicken Soup for the Soul book was completed, it was turned down by thirty-three publishers in New York and another ninety at the American Booksellers Association convention in Anaheim, California, before Health Communications, Inc., finally agreed to publish it. The major New York publishers said, "It is too nicey-nice" and "Nobody wants to read a book of short little stories."

Since that time more than 8 million copies of the original Chicken Soup for the Soul book have been sold. The series, which has grown to thirty-two titles, in thirty-one languages, has sold more than 53 million copies.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, fired Elvis Presley after one performance. He told Presley, "You ain't goin'

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nowhere... son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck." Elvis Presley went on to become the most popular singer in America.

Dr. Seuss' first children's book, *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, was rejected by twenty-seven publishers. The twenty-eighth publisher, Vanguard press, sold six million copies of the book.

Never give up believing in yourself and God!!!

Chapter 9

7 Powerful Principles of The Kingdom

7 Kingdom Principles

1. God Owns It All

The first principle of the kingdom is that the Creator of the universe owns it all. That makes us stewards and keepers of God's resources.

If you think that you really, truly own anything in this universe, you're mistaken, because God owns it all.

When we talk about personal finance, it's easy to make plans about what we're going to do with "our money." But when we talk about "our money," it's important to understand what that really means. The money isn't ours in the sense that we own it; it's simply ours in the sense that we're responsible for managing it.

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Too often, though, we begin to believe that the things that we have are really ours. This attitude can get down into our hearts and cause us to become slaves to money. To break free, we've got to replace that erroneous idea with this true one: God owns it all.

When you think about it, the idea that God owns everything makes perfect sense. After all, God created us, and the earth that we inhabit. We had no inherent right to exist outside of His sovereignty; why would we think that we have an inherent right to own anything beyond what God's sovereign will allows?

The truth is that God owns everything in this world. We may think that our stuff belongs to us, but God says clearly in His word that it really belongs to him. Here are some examples:

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

Psalm 50:10 *Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills*

God claims exclusive ownership of everything in this world, including the Earth itself and all of the creatures that live in it. He also claims all of the world's wealth: **Psalm 50** was written in a

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time when the economy was based on agriculture, and animals such as cows, goats, and sheep were considered units of wealth. So when God talks about owning livestock, He's not just saying that He owns some animals. He's demonstrating that He is the creator and owner of all of the wealth in the world.

The thought that God owns everything can be a sobering one. It certainly affects the way that we handle money. After all, if God really owns it, then I'm responsible to Him for how I spend the money that He has allocated to me. That means that every dollar that I spend ought to have some sort of eternal purpose attached to it.

This concept isn't all heavy, though. It also means that God has infinite resources at His disposal, and He uses them to meet our needs and to bless us. God is greater than any business, government or bad economy. It doesn't matter how much doom and gloom there is in the media, or what the experts say. God owns everything and gives us those resources when we call on Him.

In the Old Testament, King David understood this principle well, and gives us a beautiful description of it in, **I Chronicles 29:12-16:**

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all

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things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks and praise Your glorious name.

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building You a temple for Your holy name comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to You.

David recognized that all of the wealth and abundance of the Israelites were gifts from God, and out of that blessing they built a temple to worship Him.

God owns it all, and He gives to us out of His own abundance. We who are blessed should remember where our resources truly come from, and always seek ways to honor God with the money that He has given us. We will be accountable for our

stewardship.

2. Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength

Jesus said

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:36-40

What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength Deuteronomy 6:5 This is known as the Shema, taken from the first word “hear” in Hebrew. Modern Jews consider the recital of the Shema both evening and morning to be one of their most sacred duties. It was cited by Jesus as the *greatest commandment in the Law. Matthew 22:36-37*

That command seems to be impossible to obey. That’s because, in the natural state of man, it is impossible. There is no greater evidence of the inability of man to obey God’s Law than

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this one commandment.

No human being with a fallen nature can possibly love God with all his heart, soul, and strength 24 hours a day. It's humanly impossible. But to disobey any commandment of God is sin. Therefore, even without considering the sins we commit daily, we are all condemned by our inability to fulfill this one commandment.

This is the reason Jesus continually reminded the Pharisees of their inability to keep the Law of God. He was trying to get them to see their utter spiritual bankruptcy and their need for a Savior. Without the cleansing of sin that He provides, and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit who lives in the hearts of the redeemed, loving God to any degree is impossible.

But, as Christians, we have been cleansed from sin and we do have the Spirit. So how do we begin to love God the way we should? Just as the man in **Mark 9:24** asked God to help his unbelief, so too we can ask God to help us in areas where we don't love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is His power that we need to do the impossible, and we begin by seeking and appropriating that power.

In most cases, our love and affection for God grows more intense as time goes by. Certainly, young Christians newly saved are very much aware of the love of God and their love for Him.

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But it is through the witness of God's faithfulness during times of struggle and trial that a deep love for God grows and grows. Over time, we witness His compassion, mercy, grace, and love for us, as well as His hatred for sin, His holiness, and His righteousness.

We cannot love someone we don't know, so knowing Him should be our first priority. Those who pursue God and His righteousness, who take seriously the command to love Him above all else, are those who are consumed with the things of God. They are eager to study God's Word, eager to pray, eager to obey and honor God in all things, and eager to share Jesus Christ with others. It is through these spiritual disciplines that the love for God grows and matures to the glory of God.

3. Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

Who Packed Your Parachute Today?

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

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One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning,' 'how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching

safety. Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.

What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

An expert in the law tried to test the Lord Jesus by asking Him to declare what was the greatest commandment in the Law of Moses. In one masterful statement, **Jesus condensed the entire law that God had given Moses: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:37-40**

When we read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, we are struck with the realization that they focus on these two issues. Certainly, we are to love God supremely. But what does it mean to love our neighbor as ourselves?

Jesus is quoting here from **Leviticus 19**. Let's look at its context: *When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard,*

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nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD **Leviticus 19: 9-18**

Notice that loving our neighbor would include sharing with the poor and the alien; compassion and absolute honesty and justice in our relationships with others; impartiality; a refusal to be a party to gossip or slander; an absence of malice toward anyone and a refusal to bear a grudge; taking care never to put another's life at risk and never taking private vengeance upon another. It is also interesting to note that when we have an issue with anyone, we should strive to make it right by going to him or her directly. James calls this the "royal law" **James 2:8**. Our Lord taught that we should do to others as we would have them do to us. **Matthew 7:12**

It is a fact that anyone who does not have a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ will die in his sins and face eternity in hell. Therefore, we owe it to our neighbors to lovingly share with them the good news of the gospel. True believers have been forgiven, possess eternal life, and have blessings forever as the result of others who have shared the gospel with them. God's love is evidenced in us as we communicate this precious gospel and love others as we have been loved.

4. Be Fruitful and Multiply

After Adam and Eve were created, God blessed them and said to them. Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it using all the vast resources in the service of God and man. Genesis 1:28

This is the first command in the Bible and the second principle of the kingdom.

It is clear that it was God's intent to fill the earth with people for His glorification. The application for us today is to subdue the vast physical resources of earth which also includes the use of our talents and the capabilities for the glory of God and service to people.

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In the New Testament, Jesus told the Parable of the Talents in **Matthew 25: 13-30.**

This is a story of the importance of being a good steward of all that has been entrusted to us. To fulfill our purpose is to be connected to our diligence in being fruitful and multiplying the talents gifted to us.

Here is the “Parable of The Talents,” for your review or impartation if you do not know the story.

Be watchful and give strict attention, be cautious and active, for you do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will come or when your life will end.

For it is like a man who was about to take a long journey, and he called his servants, together and entrusted them with his property.

To one, he gave five talents, to another he gave two talents and to another, he gave one talent. He gave talents to each one in proportion to their own personal ability. Then he departed and left the country.

The one who had received the five talents went immediately and traded with them, and he gained five more.

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Likewise, the one who had received two talents went and traded and he gained two more talents.

The one who had received the one talent went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time, the master of those servants returned to settle accounts with them.

The one who had received the five talents came and brought to the master five more, saying, master, you had entrusted to me five talents; I have gained five more.

The master said to him, well done, you upright honorable, admirable and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy, the delight, the blessedness which your master enjoys.

The one who had the two talents came forward, saying, master, you have entrusted two talents to me; I have gained two talents more.

His master said to him, well done, you up right, honorable, admirable and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy, the delight, the blessedness which your master enjoys.

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The one who had received one talent also came forward saying, master, I knew you to be a harsh and hard man and was afraid, and I went and hid your talents in the ground; here I have returned to you what is your own.

The master answered him, you wicked, lazy and idle servant!

You should have invested my money with bankers, and at my coming, I would have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the 10 talents.

For everyone who has will more be given, and he will be furnished richly so that he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have will be taken away.

Let's consider nine principles about "Parable of the Talents."

First, what is the value of a talent? A Greek coin with a value of 5,000-6,000 denari (denari = Roman silver coin equivalent to a day's wages of a common laborer). One talent = 15 years wages of a

laborer. It obviously also represents property, money and material wealth.

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The goods which the master entrusts to his servants signify all the natural gifts granted by God to his creatures: health, intelligence, riches, and relationships. All these exist through God and for God; we are no more than keepers charged with administering these divine assets. The talents signify, above all, the supernatural gifts, the communication of divine life to men and the graces with which we are showered at every instant.

Second, everyone is given at least one talent so we should never think or believe that God our Master has forgotten about us and didn't give us even one single gift for our stewardship.

Third, God has given more gifts to some than others each according to his or her ability. We should not be looking at other people's talents and wishing that we possessed their talents, neither should we be judging others because we have more talents. God has given us exactly what we need and certainly no more than we can handle.

Fourth, we are expected to be productive and use our talents to multiply them. If we want to have more gifts and talents, we must use the ones God has entrusted to us. Trading and investing money to build assets involves risk. Employing and sharing our gifts and talents also implies the risk that we may suffer loss or

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rejection or persecution in doing God's work. If we want to really play it safe, we'll go and bury our talent, taking no risk at all.

Fifth, at some point in the future we must give an account of what's been placed in our care. What did we do with our gift and talent and what did we do with the fruits or proceeds that it brought forth? We will not take any of the possessions with us. At that point, our talents will be returned to the Master. Accounting happens here whenever we are asked to give to someone in need or to some organization or cause, which helps other people.

Sixth, joy in this life comes from good management and good stewardship. If you know how to discipline yourself to be productive and to share, even and especially with the smallest gift, determines if we'll be entrusted with more talents and gifts. Entering into the joy of our master implies that our heart is already in a condition of joy, free from possessiveness and laziness.

Seventh, our perception and attitude towards God affects how we live. Do we see God as someone harsh and ruthless or as generous and loving? Are you afraid of God so that your life is inhibited and stilted as opposed to courageously fulfilling your potential?

Eighth, When Jesus says, take the talent from him, and give it to

him who has the ten talents.” For to everyone who has, more will be given and He will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. He is saying that our wicked, slothful attitudes will cause us to want to consume and possess more, to be jealous and covet more. Idleness and laziness imply a self-centeredness that is wasteful of God’s gifts. On the other hand, generosity and productiveness give us satisfaction and fulfillment, contentment and peace.

Ninth, in managing what God has given us, our fruitfulness or lack thereof will affect our rewards in heaven.

Conclusion- Think very carefully about what God has given you.

He has given you everything that you have. Now think about how you’re managing it. Think of your new life in Christ. Is your faith in God, including the ethics, morals, and values that He teaches through the Bible, buried somewhere collecting dust? Or are you putting on the robe of righteousness and faith and trust in God every day, going out and sharing it and producing fruit and more righteousness making His Kingdom on earth ever present and more powerful?

Everyone should strive for and long to hear the words, **“Well done good and faithful servant!”**

5. Desire - What Do You Really

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Want? Jesus said, what do you want?

John 1:38

Ask in Faith

Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea: it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:21–22

It is surprising to me when I talk to various people about important matters of life, such as their chief purpose or what they really want; they lack clarity.

People struggle to clearly articulate what they really want in life. Do you really, really know and could quickly write a list of top priorities?

You can actually have whatever you want.

In Jesus' own words, *and all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:21–22*

What are your dreams?

What are your greatest dreams right

now? What are your top 10 dreams?

1. Your dream is the strongest picture in your mind of your future.
2. Your dream will require extraordinary faith.
3. Your dream will require extraordinary seed.
4. Your dream will require extraordinary focus.
5. Your dream will require extraordinary favor.
6. Your dream will be your harvest for your seeds and faith, as you have invested in the work of God.

Here's the question; what do you really want?

Remember clarity leads to power and the ability to do an act.

The number one reason most people don't get what they want is that they don't know what they want.

What do you really want?

What you must realize is that the most important word here is that you know what you want!

What's right for you is not necessarily what's right for other family members or other people but what's right for you.

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When I graduated from college and started my first job I was fortunate to go through a management training program. I worked in each of the operational departments of the whole company.

At the completion of the program, there were department executives that had seen my work and were interested in offering me a position in their department.

My boss at the time gave me advice on which one to choose. I was strongly interested in a position in Human Resources and that was not one of the positions available.

He said that he did not realize my interest in that area but would help me do what I truly desired. The point is that I knew what I wanted and expressed it and sought the help of others to get the correct position for me.

Of course, there are different ways to get to your desired results and often times we need to take alternative routes but the main thing is to not let others decide them for you and you must know what you really want. We will have more to say about that topic later.

Some people tell you what you should want but what do you really want in your heart of hearts.

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Everyone is unique including you so you have your specific desires.

That's what radio and TV in society say you want, but what do you really want.

Do you want just enough or do you want an abundance, what do you really want?

Do you want to own your own business?

Or do you want to work for someone else?

What do you really want?

The main thing is what you really want. Forget about what everybody else wants.

You need to live it the way you decide.

If you want to travel the world, if you don't, it's up to you.

Maybe you just like a regular routine.

An important point is; what do you want today! Not what you wanted 10 years ago or five years ago or a month ago.

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So what do you want now?

It's likely what you want now is not what you wanted in the past.

It's possible that your new dreams might be quite different from your old dreams.

I remember in the past that I would write down my dreams and the new year would come along and I'd write down the same dreams and so why wasn't I reaching them?

So I had to decide; what do I want now?

Why do I want this?
What is my Big Why?
Why don't I already have it?

In your desires, make certain that you are pure of heart and have correct motives.

Consider the Greek myth

King Midas and his touch, the story of King Midas is a myth about the tragedy of avarice and narrates what happens when true happiness is not recognized.

Midas was a man who wished that everything he touched would turn into gold. However, he had not thought that this wish was

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not actually a blessing, but a curse.

His greed invites us to think and realize the consequences that may lead us to become slaves of our own desires. The phrase the Midas touch comes from this myth and is used to say that somebody has a good fortune.

Discover the myth of King Midas and his golden touch.

The Wish

Midas was a king of great fortune who ruled the country of Phrygia, in Asia Minor. He had everything a king could wish for. He lived in luxury in a great castle. He shared his life of abundance with his beautiful daughter.

Even though he was very rich, Midas thought that his greatest happiness was provided by gold. His avarice was such that he used to spend his days counting his golden coins!

Occasionally he used to cover his body with gold objects as if he wanted to bath in them. Money was his obsession.

One day, Dionysius, the god of wine and revelry, passed

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through the kingdom of Midas. One of his companions, a satyr named Silenus got delayed along the way. Silenus got tired and decided to take a nap in the famous rose gardens surrounding the palace of King Midas.

There, he was found by the king, who recognized him instantly and invited him to spend a few days at his palace. After that, Midas took him to Dionysius. The god of celebration, very grateful to Midas for his kindness, promised Midas to satisfy any wish of him.

Midas thought for a while and then he said: I hope that everything I touch becomes gold. Dionysius warned the king to think well about his wish, but Midas was positive. Dionysius could do nothing else and promised the king that from that following day everything he touched would turn into gold.

The Curse

The next day, Midas, woke up eager to see if his wish would become true. He extended his arm touching a small table that immediately turned into gold. Midas jumped with happiness!

He then touched a chair, the carpet, the door, his bathtub, a table and so he kept on running in his madness all over his palace until he got exhausted and happy at the same time!”

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He sat at the table to have breakfast and took a rose between his hands to smell its fragrance. When he touched it, the rose became gold. I will have to absorb the fragrance without touching the roses, I suppose, he thought in disappointment.

Without even thinking, he ate a grape but it also turned into gold! The same happened with a slice of bread and a glass of water.

Suddenly, he started to sense fear. Tears filled his eyes and that moment, his beloved daughter entered the room. When Midas hugged her, she turned into a golden statue! Despaired and fearful, he raised his arms and prayed to Dionysius to take this curse from him.

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The god heard Midas and felt sorry for him. He told Midas to go to river Pactolus and wash his hands. Midas did so: he ran to the river and was astonished to see gold flowing from his hands. The ancient Greeks said they had found gold on the banks of the river Pactolus.

When he turned home, everything Midas had touched had become normal again. Midas hugged his daughter in full happiness and decided to share his great fortune with his people.

From now on, Midas became a better person, generous and grateful for all goods of his life. His people led a prosperous life and when he died, they all mourned for their beloved king.

6. Believe

Jesus said, everything is possible to one who believes. Mark 9:23

Belief is that catalytic element to Transformational Prosperity.

When any thought is characterized by belief, the subconscious mind instantly accepts the vibration, translates it into his its spiritual equivalent, and transmits it to Infinite Intelligence.

It can be conscious, as in effective prayer and meditation, or it can be on the unconscious. Belief actuates a vibration.

How to develop belief...

Here's something which will give you a better understanding of the importance of the principle of programming. It assumes the transmutation of desire into its physical or monetary equivalent.

Belief is a state of mind that may be induced by affirmations, self-taught, and programming to the self-conscious mind.

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That's the good news, it can be induced.

Also, we need to realize that we are responsible for our belief.

The object is to acquire the ability to transmute the intangible thought impulsive desire into its physical counterpart, money or any desire.

By programming, you may convince your subconscious mind that you believe you will receive that for which you ask, and it will act on that belief, which your subconscious mind passes back to you in the form of faith, followed by definite plans for procuring that which you desire.

Belief is a state of mind that may be developed as you master the Principles of the Kingdom. The multidimensional state of mind develops of itself, through the application and use of the Principles of the Kingdom.

Programming creates belief...

Repetition of effectively crafted affirmations to your subconscious mind is a method to develop belief.

Any impulse of thought which is repeatedly passed on to the subconscious mind is finally accepted and acted upon by the

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subconscious mind, which proceeds to translate that impulse into its physical equivalent, by the most practical procedure available.

In other words the famous statement of quotes as “within, so without”...There is a statement that says, “Whatever the human mind can conceive and believe; it can achieve.” I believe that statement emanated from the story of the Tower of Babel, remember the statement was; *now man can accomplish anything he puts his mind to. Genesis 11:6*

That is the reason it is strongly suggested that you commit your affirmations and achievement visualizations to memory and repeat them time and time again.

The subconscious mind translates into its physical equivalent a thought impulse of a negative or destructive nature just as readily as it acts upon thought impulses of a positive or constructive nature.

This accounts for the strange phenomenon so many millions of people experience, referred to as “misfortune,” or “bad luck.”

There are millions of people who believe themselves “doomed to poverty and failure,” because of some strange force over which they believe they have no control.

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Though they can't conceive it from their present level of consciousness, they can be creators of their own “misfortunes.”

Because of this negative belief, which is picked up by the subconscious mind, is translated into its equivalent and that according to natural law.

This is exactly why you must rigorously control your thoughts – promoting, allowing, and encouraging only positive thoughts and visualizations.

Scripture says it this way... We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5**

You cannot hold any belief or emotion in your heart that does not manifest in your face and your countenance. This law works equally as well in reverse – with the emotions of jealousy, revenge, and hatred, as does with the positive emotions of cooperation, love, encouragement, and teaching.

Your programming is your life.

Who you really are – deep inside – you project, like the programming of a radio station, to all who tune in for a moment.

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You are like a computer.

Go forward to consciously and positively feed your mind and heart positive, present tense. You are like a computer.... The hardware produces results in accord with whatever software programs you have installed. Changing the process capacity “hardware” and programming “software” is the subject of a principle of programming.

According to the character and quality of your thoughts or in other words according to your beliefs and the impact of your images you manifest your life and affairs. Hardwired into the computer, programmed in the software – is how it works. What it outputs is in accord with the input you provide. You always get a result.

Good or bad there is output. After being born, you are like a computer with software installed and switched on.

Therefore, choose wisely with design, inspiration and purpose, your belief.

And the choosing wisely and rigorously controlling your thoughts need not be difficult in the least! Put your imagination to work with the full faith your intelligent organized planning will yield the results you seek.

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Get engaged early mornings and late at night. This is an empowering, focused, accomplishing time.

This is an appropriate place to suggest again that you may benefit by passing on to your subconscious mind any desire you wish translated into its physical or monetary equivalent, in a state of expectancy or belief.

The transmutation will actually take place. Your belief is that catalytic element that determines the action of your subconscious mind. To start with that you need to fire up your desire.

You must first get definite about it. What is it more than anything else that you want in monetary and contribution terms? Then put your motivation into motion, by believing and you will achieve it!

Some have started with "pretend." That's a great trick for many starting out who can't yet believe their projections and affirmations.

Pretend will do the trick as well as anything, for the simple fact that whatever you place through the subconscious mind comes to pass.

There is nothing to hinder you from "seeming" with your subconscious mind when giving it instructions through

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autosuggestion. The subconscious lives in the present tense and is extremely selfish, so the most powerful visualizations, dramas, emotions, and beliefs you can use to communicate with your subconscious, do that. Do so in the present tense, associated emotional and mental images encompassing your ardent desires. The workings of your subconscious mind transmute into its physical equivalent by the most direct and physical media available any order which is given to it in a state of belief. That order then will be carried out, no matter how illogical or logical it may appear.

Prove that it works by Experimentation and Practice.

Certainly, enough has been stated to give a starting point from which one may, through experiment and practice, acquire the ability to state and believe any order given to the subconscious mind. Perfection comes with practice. You cannot come by it merely by reading instructions.

The power of the mind, your responsibility

A mind dominated by positive emotions becomes a favorable vote for the state of mind known as belief. A mind so dominated may, at will, give the subconscious mind instructions, which accepts it and acts upon it immediately.

The mind comes, finally, to take on the nature of the influences which dominates it, whatever they may be, embrace

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this truth, and you grasp why it is essential for you to encourage the positive emotions as dominating forces of your mind and discourage and eliminate negative emotions.

Create circumstances to order...

If you are not conscious and guarded, you can and will be affected by the vibrations of thought which you pick up and registered through the stimuli of your heredity, family, and daily environment. The media is the worst culprit about distorting your reality and disempowering you, especially when there really is something to point at, like an unfavorable news report.

Resolve to throw off the influences of any unfortunate environment, and to build your own life to order.

Most discover they are weak on self-confidence. However, the application of the principle of self – suggestion may be made in part through affirmations – a simple arrangement of positive thought impulses stated in writing, memorize, and repeated, until they became a part of the working equipment of the subconscious faculty of your mind.

A magnetic force: the law of attraction.

Science confirms we are bio-electromagnetic beings.

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Thoughts which are mixed with any of the feelings of emotions, especially belief, constitutes a “magnetic force” which attracts, from the vibrations of the universe, other similar, or related thoughts, appropriate circumstances, chance meetings, and who knows what else?

Consider the electromagnet

As a model of how this works, consider the electromagnet. It is an ordinary piece of iron in its normal state. As such, it has no powers until you run an electrical current through the metal; its add-ons have been “awakened,” it develops magnetic properties. At that point, it acts as a cybernetic – synergistic loop. It is attracted to metal which is likewise attracted to it. No, the bar of metal did not change... only the current flowing through the metal changes. Yet the electromagnet’s entire reality changed, and it instantly became possessed with powers unknown and inaccessible to it during periods of ordinary inaction.

Also note, a magnetic force attracts and is attracted by only the things on its same “wavelength.” Everything else is ignored.

Belief is that current running through your thoughts which stimulates your bio-electromagnetic powers.

You become a charged person clothed with extraordinary powers and abilities. What you attract and are attracted to is in

accord with the dominant thoughts which occupy your mind. By default or design, the individual is the sculptor of their own destiny. “As within, so without”

Therefore, you can appreciate the absolute necessity of designing and controlling the content of your mind, or you may end up surrounded by circumstances not to your liking at all. What you think about, you bring about.

The vital science of affirmations

There's a reason why you want to do affirmations, they produce **results.**

You should do a quick reading of the “**God–confidence formula.**” It may hold the secret to your future prosperity.

God Confidence Formula

1st – I know I have the ability to achieve the object of my definite primary purpose in life, therefore, I demand of myself persistent, continuous action toward its obtainment, and I promise to render such action.

2nd – I realize the dominating thoughts of my mind eventually reproduce themselves. Outward, physical action, gradually transforms thoughts into physical reality, therefore, I concentrate my thoughts for 30 minutes daily, upon thinking of the person I am

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becoming, creating in my mind a clear, vibrant, moving, exciting mental video of that person.

3rd – I know through the principle of self-suggestion and programming, any desire I persistently hold in my mind eventually seeks expression through some practical means of attaining the object back of it, therefore I devote 10 minutes daily to nurturing and developing my God–confidence that empowers me to seek my biggest dreams!

4th – I have clearly written down a description of my definite primary plan in life, and I will never stop making it happen because I have developed God–confidence toward the attainment of this plan.

5th – I fully realize that no wealth or position can long endure, unless built upon truth and justice, therefore I engage in no transaction which does not benefit all whom it affects.

I succeed in attracting to myself the forces I wish to use, and the cooperation of other people. I influence others to serve with me, because of my willingness to serve others. I eliminate hatred, envy, jealousy, selfishness, and cynicism by developing love for all because I know that a negative attitude towards others can never bring me success.

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The Lord answered me and said write down the vision, clearly upon the tablets, so that you can read it often.

For the vision is for an appointed time until its fulfillment; it will not disappoint. It is delayed but wait for it. It will surely come, it will not be late. Habakkuk 2:2-4

I can do all things through Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through him who infuses inner strength into me: I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency Philippians 4:13

Be conscious!

The subconscious mind makes no distinction between constructive and destructive thought impulses. It works with the material we feed it, through our thought impulses. The subconscious mind translates into reality driven by fear just as readily as it translates into reality a thought driven by courage, God-confidence, or faith.

Awaken the Giant within:
Somewhere in you – there lies sleeping the seed of achievement, which if aroused and put into action, will cause you to soar to heights such as you have never hoped to attain.

Just as a master musician must cause the most beautiful strains of music to pour forth from the strings of a violin, so may you arouse the genius who lies asleep in your brain, and cause it to drive you upward to what – every goal you may wish to achieve.

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Remember Abraham Lincoln? He was a failure at everything he tried until he was well past the age of 40. He was a Mr. nobody from nowhere, until a great experience came into his life and aroused the sleeping genius within his heart and brain, and gave the world one of its greatest men.

Because his "experience," was mixed with emotions of sorrow and love coming through Ann Rutledge, the only woman he ever truly loved.

It is a known fact that the emotion of love is closely akin to the state of mind known as fate, and for this reason, love comes very near to translating one's thought impulses into their spiritual equivalent.

Research discovered, from the analysis of the life, work and achievements of thousands of individuals of outstanding accomplishment, that there was the influence of one's preferred love behind every one of them. The emotion of love in the human heart and brain creates a favorable field of magnetic attraction, causes an influx of the higher and finer vibrations afloat in the universe.

In conclusion, name your price.

Remember this, when you are ready to bargain with life for whatever it is you ask as your price for having passed this way.

Believe!

7. Faith, Now

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is a connector between us and God. Scripture says without faith it is impossible to please God: *For he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6*

Faith is the connector by which salvation, healing, and financial prosperity are all transferred from heaven to you.

Faith comes to you according to the scripture in **Romans 10:6–13**

Faith comes to you and me by hearing the word of God. God's word is the source of God's faith.

Everything God has, His very best, is always available to the claim of faith, His abundance is always at hand.

As we read before, there's a miracle in your mouth just waiting to be released. Our words must be filled with faith.

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Ephesians 6:6 *says that we're to take on the full armor of God, and it says, above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts or weapons of the wicked one.* Without the shield of faith, we are uncovered.

Romans 3:27 says faith works by spiritual law – the law of faith. There are two parts to our faith; God's plan and our part.

Faith.... that's God's part, by hearing.... that's our part, faith works.... that's God's part....all is done in love, that's our part.

So it's important to make the quality decision that we will keep the commandments of love and stay in the Word and live by faith. Faith according to the Word is life.

What is your definition of faith?

Therefore faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Faith is the beginning point of pleasing God. The Word says it is impossible to please God without faith.

According to **Romans 10:17** in **Galatians 5:6** it is your responsibility to build your faith and implement it and that is

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done by hearing the Word, doing the work, by speaking the Word and acting on it in love.

Do things in your life look bleak; regarding your health, your finances, family trouble, or other issues? You could list a big stack of problems and issues that you're dealing with and you feel overwhelmed.

Don't let the devil defeat you. He has never come up with a plan or a list of problems that faith in God cannot fix.

Even in times like these when the whole world seems to be in turmoil, God can bring you through it.

Look at what he did for the Israelites. **Exodus 10:23** says *when darkness covered the land of Egypt for the Israelites lived in darkness so thick Egyptians couldn't see each other move for three days*. All the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Is your world dark today?

The faith connection with God is why it's so important to develop your faith because faith is what connects you to the blessings of God. It's the force that gives those blessing substance in your life according to **Hebrews 11:1**. Also in **Hebrews 11:6** says faith pleases God.

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It's faith that reaches into the realm of the Spirit, takes the promises of God and brings them in a tangible, physical for the fulfilling of those promises. It brings spiritual blessings. Faith brings action on earth. In the book of James, we learned that faith is dead without works.

I remember my mother teaching me from the book of James as a child. She would say faith is dead without works always remember, that you must act on your faith. Don't just hear it but act on it.

We have access by faith into this grace of God according to **Romans 5:2**. When you received Grace for the new birth you received it by faith. If you want God's grace for healing, you must receive it by faith. If you want God's grace in your finances and in every other area of your life, you must receive it by faith.

I would like to share a modern day story that I personally experienced and some ancient history stories to embolden our faith.

The 2010 Oil Spill.

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In the BP Oil Spill in 2010, more than 200 million gallons of crude oil was pumped into the Gulf of Mexico for a total of 87 days, making it the biggest oil spill in U.S. history. 16,000 total miles of coastline have been affected, including the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

The world was in shock as it saw videos of oil spewing from the floor of the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill threatened our tourist way of life where we live in Santa Rosa Beach near Destin Florida.

Destin, having one of the oldest and largest fishing fleets on the Gulf of Mexico, could not survive if the pool of oil would come up into the harbor and onto the beaches.

All the local churches got together and decided to pray and to speak against the evil coming our way.

Church members walked the beaches from Inlet Beach FL near Panama City Beach all the way to Destin. That is 32 miles of beaches. They prayed and spoke to the mountain of underwater oil.

There was a time when the authorities of Destin were notified that in less than an hour, oil would reach and enter the Destin Harbor.

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Then, something miraculous happened. Strange and unusual winds and currents occurred.

The large pool of oil that was about to devastate the Destin beaches and move into the Destin Harbor was diverted in a supernatural way, out deep into the Gulf of Mexico.

No oil ever reached the shores near Destin and the famous Highway 30A.

This was indeed Divine intervention with God's favor and manifestation of applied faith. We praise the Lord!

Other examples of receiving God's promises through faith, we see it in the story of Abraham. God told him and Sarah they were going to have a baby. Abraham believed it and took God at his word.

In light of his circumstances, that was quite a step of faith. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years of age and barren. Most people would have been overwhelmed by those promises and would not have believed what God said. But not Abraham, he believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. Romans 4:3.

In the natural realm, it was impossible for what God said would come to pass, but Abraham believed God anyway.

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That's what the spirit of faith does. It looks at the most impossible circumstances and believes God anyway!

Do you have circumstances that in the natural that are impossible?

Do you have the desire to live by faith but find it discouraging because of the mess you are in?

Instead... stop looking at the mess and focus your attention on the promises of God. Keep his Word in front of your eyes and in your ears until you can see it coming to pass with the eyes of your spirit.

That's what the spirit of faith does. *“For the things that are visible are temporal, which means subject to change, but the things that are invisible are eternal.” II Corinthians 4:18*

I'm not really saying that you should ignore your problems or close your eyes to them as if they don't exist. They are real.

But, according to the Word of God, they are temporal, which means they are subject to change. You can be assured that if you keep looking at the Word, they will change!

In Abraham's life, we see proof of that. **Romans 4:18-21** says that he against all hope believed, that he might become the father of many nations according to that which was spoken, so shall thy

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seed be.

And being that we can face, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about 100 years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's wall: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; I am being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham did not consider his body. He didn't focus his attention on the facts that his wife was barren and that he was 100 years old. He wasn't looking at his own ability. He was looking at God's. He kept his attention on the power and promise of God until he was fully persuaded that God could and would bring it to pass.

God expects us to only believe. Isn't that wonderfully simple?

Believe! Spend your time considering God's Word instead of focusing on your own limitations. Be encouraged to end up with faith like Abraham.

Because of Abraham and his seed we are blessed today. That was the promise of God.

Abraham and Sarah lived long. Sarah lived to be 127 years old, and Abraham was 137 years old. He has become the father of many nations just like God said. That is what is called the spirit of faith!

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There are examples of faith in the New Testament that demonstrates this very thing. It is the story of Jesus going about doing miracles.

And there was a rich man call Jairus; he was ruler over the synagogue and was a man of prominence. His daughter was sick unto death and he came to Jesus asking Him if he would heal his daughter. Jesus said I will go to your house where she is.

While Jesus was on his way he was mobbed by many people and there was a woman in the crowd that needed a miracle just like Jairus needed a miracle. Her situation was different. She had an issue of blood, which had caused her problems for many years; she was destitute and had spent all her money on doctors trying to get her problem solved and she never did.

She had some kind of revelation that if she could just touch the garments of Jesus she would be healed. This was a big risk for her in that she was not allowed to be in public with her ailment. It was illegal for her to be in public at that time. Somehow she overcame her fear of being arrested or whatever would happen to her and was just intent on getting healed.

She knew that Jesus could solve her problem. All she had to do was touch the hem of his garment. She did touch the hem of his garment and she was immediately healed.

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Jesus stopped and turned around and He said who touched me? His disciples were indignant and said, what do you mean, everybody's touching you. He said no, I felt virtue leave my body. Healing of someone had occurred as a result of the touch of his garment.

The woman was alarmed and frightened trembling and came forward and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. He looked at her and said, daughter, your faith in Me has restored you to health.

An interesting point of significance is that a rabbi wore a shawl that had tassels on it and those tassels had significance. They are called wings.

In **Malachi 4:2** it says and *“He has healing in His wings and so she touched one of those wings and He provided her healing.”*

The rest of the story about the other miracle is that when He got to where the daughter was he was told she had already died. We know that Jairus was a rich man because he had mourners at his house. The rich people during that time had professional mourners so if someone died they would be outside wherever the body was and there would have weeping and wailing in honor of the dead person.

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Jesus said don't worry she is asleep. Then the people there all laughed and jeered at Him. Jesus put them all out except the father and mother and then he went into where the daughter was, took her by the hand and commanded that she rise and she did. All were utterly amazed.

She was healed by the power of Jesus but manifested by the faith of her father Jairus.

Now, let us return to the woman with the issue of blood. She had tried everything in her power that she knew of and spent all her money with doctors to find a solution but there was none. We are not sure when she got a revelation that Jesus could heal could heal her.

A lesson for us is that instead of us trying to figure it out and exert all our energy on how to solve our particular problems we should inquire of the Lord first and get direction and then get the manifestation of His grace, such as financial provision, healing, restoration and repairing families or any other problems. That sounds good and it sounds easy but to put into practice is more difficult.

Faith and Patience

Almost everywhere you find faith mentioned in the Bible, you'll find

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patience. Faith and patience together, produce a powerful force.

In the Word, it says *that you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
Hebrews 6:12

Also in **James 1:2–4** it says, *count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations; knowing this, but the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that he may be perfect in the entire, wanting nothing.*

Patience without faith, however, has no power to call into existence the things desired. Since faith is the substance of things we hope for, patience without faith has no substance.

Patience undergirds our faith and gives it endurance and perseverance until the answer comes.

Faith is a powerful force. It always works. It is not that our faith is weak and needs strength, but without the power of patience, we stop the force from working in our lives. That can be because of our negative words and actions. It's our faith, and we can either put it into action or stop it from working.

The definition of patience is, being constant, or being the same way all the time. The book of James says we are to be single-minded.

We must always respond in every circumstance of life the same

way, and that is using the word of God. Regardless of what trials and tribulations come our way, we must become so Word of God oriented that we do not act in fear, doubt or unbelief but always on what the Word of God says. The Word says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

In the Word, **I Corinthians 10:13** says *no temptation has taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that we are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Look at the three important aspects of trials.

1. Testing's and temptations are common to everyone.

2. God is faithful. You will never face anything that you cannot overcome.

3. God always provides the way of escape.

Satan's weapons are no match for the weapons that God has provided for us. Satan is limited to the things that are common to mankind. We have access, to the full armor of God himself. Our patience rests on the reality of the full assurance that, no matter what comes next, Jesus has provided more than enough victory for us.

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No matter what trials you are facing, sickness, broken relationships, being broke or whatever the devil can throw at you, then you must exercise your faith in God. Then, let patience have its perfect work. The force of faith will be at work, undergirded by the power of patience.

Begin confessing with your mouth that what you are, believing for, is yours, and by your actions show that it is yours. Patience believes that you receive it, and it will be allowed to work until the victory is completely yours.

You need to say no, I will not be moved by what I see or feel or what the circumstances are. I will only be moved by the Word of God. I patiently rest in the truth in God's mighty word.

There are three important
factors.

1. The circumstance we see.

GPS

2. The facts. Confession

3. The truth. Belief

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When we look at the circumstances we are uncomfortable, overwhelmed and sometimes filled with unbelief that the problem can be solved. Fear doubt and unbelief creep in and the circumstances seem to get worse.

Then there are the facts; your bank account actually is empty, or you actually do have a physical ailment and you are sick. The truth is we have Grace, and through our faith, we receive the provision, the healing and the overcoming of the impossible circumstances.

Often times we fail to do what the woman did with the issue of blood. She stretched her belief and with great risk she went forward to take action, to exercise her faith.

In considering these three parts, the first one is like having a GPS system. Make sure you use the God Positioning System (GPS). Ask! Sometimes the one in your vehicle gives you wrong information. In order to get to your destination, you need to determine where you are currently located. So what is your current situation?

Identify all the aspects of it. Some people think that you can't mention what the aspects are because it will just solidify the circumstances. That's not exactly true.

Just prior to the illegal trial of Jesus, while in the garden of Gethsemane He was with His disciple to pray. He said that His

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soul was exceedingly sad, overwhelmed with grief so that it almost kills Me. When Jesus was on the cross He said: ***“I thirst”***. He spoke about the circumstance.

First, identify all aspects of your situation.

The **second** part is to confess who He is and that He is your provider, healer rescuer and He is the lover of your soul. He is the **“I Am”**, the all in all, whatever we need. So we acknowledge our inability to solve this problem without His grace.

The **third** part is that we acknowledge what He can do. The woman with the issue of blood said if I only touch His garment I will be healed. She knew what He could do. She stretched herself to take action, in the face of great risk to get her healing.

You can stretch also to receive from God.

After the woman was healed she went about telling everyone and the Word says, as many as touched Him were healed, so they all got healed and they all came rushing out to see Him.

She was persuaded. Abraham was persuaded as well.

Are you persuaded? Determine how persuaded you are when there are delays. At times we pray and believe and we still don't get relief, then what?

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We need to press into Him and keep on asking.

What are you believing for?

Finances?

Healing family problems?

Healing?

Chapter 10

“The Power To Prosper” – Life Design System



Important questions for you...

How would you like to have more success in your life?

How about more money?

How about better relationships?

Would you like to be happier?

Would you like more spiritual growth?

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“**The Power To Prosper**”, *Life Design System* was designed as a guide for personal transformation.

I will guarantee that as you follow the process outlined, it will be worth every second of your time because it could change your life.

I believe that everybody has some kind of picture in their mind of what they would like their life to be.

It is important to realize that the picture most people have in their mind and actually what their life is really like is worlds apart.

They very often don't have the desires that they really want.

They don't have the money, they don't have the freedom, they don't have the health that they really, really, want, and they don't have the relationships that they really want.

They often don't feel fulfilled; they don't have true happiness, so in other words, they are not living an extraordinary life.

So let me ask you this, how does it feel to you when you are here and you want to be there?

For most of us that would make us feel really frustrated, confused and disappointed for sure.

So why is it that people don't have the kind of life they really, really want? 99%; do not.

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Basically, the reason is that they don't have the skill and the knowledge because they never learned the skill of intentionally designing and creating their lives.

Here's a secret that most people don't know. And that is that designing and creating your actual life is a learnable skill.

The good news is that there's a system, a formula, a recipe that hardly anybody knows about. So when you apply this system it is life-altering.

Very few people have left this earth having lived their life to the full. A lot of people live, as they say, a life of monotony or quiet lives of desperation; or at the very least an average life.

Consider, **“The Power To Prosper,” Life Design System**, to help solve the problem of not living your higher life. Or not living the life you really want. Really, really, want.

This system was developed as a result of my life's experiences and those of some of the top success trainers in the world.

This program works and it will work for you if you follow it completely.

So would you like to have your life in balance regarding your money, your business, and your relationships with your family, your personal growth and your environment?

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That is what you will discover in this process.

Everybody that has experienced this process has upgraded their life substantially, from steps to transition to transformation. And that can happen for you too.

It is your job to get started on your own. If you do that you will be amazed at how fast your life will take on a new feel.

Answer all the questions completely.

Access the questionnaire in Appendix item #6.

Chapter 11

The Money Thing



The Money Thing

The more specific you are about the amount of money you want to make, the more important it is to identify the right thinking and feeling along with applying the specialized knowledge, skill to the right strategies and tactics.

Options for making money

There are six options to consider when it comes to making of finding money.

1. Win it. In any given year, about 30 people out of 250 million will win a big lottery. You probably don't want to bank your financial career on hitting the winning numbers. Statistics show that 85% of people that win the lottery quickly lose all the

money within a few short years. I always say that those who bank on the lottery don't know much about statistics.

2. Steal it. The price this is quite expensive. So stealing money and going to jail is not an option.

3. Inherit it. I don't know about your family, but in my family, this option is not one. This means the only option left for me, and I would imagine for you too, is to earn it. And that means it's really important to understand the laws of earning money.

4. Find it. The odds on this one are just as high as winning the lottery or less. Hoping for this is not realistic

5. Invest it. This is an excellent option that requires your own or someone else's specialized knowledge in one or more of many options like, Real Estate, stocks, diamonds, business, currencies, commodities etc There are so many ways in this section and the last is the best....

6. Earn it. The marketplace pays you based on the value you bring to it and your ability to get people to exchange their money for your product, service, ideas or investments.

We actually go to work and provide real tangible value in the marketplace to become financially free.

I know that many are already working hard and providing value but you may not be working on the right things in the right order

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and in the right quantities to become financially free.

If you are currently not earning the amount that causes you to be financially free it's because you're not offering that amount of value of worth of your products, services knowledge or expertise in either enough people are the right people.

Money is the part of a value system whereby those who figure out how to provide more of their knowledge, expertise, products, and services, in the marketplace can become financially free.

First put Value into yourself

The first question to ask is this; do I really feel that I deserve to earn enough money to become financially free? I can honestly tell you that the people I know who make a lot of money do so because they have earned the right and ability to do so and are absolute, unequivocal, without a doubt, feel and believe that they deserve it.

If you don't believe you deserve to be financially free you must raise you're "deserving level" and lower your excuses level. By excuses level, it means all your reasons and excuses about why you can't earn this amount of money or why you haven't earned this amount of money so far.

It's time to stop telling yourself that you aren't smart enough or good

enough or that you don't know enough, so start pouring high worth value on yourself. If you don't value yourself that much, others will only value you and treat you as you do value and secretly see yourself. Also, the money, people, and opportunities will never, ever be attracted to you in these quantities.

Your financial persona and blueprint

Each of us has a money blueprint. That is the way we view money. We received our money blueprint from three basic sources.

First, what you were taught by parents, teachers, and authority figures. Things you were taught in kindergarten through high school.

Second, the things you heard from your parents or family. You know the phrases; "Do you think money grows on trees?" "Do you think I am made of money?"

"We are not rich." "We cannot keep up with the Joneses." You can add many more, or can you?

Third, the experiences you have had. Did someone in your family go bankrupt? Did your family lose your home to foreclosure? Did your family have to live paycheck to paycheck?

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Did anyone in your family have to receive welfare from the government? Has anyone in your family been homeless? Have you experienced any of these conditions?

Can you see the way a money blueprint is implanted? The concept of lack would be prevalent in that money blueprint. Money is scarce and hard to get. You have to really work hard for it.

Has your family always had more than enough? Never lacking anything? A family that has always going on great vacations; always having new cars and living in a high-end neighborhood? You can see that money blueprint is based on abundance and lack is not a concern. Yes, there is the constant want and need for more.

Your money blueprint is like a thermostat. It is set according to your settings. When you get above your set level and something happens good to rise above your set level, then you take unconscious or even conscious steps to put the thermostat back to your perceived correct setting. You may make bad decisions or take actions that could be called self sabotage.

The good news is that your money blueprint or thermostat can be reprogrammed.

Each of us has a persona, a term that comes from a Greek word meaning mask. We wear masks about all sorts of

different things: we all have our money face or our game face on whether or not we are aware of it. To attract more money, you must alter your financial persona immediately. Start thinking, acting, and behaving like the people who are already earning an income you want to earn.

Remember the astounding come back of Donald Trump from financial devastation? At one time he was \$900 million in debt and kept his game face on as if nothing was wrong. Trump kept his persona in line with his billionaire mindset. With things crumbling around his financial world, his mask stayed on. He had a spectacular come back and look where he is now.

One of the best ways to alter your financial persona is to believe a certain thing that's not a reality now. You can impress a new persona upon your subconscious mind using the right visualization techniques; affirmations, and meditation techniques and that new persona will take hold and go into action.

It takes between 30–90 days to retrain your brain daily to start seeing and feeling the effects of changing the way you see yourself, or your money persona. It's a deliberate way to involve your financial self image from the inside out. Do that, then and only then will the physical outside world match the new inside image.

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We don't see the world as it is, we only see the world as we are.

The financial results you're having is a mirror of your internal financial blueprint. When you change your internal blueprint, you change the outside results.

Here is a little formula for attracting and earning more money:

Increase your “**Deserving Level**”, through your new self-worth vibration.

Alter your financial persona immediately. Start walking, talking, and behaving like a person who is already earning the level of income you want to earn.

If you focus on a new self-image daily and repeat it often, you start to assume the reality of your thoughts, feelings, and actions that your thoughts are portraying. Even though this may feel awkward at first and is totally normal. Over time, you assume your new reality.

Your subconscious doesn't know the difference between something real or imagined; over time, you assume your new reality.

The more you rehearse your new role play, the easier and faster it becomes to internalize your new pattern and blueprint. So if you

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imagine it long enough, you will manifest it.

You will probably find some resistance from your own internal dialogue. That small voice inside your head will argue, but you're not financially free yet. You're not making that amount of money.

Why do you keep telling yourself that you do? Why do you walk and talk this way? You are lying to yourself and just faking it.”

I recommend that you try what some actors have done. They recorded exactly what they wanted to achieve both professionally and financially. Then they did the work to be able to believe what they needed to, in order to achieve what they wanted. It is called faith and works coming together.

Think about what you want one year or five years now and perhaps carry a check in your wallet written out to yourself for that exact amount. Then every time you get out your wallet, you're sending an electrical message to your brain that matches your vision and goal.

In the marketplace, once you have the right vibration, the right persona, and the belief that you deserve to earn more money – and you understand that you're probably not going to get it by any

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other way other than earlier. Since the whole universe operates by laws, what are the laws of compensation?

Laws of earning money

You will get paid in direct proportion to the service and value you bring to the marketplace for which you charge for it.

If you can determine how to bring more amazing products, ideas, services and more value, people will gladly exchange with you their money.

To become financially free ask yourself these three questions.

1. Is there a need in the marketplace for my product, idea, service or in the investment I want to make?
2. Compared to other investment opportunities or a similar product or service that you offer for sale, how good is yours from a quality perspective, how unique is it? The more unique you are or your product or service, the more you can earn from it. Start thinking specialization and being the best at something instead of general or average. Compare a general doctor versus brain surgeon.
3. How good is your ability to analyze opportunities or the market and sell your product, idea or service? Your ability to market and sell your product or service to generate revenue at a

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local, regional, national or international level is the most vital part of the equation if you are earning money from marketing and selling. Note that you do not personally have to be the expert in sales or marketing for your product or service but you do have to build a team around you that has those skills sets. Always hire or partner with people who play at things you have to work at. Here's what you need: knowledge plus skill equals plus your confidence and certainty level.

Back to the formula:

Formula- $T+F+A=R$. Thinking leads to Feelings which causes Action=Results or Outcomes.

The accelerators to success are Purpose, Drive and Tenacity with Passion, and Enthusiasm, with Flexibility.

Here is the money game plan:

Step one: Write down your vision/goal/income with absolute clarity.

Step two: Practice correct habits and beliefs about money and you will win at the money thing.

Step three: Master the product, service or investment vehicle you are going to implement while applying the knowledge, skills, strategies, and tactics needed to

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accomplish your financial goal.

Step four: Surround yourself with the team to help you apply your plan.

Step five: Daily action taken towards toward your goals.

Step six: Tweak your thoughts and actions as often as possible until you develop a system and process that repeatedly works for you.

Step seven: No matter what; have fun, and then share it.

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Conclusion

The pure truth about prosperity is that *it is God's will for you to prosper and to be in good health, even as your soul prospers.*

3 John1:2

There is no reason for you to think of prosperity as something separate from your spiritual life. God is a rich, loving, understanding Father into all your affairs every day. Ask His divine instruction and guidance about all of your earthly affairs, financial, family, health, and you will experience His grace in every phase of your life. *All things are yours, is the divine promise. I Corinthians 3:21*

The Bible clearly teaches that you are not pleasing to God by settling for lack and limitation in your life. Also, you are not satisfied or pleased with yourself either.

The very first chapter in the Bible describes the rich universe created for man and the last book of the Bible symbolically describes heaven in rich terms.

Most of the great men of the Bible were either born prosperous, became prosperous or had access to riches whenever the need arose.

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Among them were Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Elijah and Elisha of the Old Testament; and Jesus and Paul of the New Testament.

Jesus' life and teachings show clear evidence of His understanding and application of the principles of the Kingdom.

As a baby, He was presented with rich gifts by the Wise Men. Although Jesus has been described as being poor, with no place to lay His head, He had a home with His parents in Nazareth and was gladly welcomed into the homes of both rich and poor all over Palestine.

His first miracle produced a rich gift of the finest wine for His host at a wedding feast. He unhesitatingly used the principles of the Kingdom to feed thousands at different times and places.

His parable of the Prodigal Son contains a fine prosperity lesson in that his prosperous father waited for his son to return. When the son came to himself he returned to his father's house and was welcomed back and treated like royalty.

When Jesus declared, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom. Matthew 5:3* He was not referring to those living in poverty. "Poor in spirit" means those who are humble and receptive, not prideful and self-important.

When the rich man came to Jesus to inquire about eternal life, it is

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recorded that Jesus, looking upon him, loved him. **Mark 10:21**

Jesus told him to sell what he had to inherit eternal life for He saw that the man was possessed by his possessions, rather than being in control of them. Later Jesus commented compassionately, *How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter the kingdom.* **Mark 10:24**

His interest in and contact with the financial world included calling a tax collector to be one of His apostles, appointing a treasurer among the apostles to handle their finances, and His paying taxes to the Roman government.

His seamless robe was considered so valuable that Roman soldiers cast lots for it at the cross. It was a man of wealth, Joseph of Arimathea, who begged for Jesus' body from Pilate and who buried it in his own tomb.

After the Resurrection, Jesus showed an interest in the prosperity of His followers, instructing the fishermen where to fish successfully, after they had previously failed to catch anything...

God's rich supply is all around us universally, as well as innately within you, as talents and abilities and ideas longing for expression. But that rich supply and substance must be contacted and used. Your mind is your connecting link with it. Your attitudes, your mental concepts, beliefs, and outlook are your

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connecting links with God's rich substance and your access to it.

God can only do for you what He can do through you, by means of your thoughts and ideas which lead to your actions. Thus, prosperous thinking opens the way to prosperous results.

Now, be transformed by the spiritual laws and principles of the Kingdom which can and will transform your life. Solomon realized the need for exploring them when he exclaimed, ***Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction. Proverbs 13:18***

Begin today, by freeing yourself from limitation, lack, and failure...

That is ***The Power To Prosper***, and that is the pure truth about prosperity.

About the Author

My Story

My beginning was in the small village of Cutlerville, near Grand Rapids Michigan.

I grew up in a very protected conservative, safe neighborhood.

My parents were middle-class and we had the conventional family where my mother was a homemaker, and my dad was the provider.

Both my parents came from parents who that lived through the depression, and were small truck farmers who grew up with the poverty mentality.

I went to a private Christian school where I received an excellent education.

It was a sacrifice for my parents to pay the tuition for the school but they did.

At the time I was not that appreciative of it and as a matter fact did not like school and was a classic underachiever.

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Being unmotivated throughout my elementary and school high school years I was a below average student.

I had a D average and did not even graduate high school.

My high school principal said that at times he would lay awake at night wondering what was to become of me.

I was drafted in the Vietnam War era and was fortunate to go to Germany for my service and my younger brother was sent to Vietnam.

Thankfully, we both returned safely but changed forever.

During my time of military service, I became reacquainted with the need for a good education,

The difference from before was that I now I had an avid interest in learning.

I began college in a transitional program to see if I was able to meet the academic requirements.

To my surprise and that of my parents I became an honor student and proceeded to finish my BS degree and then a Masters degree graduating with honors. Therefore, I feel like I have exonerated my past former poor academic performance.

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That was a meaningful experience and in a lot of ways, however, most of my education and learning has come from life's experiences and influence from other people.

I was gifted with the opportunity to join three major companies during my corporate working career. Ford Motor Company, GTE which is now Verizon, and Steelcase, Inc. the world's largest office furniture manufacturer.

I started my career with a management training program and completed my career as an Influencer of executives and hundreds of employees and hundreds of sales professionals.

I view those experiences as my apprenticeship for my true mission in life which is to help as many people as possible to live according to the purpose for which they were born so that they are empowered for transformational living and to help them to fulfill their purpose and destiny.

In my life, I have experienced many things that I wish I could have avoided but by looking back I can see the grace of God in my experiences.

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I know what it feels like to have more than enough and I know what it feels like to wonder where my next gas and grocery money was coming from.

Obstacles That Were Overcome.....

Went from D student, non-high school graduate to honor student in college including master's degree

Had cancer at an early age, but have been cancer free for more than 22 years.

Avoided bankruptcy after stock market and Real Estate crash in 2008 and avoided multiple hurricanes

Even, after the setbacks of life, I did not quit but was transformed again and I am helping many who need encouragement and a roadmap to their transformation and a life of fulfillment and purpose.

My goal is to help as many individuals as I can to experience **The Power To Prosper**, and to finish well.

Appendix

1. How To Receive Eternal life.

Prayer for Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus, your word says, *Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved Acts 2:21.* I am calling on You.

I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to **Romans 10:9–10:** *If thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.*

For with The heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead.

I am now reborn! I am a Christian – a child of Almighty God! I am saved!

You also said in your word, *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them there ask Him? Luke 11:13.* I am asking you to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. In Jesus' name, Amen!

2. Wealth Declarations!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I have all sufficiency in all things so that I can abound to every good work.

Wealth and success are mine!

By day and by night I am prospered in all of my interests.

My influence is increasing every day; I am advancing, progressing, and getting more prosperous every day.

I prosper in all my ways.

Everything I put my hand to, it shall prosper and come to maturity.

3. Five Prophetic Decrees for the New Seasons of Breakthroughs and Prosperity

1. The power of the Holy Spirit: I decree a blessing over myself that I'd be full of the power of the Holy Spirit, be activated in the gifts of the spirit, and shift the spiritual atmosphere by his holy presence wherever I go. I will be full of the Holy Spirit, and I will be filled with his power and his presence to see transformation takes place in my life and in the lives of others.

2. God's kingdom: I decree a blessing over myself then I will seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and will preach the gospel of the kingdom with signs and wonders following. My role as one in the body of Christ is to see that kingdom advance on earth: in my home, in my workplace, in the church, and schools and in public spaces. He wants to manifest his glory everywhere!

3. I decree a blessing over all my relationships, beginning with my family: that God would bless my marriage and the fruit of our wall; that he would bless our children, our grandchildren and our friendships in his church in the marketplace; and that our entire family would be safe. Decree salvation over my family daily and I will see his promises come to pass!

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4. Prosperity: I decree a blessing over our finances; that God will break the spirit of poverty off of me and my bloodline and that we will prosper financially; that God would bless me with the power to gain wealth; and that I would advance his Kingdom.

5. Destiny: I decree a blessing over myself to be led by his spirit and his word, then I will know and obey His will and then I will fulfill my prophetic destiny. His blessings are not earned – and they are rooted in God's great love for us and his infinite mercy, we have been delivered from curses through the process and to live abundantly in this life.

4. Jabez Prayer

*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying:
Oh, and that You would bless me indeed,
and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would be with me,
and that You would keep me from evil,
that I may not cause pain,
God granted him what he requested.
I Chronicles 4:10*

*You can call on the Lord and request:
Oh, thank you, Father, that You blessed me
today,
And enlarged my territory,
thank You that Your hand is with me,
and that You keep me from evil
and keep me from causing pain.
Thank You Father, for granting my request!
(Your Name)*

5. How To Determine What You Really Want?

A template to follow:

Visualize your Dream

Get Clarity for your dream. This begins by making a Mental Decision as to what you want. You may have had a dream for most of your life or perhaps you are just deciding the possibility of it all. The sky is the limit so envision something so big that, unless God intervenes, it could never happen. So think about this, if I could snap my fingers or wave a magic wand to give you that life today, what would it look like? This is important for two reasons:

Your desires in life will most likely be the same in 10 or 20 years as they are today. A real vision or dream is something you would like to see today; so put that down and include some details. If you can't get it today, it should be a part of your vision if it isn't!

You can chart a course and set sail. This is a very important part of the dream/vision because if you don't know where you are going how will you know if you arrive? How can a ship navigate the seas without a destination? Get clarity and set sail. God

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designed your mind to be programmed by you and the sources you approve that speak to you. Your mind is designed to make your vision of how things should be to become a reality.

Settle for More! **John 10:10- *That you may have Life MORE Abundantly!*** Dr. Phil, asked a famous guest this question: What makes you different from the people you most admire? The answer was: “I settle for more”. You should as well!

Ask yourself the following and Settle for More:

1. What Do I Want To Possess In_ (# of)_Years- A House, Car, Clothes, Family, Health, Savings, Friends of Influence, Ability to travel?

2. What Do I Want To Accomplish In (# of)_ Years- Size of your company, Revenues generated, Personal income, Some invention, A building project, Travel plans?

3. What Do I Want To Do In_ (# of) _Years- Vacations, Travel, Social events, Coaching, Training, Speaking Engagements... Write a Bucket list?

Write Your Vision

The Prophet Habakkuk gives us this clue: *And the Lord answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain on*

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tablets, that he who reads it will run. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end, it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come to pass, it will not tarry.

Writing is said to engage a part of the brain that stimulates and or produces action. Writing validates the vision and authorizes the mind to take action in attracting opportunities to make it a reality.

Post Your Vision/Goals

Post them where you can read them and be reminded of them daily.

What does posting your vision/goals do for you?

1. Creates energy and inspiration. “That he may run who reads it”
2. Encourages patience. *For the vision is for an appointed time.* This was never so clear as with Esther and Mordechai. Joseph confirmed God’s providence also in **Genesis 50:15-20**, *You thought evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive.*
3. Produces anticipation. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come to pass.”
4. Produces godly character. As you focus on God to lead you

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toward your vision He will reveal areas in your life that need to be strengthened and some things that need to be set aside as a hindrance to your vision.

Wait on the Lord

Give your heart's desire to God and trust Him. Commit to taking responsibility for what you can do while realizing that- unless the Lord rewards your faith, patience work, your labor is in vain. Be patient and allow God control the calendar and fulfill your desires in His time. God may allow some points of your vision to materialize sooner than others but keep the goal in your heart. If you delight to do His pleasure and He will direct your paths.

Verbalize your Dream

Use Self-talk to increase the strength of your vision. A Doctor of Optometry sometimes encourages eye exercises to strengthen a person's vision. This is true in the realm of faith also.

Hebrews 11:1-3 gives us insight, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (as yet).

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are visible were not made of things which are seen. In this we see that Self-talk is a major key to increase Faith. So then faith comes by hearing, Romans 10:17a.

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Examples and benefits of Self-talk: I unknowingly overlooked my introduction to Biblical self-talk but discovered it highlighted in a couple personal management books. I dismissed it at first but found it was actually taught in Scripture; I just hadn't recognized it. Through the years I've discovered several Scripture references regarding self-talk and found them very helpful.

Three times David talked to himself in two chapters, *why are you cast down, O my soul? And, why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5.*

In **Psalms 62:5** King David finds comfort in self-talk, *My soul, wait only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.* David is talking to himself.

The Prophet Joel said, *let the weak say, I am strong, Joel 3:10b.* The principle is: If you say out loud what you desire and it works by faith it will work in another area as well.

The woman with a twelve-year hemorrhage said to herself *If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. After doing so, the Bible records, And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that*

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plague, Mark 5:28-29.

No one can speak truth into a person's mind like he can, himself, coming from his own lips and his heart's desire.

Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe; all things are possible to him who believes. The father of the child cried out with tears, 'Lord, I believe, help my unbelief! Mark 9:24-25

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Psalms27:13-14

Believing comes before seeing.

Design your Blueprint

A life vision will need to include the following:

Abundance: To see a vision materialize it requires an abundance mindset. That is an Abundance Mindset versus a Scarcity Mindset. Those with Scarcity Mindsets believe there are limits on everything and they fear losing what they have in order to risk getting what they want. Therefore, in order for them to have what others have, instead of working it, they must take it by theft, regulation or taxes. An Abundance Mindset sees possibilities everywhere and knows if he works smart enough, hard enough

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and long enough, it may be his and he is willing to take the risks.

Growth: A vision forces us to continue development of personal integrity. Do not expect an easy road but you can expect to find God's blessings, provision, favor, and grace along the way.

Hope: A vision gives us the reason to get up each morning and to work hard each day. In order to achieve great things, we must seek God's supernatural intervention in our lives. In this way, we become an eternal witness to our partnership with God. The Father of modern missions, William Carey said, "Attempt great things for God and Expect great things from God."

Giving: As in all new life there must be a sowing of the proper seed, the seed must die before it can live the fulfilled vision

Preparation: This is where a plan is established in doing our part in the partnership with God. As any farmer must begin with a vision of the crop he desires to have, a cultivating of the soil, planting seed, fertilizing the ground are necessary steps to the process; so we must have a plan to see our vision realized.

Plan out your Blueprint to Abundance:

Plan weekly, monthly and annual responsibilities (goals) in order to reach your ultimate vision or dream

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Develop daily strategy steps that assure achievement in meeting your weekly goals. Spend some time working on your vision every day.

Design three achievable tasks that will assure you of reaching your daily goals.

Adjust your mindset. As the farmer cannot see his vision fulfilled without God sending the rain and sunshine, so we need to request God's aid in seeing the impossible accomplished. Think Abundance and gather up the fragments that nothing is wasted. Challenge the Impossible!

Intensify the Passion of Your Expectations

Develop Congruence in Spirit, Soul and Body. *The Lord Jesus prayed that we would be, As one, with Him- see John 17:21-23.* How can this happen?

Study, memorize and pray over passages of Scriptures under subjects or titles. Pray for and trust God to meet your personal needs and those of others.

Strengthen the social disciplines of Emotional Intelligence. Overcome any physical drives forbidden by Scripture. Embrace the emotions that accompany your desires as if they were already fulfilled. Mentally invite guests to your new home for a meal and see yourself enjoying their company. Visit a car lot and drive the car of your

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dreams. Visualize yourself holding the trophy you won for your favorite contest and etc.

Perfect Your Key Strengths and Talents

Do not focus on your weaknesses; hire someone to do those things.

Sometimes we overlook our strengths thinking they are normal to everyone so ask others what they see in you as strengths, skills, and talents. Focus on those things.

Create a “Force Ratio” To Generate Intense Desire

“Force Ratio” is a military concept that consists, at least of a 5 to 1 ratio, to multiply your odds against another military force which has the advantage in size, weapons, placement, or momentum.

There are many “spiritual force ratios” you can use to intensify in expectation and passion that will carry you closer to your vision:

Prayers for what you desire and how your vision would glorify God Praise and gratitude for all He has done in your life especially those things that reveal His handiwork.

Override your will by surrendering your expectations to God and counting them but waste unless God is involved and pleased.

Fasting in order to deny yourself the basic needs for a time in order to focus on meeting your spiritual needs

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Reading Scripture for long periods of time without study or notes and drinking in the milk of the word.

Write out your vision daily.

Increase your self-talk using a voice of authority.

Make the statement regarding your vision and emphasize it by saying, “YES” after each statement.

Post pictures, similar to your vision, on the wall for you to see.

Recruit a partner, perhaps a spouse or friend to agree with you.

Interview others who have already the same desires or goals as you plan to do yourself.

Bind Satan and forbid him to operate against your body, soul or spirit.

Cast down the strongholds Satan uses to block your progress and prosperity.

Develop a chart showing a deadline and your progress in reaching those goals to your vision.

Journal your gratitude daily and write a letter each week to someone and express your appreciation.

Note: Intense Desire sends a message out and Emotional

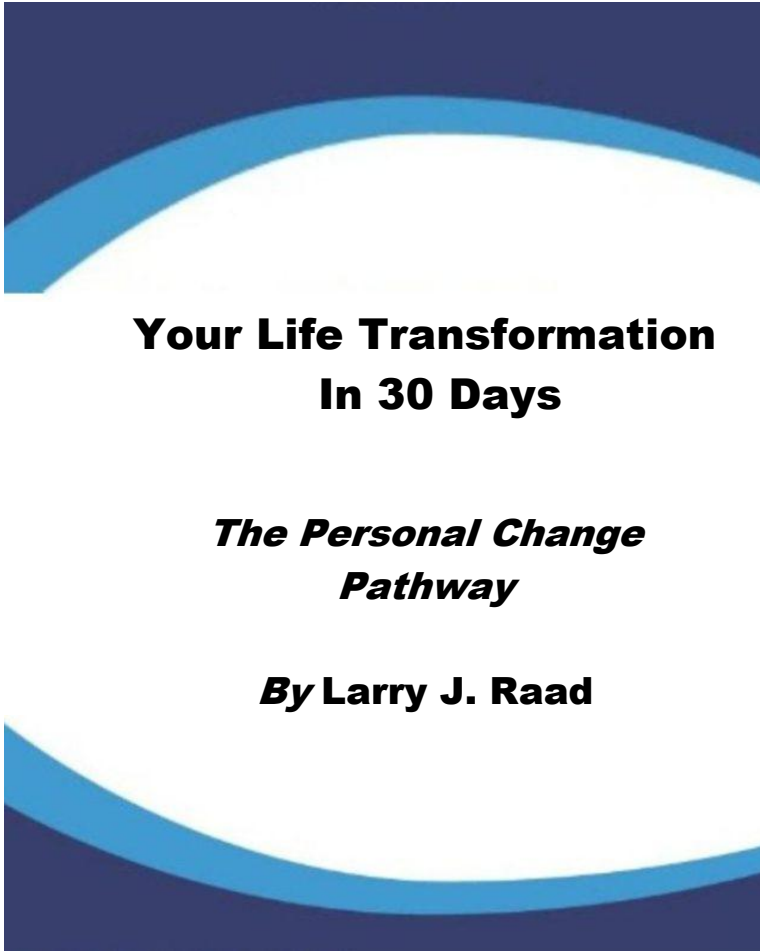
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Passion pulls your desire to you.

Used by permission: Best Selling Author, Dennis Eagle

Larry J. Raad

6. Your Life Transformation-In 30 Days



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What would it be like for you to gain perfect clarity to clear your past and create your future?

4 Easy Steps....

Learn how you can clear the past:

1. Uncover and Diagnose
2. Clear the Hidden Blocks

And Create Your Future

3. Unleash Your Inner Power
4. Inspire and Support

Transform Your Life in 30 days!

Answer as accurately as possible each of these questions over the next 30 days.

Write your answers to the questions. It will be worth your time.

Pause and reflect on each question even if it doesn't seem to apply to your life right now.

You'll get out of it what you put in.

With this plan, you will experience the difference a month can make!

Day One:

1. What contributes most to your current life success? What part does gratitude play in your daily thoughts and actions?

2. What, if anything, is holding you back in your life? How do you know this to be true and how are you going to deal with it?

Day Two:

3. What are your weakest job skills? How do you know this to be true?

4. What are your strongest job skills? How do you know this to be true?

Day Three:

5. Career wise, where can you go from here? What are your options? Which option is the most viable? How will you get there?

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6. What would your closest friends say are your hidden talents?

Day Four:

7. At a core level of yourself in your (soul) what are you trying to accomplish in your life?

8. What resides in the realm of your "shadow" (things you are trying to hide from yourself and others)? It has been said that to be alive is to be addicted in some way(s). If this is true, what are your socially – acceptable addictions or habits and how life – controlling are they? What specific ways? How much money do the addictions or habits you listed cost you on a daily, weekly, monthly, annual basis? Write those numbers down and reflect upon your response.

Day Five:

9. What is the most influential book you have ever read? List the ways that book changed your perspective on life? Then send a thank you note to the author if he or she is still alive.

10. Are you happy with your current lifestyle? Why or why not? What, if anything, have you determined needs to change?

Day Six:

11. Are you happy with your current family situation? Why or why not? If you are happy, how do you express your appreciation to those who love you? If you are unhappy, what will you do to change the situation?

12. What is your current spiritual practice, and is it satisfying? Why or why not? If it is satisfying, how do others around you know? If it isn't satisfying, what steps are you going to take to change the situation?

Day Seven:

13. What do you do to renew and regenerate yourself? How often do you do this? List three ways even if small ones, in which you can create and use leisure time in your life right now.

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14. What is your vision of yourself in 5 to 10 years from now? Why is this, your particular vision? How are you going to achieve it?

Day Eight:

15. Other than your spouse, who is your closest friend and how long have you been friends? How often do you interact with him or her and in what ways does your friend positively impact you? In what ways do you positively impact your friend?

16. What did people used to say you could be?

Day Nine:

17. If you had to follow some other line of work, what might it be? What is it about this line of work that would draw you? What are the barriers to following that type of work? Is it worth it to you to put your effort and passion into smashing through those barriers?

18. If you have ever had a peak experience, what was it and how

has it positively impacted your life?

Day Ten:

19. Who in your family are you least like? List the attributes and how this has affected you.

20. Who in your family are you most like? List the attributes and how this has affected you.

Day Eleven:

21. Name two things that repel you. Why? How do these things affect your life?

22. Name two things you are strongly attracted to. Why? How do these things affect your life?

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Day Twelve:

23. Have there ever been any unexplainable events in your life? Name them, expressing their impact upon you.

24. Name something that energizes you. What ways? And when was the last time you experienced it?

Day Thirteen:

25. Name three things that depress or discourage you. Why? How do these things affect your life?

26. List two ideas that excite motivate you. Why? How much energy you have you put into these ideas?

Day Fourteen:

27. What is the happiest time you can remember in your life? How has this time formed the way you currently live your life?

28. If you were required to become another living person, who might it be? Why this person?

Day Fifteen:

29. What can you do well with the least effort and what can you do well with the most effort? How do you know?

30. The way you manage money can make the difference over time between being able to retire earlier or being able to launch into a new business venture. How well do you budget your money and then follow your budget? How often do you monitor leaking cash, necessary services fees, banking fees, credit card fees/interest in caring debt, paying minimum monthly fees – the cash drains, which add up over time?

Day Sixteen:

31. What can you probably never do well? How comfortable are you with this knowledge?

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32. Can you think of any life lessons you have avoided learning? List them. How important is it for you to learn these particular life lessons?

Day Seventeen:

33. What is your strongest point as a person? How do you know and when did you discover this?

34. What is your weakest point as a person? How do you know and when did you discover this?

Day Eighteen:

35. How are you unlike most people you know? How did this awareness come about?

36. Give me an example of intuition in your life. List two ways this has helped you avoid trouble?

Day Nineteen:

37. What is the best piece of unexpected good fortune you have ever had? What are the connectors, if any, with that good fortune and any of your past successes or failures?

38. What is your greatest fear? How do you know and when does it affect your life?

Day Twenty:

39. When are you most likely to react with anger? How do others know when you are angry and how do they react? What are the assets and liabilities of expressing your anger? Make a list of both items.

40. What kind of work is play for you? When was the last time you experience this?

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Day Twenty One:

41. If you could live for another hundred years, what would you do with the time allotted? As you believe in an afterlife, how does that knowledge affect your present decisions and priorities?

42. Is there un-forgiveness or bitterness you harbor toward anyone? If so, in what ways has it controlled or altered your life? What can you do, if anything, to resolve this?

Day Twenty Two:

43. What part of your life would you like to change or re live? Why?

44. Beyond career or material success, what is the core purpose of your life? How would anyone else know?

Day Twenty Three:

45. What does it mean to be a person of wisdom? Are you such a person? How do you know?

(There is a difference between dumb and stupid)

46. Are you content with whom or what you are becoming? By the way, who or what are you becoming? How would your best friend respond to the same question about you?

Day Twenty Four:

47. If a casual observer were to observe the way you live your Life, what would he or she deduce your definition of success to be? On a scale of 1 to 10 (10= extremely satisfied) how comfortable are you with this definition?

48. How do you know when you've achieved success in your life?

Day Twenty Five:

49. Is there anything you want to change about your criteria for success and what it is you are striving for? What will you do about this? When?

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50. What do you believe about people in general? How does your behavior reveal this general belief about people?

(Trust or distrust until proven)

Day Twenty Six:

51. What gives you hope for the future when things seem to go wrong in your work, your relationships, or in the world at large?

52. Where do you put your faith, and where would one deduce you put your faith if one were to observe the way you live your life?

Day Twenty Seven:

53. Does your family recognize authenticity of your life? What measurable ways?

54. What is the next book you're going to read? Why that particular book?

Day Twenty Eight:

55. Do you have a quiet center to your life? What does it mean to have a quiet center?

56. Is integrity in the small matters built into your reflexes?

(What you do in the lesser you do the greater)

How are you aware of this? When was the last time you caught yourself living with integrity...with no one watching?

Day Twenty Nine:

57. Describe yourself in seven words. What image do these words portray about you? Then select the one word that best describes you. That would be your **North Star Word**.

58. Name 3 to 5 of the most influential people in your life. In what areas and in what ways did they mentor or influence you?

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Day Thirty:

59. Write a brief sketch of the remainder of your life. List at least 15 things you want to accomplish before you die.

Carry that list in your wallet, checking off items as you accomplish them.

60. What actions do you now need to take on your responses to the previous 30 days of these coaching questions? Make a list in order of importance. Set deadlines and cross off items as you achieve them. If you miss a deadline, reset it and try again.

Don't quit!

Day Thirty One:

Bonus: What is the toughest question you have ever been asked? How did you respond to it at the time? How would you respond to that same question now?

Larry J. Raad

If after reviewing and answering these questions you are a bit overwhelmed then we offer to work with you 1 on 1 to....

Get perfect clarity to clear your past and create your future!

Implement these 4 Easy Steps....with

The Power To Prosper – Coaching System

Learn how you can clear the past

1. Uncover and Diagnose
2. Clear the Hidden Blocks

And Create Your Future

3. Unleash Your Inner Power
4. Inspire and Support

Do you know the main blocks that have kept you from living the life you desire and deserve? Or blocks that have prevented you from earning or creating the amount wealth you desire?

Discover the main blocks to solve your greatest challenges and the money thing once and for all.

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<http://www.larryraad.com>

For a private strategy session,

Visit: <http://www.larryraad.net>

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Book Bonus

A thirty-minute “Discover your purpose, Now” coaching session:

During the session:

- We’ll work together to create a crystal-clear vision for the kind of life you really want to live and the results you always wanted to achieve.
- You’ll uncover hidden challenges that may be sabotaging your success.
- And you’ll leave the session renewed, reenergized and inspired to finally find the strategies to have the life you always wanted.

To receive your book Bonus,

visit: larryraad.net

