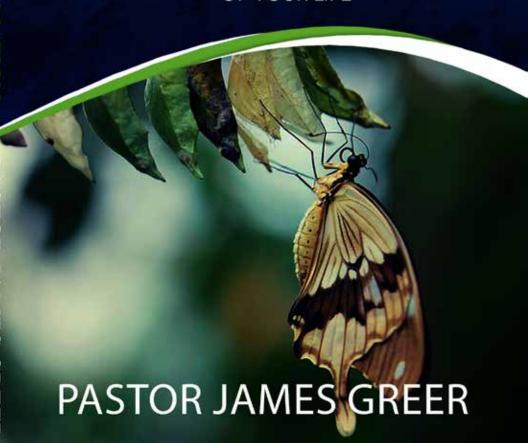
Journey CHURCH TRAINING

FOR

TRANSFORMATION

52 WEEKS TO IMPROVING EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE



INTRODUCTION

I'm so excited about this book "Training For Transformation" because way to many people trying to change but you're not transform by trying but training! These short insights came from messages I preached. It's my prayer they will help transform your life!

I want to thank my wife (Debbie) who always is my best supporter and encourager and Josh Poe the Executive pastor at Journey Church who help put this book together!

Hope you enjoy a few of the picture of the butterflies I have taken you do understand before they can become a butterfly they have to go through the transformation possess!

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

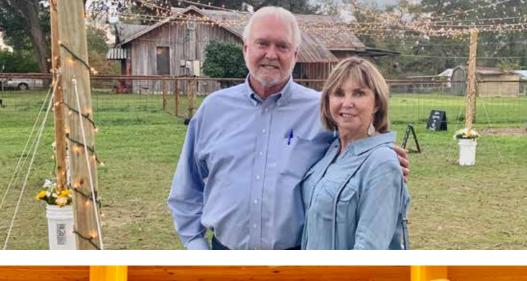
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

It's my prayer you allow God to transform your life where you can truly enjoy the abundant life Jesus came to give you!

John 10:10 (NKJV)

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

In Christ, Pastor James Eph. 3:20







Training Over Trying

We are either living life drifting, driven, or by design.

One reason we are not more successful in life is because we are trying too hard instead of training.

Proverbs 12:1, NKJV "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid."

Proverbs 12:15, NKJV "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise."

Three main things to focus on in the new year:

- 1. Training over trying.
- 2. Investing before we try to withdraw.
- 3. Come to church, but learn to "Be the Church" wherever you are, by simply adding a **spiritual component** to every area of your life.

Colossians 3:17, NKJV "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Matthew 6:33, NKJV "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

What area of your life would you like to train to have a better year than last year?

What are some goals you are setting and asking God's help for as you begin a New Year?



WEEK 2

Can We Change the Time and Mind of God?

Prayer can prolong your life and set the captives free.

When we get saved, we are **anointed** and **appointed** to preach the gospel to the poor. We are not to just talk about prayer or try to pray, we are to **learn how to pray.** Moses stood in the gap for the people, God was going to destroy them Moses interceded, and the Lord said He changed His mind.

The timing of God - Children of Israel wondered in the wilderness for 40 years. God had given them the promise 40 years before. The will and purpose of God was accomplished, but God left the timing up to them and us.

The purpose of prayer is to get our agenda lined up with God's agenda.

Matthew 16:18, NKJV "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

We are the Church.

Build your life on the Rock and the gates of hell cannot prevail. God created us to have relationship/fellowship with Him and be co-laborers with Him. Partnering with Him we have His will here on earth.

Are you serving God as a friend because of the relationship you have, or are you serving God as a servant because of the position you have?



Power of Prayer and Prolonged Life

Prayer is all about having the right connection with God. God doesn't need anything we have, but we need all the blessings God has for us. Many times, it is problems that lead us to pray.

Principle to know: We cannot break God; He will break us.

Malachi 3:11, NKJV "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts;

One-way God gets our attention is through our finances. God wants us to trust Him, not ourselves or our job. There will be problems in your life that only God can solve.

Revelation 20:10, NKJV "the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

The Devil is a liar. He is a deceiver. God will deliver and save you. The devil will be defeated. The only real power the enemy has over us is if we believe his lies. Who are you going to believe, God or the devil?

Let your problem drive you to prayer and experience the power of God like never before.

Persistence in Prayer Pays Off

How we respond when we are told no tells us where we are spiritually.

How we respond when we are offended will greatly determine the power in our prayer and the peace in our personal life.

1 Corinthians 5:27, NKJV "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;"

God chooses the nobodies and makes them somebody that He might get the honor and glory for it. Is Jesus controlling your life?

God wants us to come to Him, so that we won't miss out on the power and privilege He has for us.

It is who you are in Christ, and who He is, that makes a difference. Life is not about you; it's about how we can be used to serve God's purpose.

Small disciplines done consistently leads to big results over time. The most powerful thing we can do when you are burdened is to pray and fast.

What Are You Willing to do to Change Someone's Life?

Jesus can change our life immediately.

Prayer is:

Getting our agenda lined up with God's agenda. Our prayer of faith can help save our loved one's life. Prayer can turn our problems into power.

Philippians 4:19, NIV "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Matthew 17:20, NKJV "So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 19:26, NKJV "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

God has a plan for every area of your life, we must be willing to follow his plan.

We all have problems only Jesus can help us with. Sometimes we cannot handle the problems on our own, we need others to help us. We need to do everything we can do to bring Jesus our greatest burdens, hurts, sorrows, and needs. Our faith can and does change the life of other people. Hard hearts hurt people; humble hearts help people. Obey the word of God; experience the power of God.

¥	Love is way more than an emotion; Love is an action. Jesus shows us His love by carrying our sins and burdens to the cross.
1	

The Problem is not the Problem

Bootcamp is all about training not trying.

1 Timothy 4:8, NKJV "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

The Problem is not the problem

You can't change the fruit in your life if you don't change the root. Salvation is free...but the fruit of the Spirit is work. Pressure is an indication you need to humble yourself before God and get to his pace.

The root problem in most relationships is a love problem.

Love wants the best for the other person; lust wants the best for yourself.				

Who are You and How Did You Get There?

We are the ground; God's word is the seed. How you receive the Word determines your life.

When we don't know who we are and how we got there, we act like someone we are not.

We must know who we are in Christ, or we will begin to try to find our acceptance and self-worth from our mate or others.

Every one of us brings baggage to our marriage; what are you doing with the baggage? Unspoken expectations are unfair expectations.

Romans 5:3, TLB "we can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know they are good for us, they help us learn to be patient."

Remember there is absolutely nothing too hard for the Lord. Learning to handle problems and trials helps us learn to be patient; we grow more intimate then ever before. Patience leads us to not needing one single thing in our life.

Principles that Produces an Exceptional Marriage

Proverbs 5:18-19, NKJV "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love."

To have an exceptional marriage you will have to know what real Biblical love is. The purpose of a marriage is to sharpen you. Your spouse is to be your best friend and lover.

3 types of Love:

- Eros Love a need love. Based on physical attraction and fulfillment; marriages can't be sustained by eros love.
- 2. Phileo Love a friendship love.
- 3. Agape Love a giving love; one loves even when the other doesn't respond as expected.

Agape Love + Phileo Love + Eros Love = Godly marriages that will last.

You cannot have an exceptional relationship apart from an exceptional relationship with God. Exceptional is doing life together with Jesus being the center of your relationship. Don't camouflage your selfishness with the words "I'm right." Forgiveness is not weakness; it is the portal to POWER. Forgive the other person before they ask.

The Kingdom Principle of Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7, NKJV "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

What we sow we will reap.

The Christian life is really all about sowing and reaping. The problem with most of us is that we want to reap what we have not sown. Sow the seed + wait a time = Harvest. Don't sow what you have received; learn to sow what you want to receive.

Luke 6:37, NKJV "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

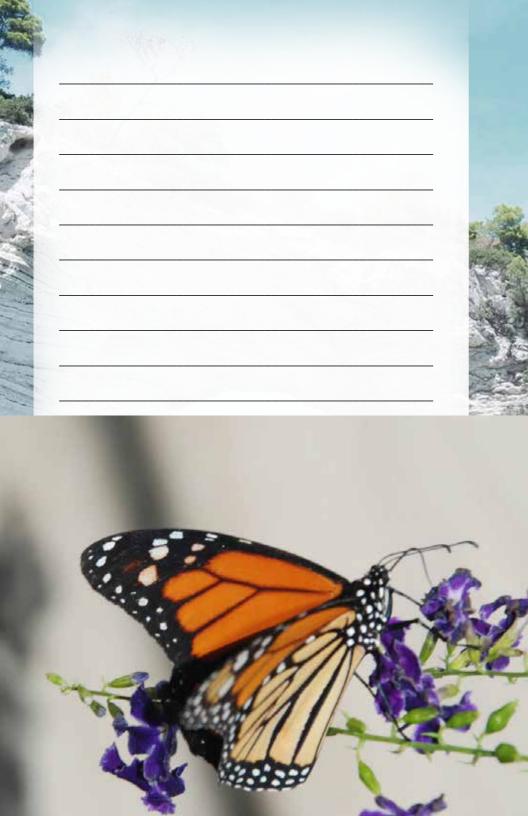
Romans 8:1, NKJV "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Stop Sowing Judgement

Sow God's Word in the problem. Stop condemning and start forgiving. **Self-examination** is the **best explanation** of what the real problem is. (**Luke 6:41**, NKJV) **Wrong distractions cause self-destruction**.

Release control to God for you and your mate. What you don't allow God to control will get out of control. Be your spouse's CEO – Chief Encouraging Officer.

God gives us freedom to sow what we want, but we are not free of the consequences of what we have sown.



From Stressed to Blessed

Learn: Less is more; Stress is bad; God is good.

Galatian 6:4, NKJV "But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another."

First sign of pressure is God giving an indication to turn and learn from God.

If He doesn't remove the problem, we need to learn from the problem. You were never created to be self-sufficient; we were created to need God.

Isaiah 40:29-31, NKJV "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Wait upon the Lord.

Stop looking to people for what only God can give you. The result of waiting on the Lord; your strength will be renewed. God wants you to find a promise to fulfill your problem where He can give us the provision. God will give you godly wisdom.

There is a problem with pride. When we get rid of pride most problems go away.

Bear It + Be Aware = Blessed

1 Corinthians 10:13, NKJV "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Each one of us will have pressure we have to bear.

We must become aware there will be times to endure, be faithful, and not give up until God removes the pressure or sends relief. If we don't give up, we get to enjoy God's blessings. Pressures and stress are not about how you're doing as much as who you are becoming. God wants us to focus on His faithfulness, not our failures. God will never give you more than you can bear with Him and you together.

Zechariah 13:39, NKJV "And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people' and they will say 'The Lord is great."

Testing and refining, then the rewards and rejoicing.

Once refined, we will find our purpose and plan. Whatever you are lacking the most is where you are suffering the most. It is the very ministry God is trying to use you in. Very few people learn without suffering. Don't waste the purpose of the suffering and pain.

Cures for Stress

2 Timothy 3:1, AMP "But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear]."

Romans 12:2, NKJV "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

Proverbs 23:7, NKJV "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Psalm 46:10, NKJV "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Christians are not to live like and think like non-Christians of the world.

Cures for Stress:

You must choose that you want to change. Train your mind to think differently. Trust in God. Choose to slow down and be still. Remember God is in control.

When we get stressed, it's a reminder from God that we need to calm down and remember that God's in control, and He is the all-powerful One, not us!

God Never Panics, He Has a Plan

Romans 14:9-11, NKJV "For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

We will be tested on how we lived our life and who we lived it for.

God created us in a way that when anxiety and panic come, it is to remind us to humble ourselves and depend on Him. When we learn our purpose in life, we start to see our problems through our purpose.

2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Once saved, we are changed. What have you done with Jesus – religion or relationship? We are saved by grace and faith. We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works. What have you done with what I have given you – time, talent, and tithe?

God's Plan: We Enjoy Heaven While Here on Earth

Death is not the end of life; it is only the beginning. Jesus wants us to spend eternity with Him. The truth is the devil would like us to focus here on earth and what others say, instead of focus on heaven and what Jesus says. Part of God's plan for our life is to get to experience some heaven here on earth.

Matthew 5:3, NKJV "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

In times of greatest need in life, when we become totally dependent on God, He steps in and meets our very need. Stop living in tragedy and defeat, and start living in victory and triumph. Stop repeating the negative over and over in your mind. Remind yourself that Jesus said this, "I am going to ascend so that the Holy Spirit will descend and live in you."

Truth About the Garden of Gethsemane

The Garden of Gethsemane teaches us how to handle some of the greatest anxiety, stress, and problems.

God will allow stress and anxiety to come in our life so we will allow Him to meet our needs. There will be times only Jesus can help us. We need a place to go every day to be with God before we see people; if not, we will look to people for needs only God can meet.

Hebrews 4:15-16, NKJV "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Jesus had victory over it. Let us come boldly to the throne of Grace. Allow God to minister to us. God will never allow something to happen to you that He won't ultimately turn out for your good.

How to handle stress and anxiety:

Spend time with God daily. Meditate on God's Word. Realize God is with you. Ask Him to remove the problem. Understand He invites you to come into the throne of God. Delay does not mean denial.

God's Plan for Us is Victory in Jesus

Matthew 28:10, TLB "Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me [just as I promised]."

When we have a great need, remember Jesus already has a plan. Look to Him not for Him.

John 19:30, NKJV "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

What is finished?

Jesus paid the price for our sins. Salvation is not achieved, it is received. Our past is finished; our future is furnished. When we allow Jesus to do His finished work in our life, it is a new day coming. "It is finished" means Jesus will now furnish every need we will ever need. Jesus died not only to save us from something, but to something. Jesus saved us from hell to heaven; from bondage to freedom; from being dead to giving us life.

Accomplishing Your Purpose/Dream

Where are you and where do you want to go?

Spiritually

Physically

Emotionally

Financially

God wants us to have a powerful endgame and enjoy the journey until we get there.

Colossians 3:17, NLT "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Day to day disciplines that will greatly determine a successful end.

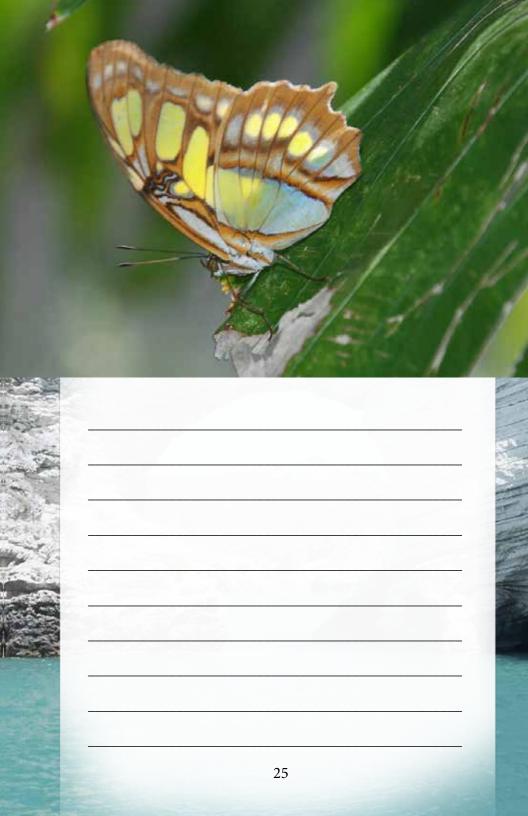
Focus on who you are and who you are representing. Whatever you do, do it as a representative of Jesus. What we do on earth is simply training for Heaven. Your endgame won't be what you wanted it to be if you're not tithing and giving to God's work while you're here on earth. Don't give up during tough times. God has a quality of life for you here and now.

James 1:12, NKJV "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

How to have an abundant life:

Love God. Promptly Obey God. Be grateful for what God has done.

Your endgame is coming faster than you expect, what do you want it to look like?



Why Attitude is Everything

Philippians 2:3-4, NKJV "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Philippians 2:5, TLB "Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ."

What is attitude?

The advancement of man/woman's true self. Its roots are inward, but fruit is outward. It is your best friend or worst enemy. It's the librarian of your past, the speaker of your present, and the prophet of your future.

Five principles about your attitude:

- 1. Determines your approach to life.
- 2. Is contagious.
- 3. Shapes your relationships with people.
- 4. At the beginning of a task will affect its outcome more than anything else.
- 5. Draws people to you or pushes them away.

Certainties about positive attitudes:

Cultivates a winning edge. Helps you meet life's challenges. Reduces stress and increases energy/productivity. Creates healthy and productive perspective. Increases confidence. Helps you focus more on solutions than the problem. Makes it enjoyable to live with yourself.

Marks of a Mature Person

Hebrews 6:1, NIV "Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,"

James 1:2-4, NKJV "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

James 3:2, NKJV "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."

A mature person expresses an attitude of dependence upon God.

A mature person is positive under pressure. First test of maturity is "how do you react to problems?" A mature person is sensitive to people. How do you treat others? A mature person has mastered his mouth. Self-control comes from tongue control. Your tongue is a powerful force for good or evil. A mature person is a peacemaker; not a troublemaker. A mature person is patient and prayerful.

Child of God

A word from God can change your world for God.

Luke 3:16, NKJV "There is One coming Mightier than me I'm not even worthy to loosen His shoes. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

When we are faith filled, we will be faithful; you will walk out and not allow circumstances to control your faith.

Day to day decisions help develop our habits and our habits determine our character. We will either exalt God or edge God out. We don't need the world; we need a Word from God. Once God gives His Word on a matter nothing else matters. God opens doors no man can close. The real test is will you obey and do our part?

Revelation 3:8, NKJV "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

God's principle: He will bless those He can trust.

Luke 18:29-30, NLT "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come."

Lasting satisfaction for a child of the King can only come through a close intimate relationship with Jesus.





How to Have a Winning Team

Proverbs 4:23, NKJV "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Proverbs 23:15, NKJV "My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will Rejoice, indeed, I myself"

It's all about the heart.

Our actions and behavior come from the condition of our heart. Change the conditions of your heart; your condition of your life will change. Joy is greatly determined by the condition of our heart. If you want to have success, begin meditating on the Word day and night. What you think about will greatly determine what your actions are. To have a winning team, you first must have a winning coach (Jesus). Success and prosperity result when we do what God's called us to do; the best we can with what God gave us.

Right priorities = Rich Life

Matthew 6:33, NKJV "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

You will never have greater joy in life than when you find your God-given position and become part of the body of Christ.

Fight Like a Warrior

Genesis 1: 27-28, NKJV "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.""

You were created by God to be a winning warrior.
The greatest coach is Jesus Christ and He is always with you.

1 John 4:4, NKJV "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

John 14:12-14, NKJV "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it"

We are only as strong as we are willing to be honest with ourselves. The greatest battle starts with us *surrendering* our life to Jesus's plan for our life. *Surrender from something* so that you can *surrender to something*. Scripture is our weapon; That is how we throw a winning punch. True strength will only come through admitting and knowing you are weak.

Surrender + Word = Victory

The Warrior and His Cause

Genesis 3:6, NKJV "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

Genesis 3:12-13, NKJV "Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Genesis 4:8, NKJV "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him

The warrior who abandons his cause becomes passive.

When we get our God-given order out of order it brings disorder. When we become passive, we begin blaming; it brings problems and we lose power.

How to fight like a Warrior:

Surrender Sword (Word) Seed of Faith

The warrior pursuing the right cause becomes passionate.

A passionate warrior has a kingdom to advance.

Words Everyone Wants to Hear

Proverbs 4:7, NKJV "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefor get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

Proverbs 16:16, NKJV "How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."

3 Words Everyone Wants to Hear:

- 1. You are Accepted.
- 2. You are Loved.
- 3. You are Understood.

God accepts us even when we are unacceptable. God loves us even when we are acting unlovable. Acceptance and love come from our right understanding of the Father.

How you see your relationship with God will greatly

determine the response we have to God and every other relationship in our life.			
	•	•	

It's All About the Heart

Proverbs 4:23, NKJV "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

Hard hearts hurt others – humble hearts help others. If we have issues; it really is a heart issue.

Joy is greatly determined by the condition of our heart. Wisdom helps the heart be wise.

Proverbs 4:7, NLT "Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment."

Psalm 51:10-12, NKJV "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

How to Have a Clean Heart:

Ask God for it. The key is learning how to stay close to God's Presence. Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more; confess, accept God's forgiveness, get your priorities right where God can restore your joy.

How to Guard Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23, NKJV "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

Matthew 15:18-19, NCV "But what people say with their mouths comes from the way they think; these are the things that make people unclean. 19 Out of the mind come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual sins, stealing, lying, and speaking evil of others."

How to guard your heart:

Control your thought life. Our thinking determines our behavior. If we want to change our behavior, we have to change what we believe. Take in God's Word. Right meditation leads to right motivation.

Psalm 119:11, NCV "I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you."

Learn the dangers of not guarding our heart.

Genesis 6:5-7, NKJV "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So, the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Control where you go and who you go with.

1 Corinthians 15:33, CEV

"Don't be deceived, bad company corrupts good character."

Love Doesn't Produce Joy

Love that is communicated correctly produces joy. God communicated His love through giving us His Son.

2 step process of Joy:

- 1. Communicated correctly.
- 2. Received correctly.

God is the greatest communicator; He communicates through Words and actions and there are still those who do not receive.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, NKJV "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."

Love that produces joy when repeated over and over:

Love communicated correctly. Actions that prove the communication.

Right communication + Right actions = Right Joy

Both have to be willing to receive the love for it to produce the right joy.



God Given Destiny

Genesis 1:26-28, NKJV "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We are destined for Greatness.

Destined for victory, to be fruitful (successful) in all we do. Our destiny has to be tied to God's destiny; bringing honor and glory to Him.

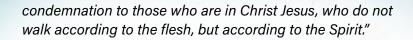
Galatians 3:13-14, NKJV "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Christ redeemed us from the curse.

We now have dominion over fear, guilt, and shame.

2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Romans 8:1, NKJV "There is therefore now no



Claim your God-given destiny and greatness!

When We Know Who We Are, We Know What To Do

Who are you?

You are God's Masterpiece.

4 things every person wants that they can only get from God:

- 1. Acceptance
- 2. Identity
- 3. Security
- 4. Purpose

What does God want us to do?

Follow God's plan!

Ephesians 2:10, NKJV "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Simply learn to live the good life which God has already prearranged and made ready for us to live. Part of His plan is understanding our God-given limitations. God created us and said it is good. It is our limitations that cause us to depend on God who is unlimited!

Philippians 4:13, NKJV "I can do all things through Chris	٢
who strengthens me."	

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Psalm 139:14, NKJV "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

Psalm 139:13, NIV "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

Romans 8:35-37, NKJV "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Who You are in Christ

We are not what others say about us. We are Who God says we are. You are not thrown together; God makes it very clear you are put together. We are loved, anointed and appointed by God. We are secure. Free from condemnation. In all things, we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.

Don't Worry Be Happy

Philippians 4:6-7, CEV "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel."

Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

How to have peace in the midst of suffering:

Remember you belong to Jesus Christ. He gives a strange peace in the midst of sorrow. **Peace** is a by-product of trusting God's promises, purpose, and His plan, even when you don't understand. **Hope** is a confident expectation of a positive future in spite of present circumstances.

1 John 3:1, NKJV "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

Steps after we Mess Up:

Ask forgiveness and repent. Remember God's mercies are new every morning. Our ultimate purpose is being loved by God; accept and allow God to love you.



Great Marriages Make Great Kids

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, NKJV "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

God's created order for marriage:

Each mate is responsible to maintain their daily walk with God.

The primary purpose of man is to make Christ the head of his life and provide for his family. The primary purpose of the woman is to help complete her husband in the home.

The main purpose of marriage:

Not to simply satisfy your mate, but to help sharpen them. Not to make the other person happy, but help make them become holy. Spiritual growth is the only guarantee life is going to get better.

Mistakes most parents make:

Dad is not involved. The result: wife feels abandoned. Mom's too focused on the kids. The result: husband feels rejected.

Solutions:

Commit to daily time spent together. Give your spouse the best of your attention and energy. Make sure you meet your mate's sexual needs.



Healthy Relationships

Philippians 2:3, NKJV "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or vain conceit. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourself."

1 Timothy 4:16, NRSV "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue to these thing, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers."

Humble people build other people up; great people make people feel great; little people belittle people.

Focus on being the right person, instead of trying to change the other person. The only person you can change is you; in the process of changing you, it will then help them. Begin to fix your hopes and dreams on God and seek to please Him instead of others. Most of us don't see ourselves as we are, but as we want to be, others see us as we are. Develop the courage to be the right friend; first Jesus needs to be your Friend that sticks closer than a brother. **Loyalty** is the key to healthy relationships.

Learn + unlearn + relearn = growth!

Would you work on making Jesus your Best Friend?

Worship: Do We Really Know How?

Psalm 22:27, NKJV "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You."

Psalm 29:2, NKJV "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

You will either worship the Creator or worship what He created.

Worship is:

Divine honor and praise; loving God.

John 4:23, NKJV "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

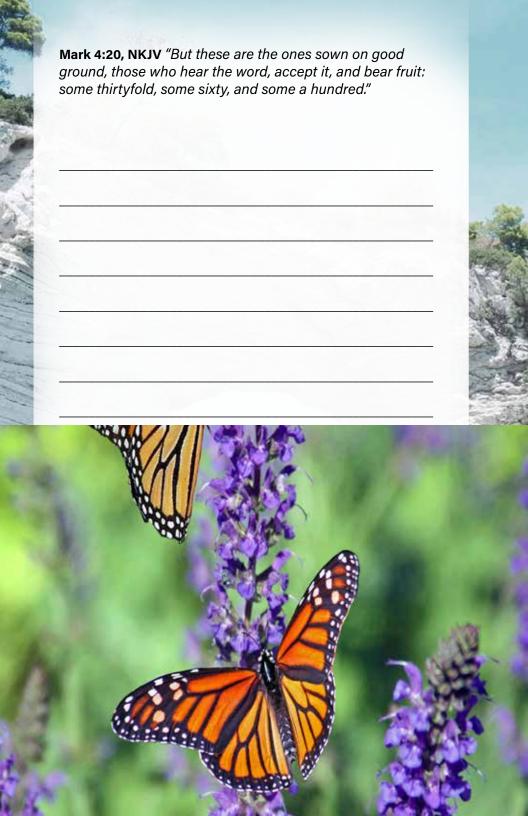
Three ways to worship:

- Our words.
- 2. Participate; not spectate. (Engage)
 Happiness is a by-product of seeking Christ.
- His Word.

The way we receive God's Word determines the way we worship. Let the Word take root; begin to act on it; live out God's Truth.

Psalm 63:3, NKJV "Because Your love is better than life, I will praise You; I will praise You as long as I live. I will lift up my hands in prayer to Your name."

1 Samuel 12:24, NKJV "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."



Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Truth + Trust = Worship

John 4:23-24, NKJV "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The more Truth you know, the more you will Trust and Worship God.

Some of the best worship is when your spirit confirms God's Truth. Distractions are not so much accidents as actions by the enemy to distract and disrupt us from worship.

Things to check when you enter the church:

Don't allow your spirit to become critical, thereby lowering or possibly blocking your receptivity to God's Word. Don't allow your preferences to rob God's presence. Don't compare your Pastor to the dozens of other communicators. Don't think about all the other people who need to hear the sermon until it has changed you first.

Practices that will help you worship on Sundays!

Focus on the message, not the messenger. Listen for insight more than entertainment. Make it an act of worship more than education. Information without transformation = Judgement

Engage in the moment spiritually, rather than remaining unattached.

What to Do When Trouble Comes

Psalm 121:1-2, NKJV "I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth."

Look up.

Looking up is a divine encounter, causing us to encounter God's presence. God is still on the throne; He is still in control. He wants to reveal Himself to us when we are in a time of need.

Look in.

Look inward to check our own hearts to measure our own understanding with God. Conviction will be experienced.

When we really understand what God has done for us, we

Look outward.

be used ar is a privileg	-	ing and gi	ving back

Partnership with Christ

John 13:35, NKJV "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 4:7, NKJ V "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Keys to Happy & Blessed Life:

The Bread of Life is to Partnership with Christ.

Lack of fellowship with Jesus Christ = lack of fulfillment.

Right fellowship = Right Fulfillment

Busyness robs our blessings. Families before Christ will end up in Crisis. Excuses are nothing more than self-justification for failure. Excuses enslave us. God's Word and Promises are more powerful than any of our problems.

What are you doing to Partner with Christ?			

Called, Equipped, and Sent

Luke 9:1-2, KIV "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."

2 Corinthians 5:20, NKJV "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

Jesus has called, equipped, and sent us.

We are called to be Ambassadors for Christ; our commissioning service is to represent Christ to the world. We must ultimately depend on God for our every source. Identity crisis = confusion. Lose your identity; lose your power. Don't look to others to meet needs that only Christ can meet.

Becoming distracted with looking inward we lose focus of our calling. Not doing what Jesus called and equipped us to do, we will lose our power. When our Spirit lines up with the Holy Spirit, we have the Power and authority to represent Jesus wherever we go.

Be Ready for the Fight

Ephesians 6:10-12, NKJV "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

James 4:7, NKJV "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Be prepared to fight.

The enemy is strategizing and developing a plan to take you out, bring you down, get you off your game, and bring distance between you and God. **God's strategy** is loving, convicting, cleansing, comforting, and commissioning you.

Fight with the Sword & Prayer.

enemy will fail.		
bad the situation is Jesus is be enemy will fall.	igger than any enemy; th	ne
Sword is the only offensive wea		
Don't fight in the flesh; fight wit	th the Sword & Prayer. T	he

A Call to Peace and Power

Philippians 4:7, NKJV "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Psalm 29:11, NKJV "The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace."

John 14:27, NKJV "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Peace was planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and provided by the Spirit. Peace is greatly determined by how we represent Christ in a situation.

Having God's peace and power does not mean the absence of problems or pain, but having peace in the midst of problems and pain.

Steps to having the Peace and Power of God:

1. Understand that power and peace comes with total dependence on God.

Peace is a by-product of trusting God's promises, pur pose, and plan for our life.

2. Accept our calling.

We are Christ's representative. We are saved from hell, but we are saved for something called service. God calls us, saves us, and then sends us to tell others how to have peace.

Become totally dependent on Christ and representing him.



How to Enter the Throne Room of God

Hebrews 4:21, NKJV "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Psalm 46:10, NKJV "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Ephesians 3:10, NKJV "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places"

Isaiah 6:1, NKJV "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."

When we are totally dependent on Christ and representing Him, nothing or nobody can steal our peace.

Four ways to hear from God:

1. God's Word.

Open our hearts to receive the Word of God. God's Word satisfies, saves, and sustains.

2. Prayer.

Be still and quiet long enough to hear from God.

- 3. Special moments in Church.
- 4. During times of pain and sorrow.

When we are desperate, hurting, and groaning, it reaches the throne room of God.



How to Be Spiritually Blessed in Every Area of Your Life

Galatians 3:13, NKJV "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")"

Ephesians 1:3, NKJV "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

God wants to bless you and wants you to be a blessing.

Blessings are God's children's birthright.

We must know where we come from, and where we want to go. Don't live in the past, learn from it. **Transformation** is a lifetime process until we step into Heaven. God sent His son to break the curse in our life. The words we speak greatly determine the blessings we receive. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Life and death are in the choices we make. Universal principle: Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. God's Word obeyed and applied is always, always more powerful than our problems.

God?	eas of your II	te are you la	icking the Bles	sings of

Financially Blessed

Galatians 6:7, NKJV "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will reap."

Galatians 6:9, TLB "And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up."

Luke 6:38, NKJV "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be measured back to you."

Deuteronomy 8:18, NKJV "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

"Blessed" - God takes what we naturally have and multiplies it and makes it sufficient to meet all our needs, and then some.

Happiness is the result of repeating the right habits over a long period of time.

Four Habits for financial blessing:

- 1. Remember, God is your Source of meeting every need in your life.
- 2. Honor God first with your tithes.
 Purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put

God first. Putting God first brings the blessings of God. Spending Plan: 10% Tithe, 10% Saving, 80% Living Expense.

3. Know the difference between bad debt and good debt.

Know the difference between wants and needs. Live within the means of income. Bad debt - things you really don't need. Good debt - debt you incur or borrow, but the goal is that it produces income, not take income.

4. Plan your spending.

What habits do you need to change?

Vision without planning and action is nothing more than an empty dream.

 you need to en	angor	

Celebrate Restoration

John 3:16, NKJV "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God is a loyal God, He demonstrated His loyalty by sending His Only Son, Jesus to die for our sins.

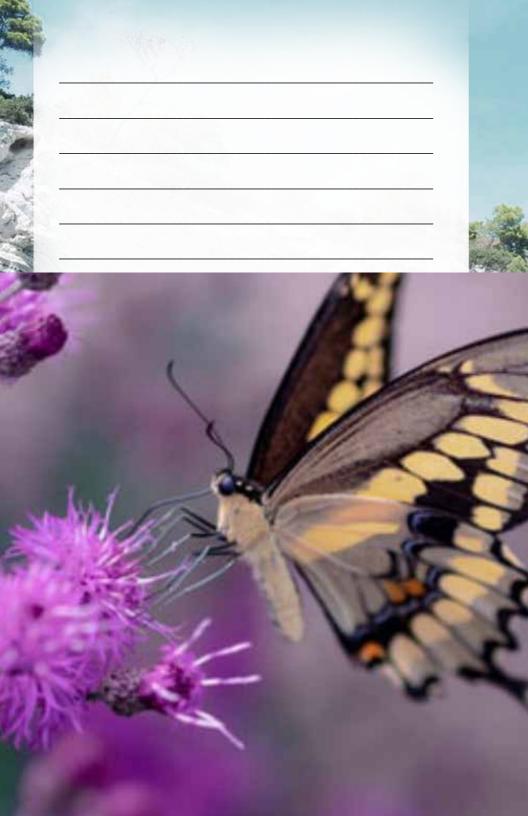
Jeremiah 9:24, MSG "Don't let the wise brag of their wisdom. Don't let heroes brag of their exploits. Don't let the rich brag of their riches. If you brag, brag of this and this only: That you understand and know me. I'm God, and I act in loyal love. I do what's right and set things right and fair, and delight in those who do the same things. These are my trademarks." God's Decree.

Mark 8:38, NKJV "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Joel 2:5, NKJV "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you."

Not being ashamed of Christ brings power and blessings upon our life. Being loyal makes us stand out; God blesses us.

Loyalty greatly determines our direction and destiny. (Genesis 39:6b-9a, NLT) Keep sowing; God will restore the lost years in your life. Celebrate the love of God.



Encourage Yourself in the Lord

James 3:10, NKJV "1 Samuel 30:6, KJV "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God."

Acknowledge Your Problem, but be willing to accept help. Start looking for things you can be thankful for.

James 3:10, NKJV "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

Don't allow your mind (anxiety) to make the problem bigger than it is. Conversations with ourselves can be called Mood Managers or Mood Monsters. Learn to encourage yourself in the Lord by replacing the worry, stress, and darkness, with the lights of God's Word and Promises. Cast your cares upon God, not your responsibilities.

eternity?	p. 0.0.0.		

Ask vourself will this problem really matter in

Messed Up Relationships

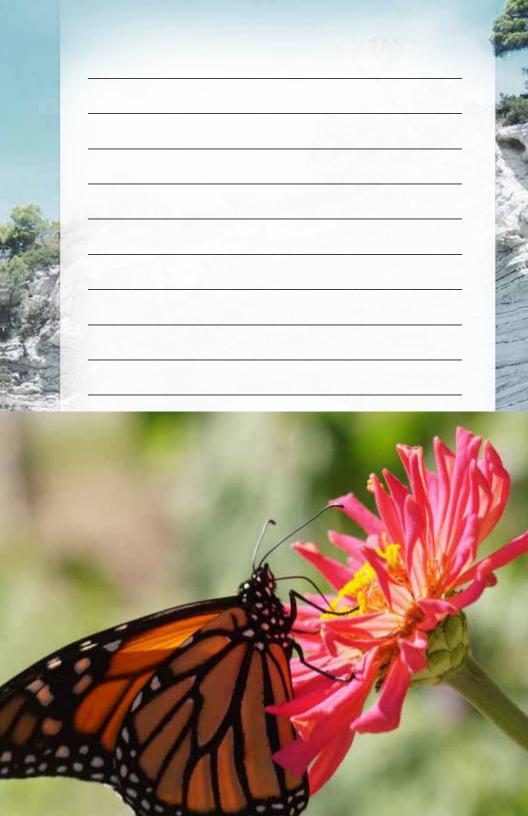
There is not a relationship that is so messed up that God cannot turn it into a miracle.

Matthew 1:18-20, NKJV "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

2 Corinthians 6:14, NKJV "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

Romans 8:28, NKJV "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Greatest Miracle ever happened is the Birth of Christ. God can take what looks bad and messed up and turn it into a miracle. The key to having a right relationship is do not be in a relationship with a non-Christian or a non-practicing Christian. Remember things are not always what they look like. How we respond to what looks like a mess greatly determines the outcome. Agree to do the right thing before you know the outcome. Reactions determine the reach.



Christmas That Could Not Be Messed Up

There is only one person that can mess your Christmas up, that is you. God had a plan for Jesus's birth and death. Everything and everyone else was nothing more than pawns in the hand of God.

God loves you and wants to take your darkness and turn it into light and a miracle.

Insights on having a miracle.

Luke 2:1-3, NKJV, "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So, all went to be registered, everyone to his own city."

Proverbs 21:1, NKJV "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the [a]rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Before you can ever have a miracle, you have to have a situation that looks impossible. Miracles are not about having your way; it is about God's way and will. Know that God is in control, not the government. Joseph went to Bethlehem, not because the government told him to, but because God told him to way ahead of time. Whatever God says will come to be. God can take the very least you have and do great and mighty things.

Most important thing you can do is hear from God on a day to day basis.

What test, trial, or temptation are you going through that you need to allow God to use it to grow your faith and help fulfill His purpose?

How to Get Out of a Mess

Isaiah 41:10, NIV "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Deuteronomy 28:1, NKJV "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth."

Proverbs 28:13, NKJV "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

Jeremiah 14:22, NKJV "Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O Lord our God? Therefore, we will wait for You, Since You have made all these."

When you are right with God, it will be easier to hear from God. Heed the voice of God. Obey Him even when it doesn't make sense. Confess and forsake any known sin so that you may prosper. Freedom and deliverance will only come with repentance and restitution. Be willing to wait on God's timing.

Checklist while waiting on the Lord: Pray expectantly. (Faith) Pray consistently. (Effort) Pray accordingly. (Based on God's Word)



Process of Pain

Proverbs 21:31, TLB "Go ahead and prepare for the conflict but victory comes from God."

Hosea 4:6, KJV "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Galatians 6:5, KJV "For every man shall bear his own burden."

Philippians 2:13, NLT2 "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."

God is more concerned with your character than your comfort.

Pain is part of the process to <u>promotion</u>. Disappointment is part of the process to <u>developing</u>. Total devastation should lead to <u>total dependence on God</u>. Total dependence on God leads to the right process in developing us to be used by God.

Heart attitude for God's Victory:

- Prepared heart arrange your life for the process it takes to get prepared and ready.
- Praying heart our heart lined up with God's will.
- Persistent heart helps us find our purpose.
- Processing heart a heart that understands the process, not necessarily enjoys the process.



Walk in Victory

How to Have Peace in Any Situation:

Saved + Total Dependence + Represent Christ in the Situation = Peace in the situation.

How to Have the Abundant Life (1-Cor.2:9amp):

1 Corinthians 2:9 (AMP), "What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed]."

Love God

Promptly Obey God's Word. Be Grateful for what God's done. (Practice being grateful)

Understand your most important calling and purpose

Is to be loved by God.Allow God to love us...It's to allow and enjoy being loved by God where we can then love God and others!

1 John 3:1 (AMP) "See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so, we are! For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

The root of all Rejection is misplaced identity.

Whenever we base our identity on somebody or something other than what God's Word has to say about us – We make ourselves vulnerable to being damaged by rejection.
Way too many people base their Identity on what our parents, teachers or friends say or think of us instead of God's word.

Focus Factory

Matthew 6:33, NKJV "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Luke 9:1-2, NKJV "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

We must be outward focused to see prayers answered, lives changed and accomplish what God has called us to do.

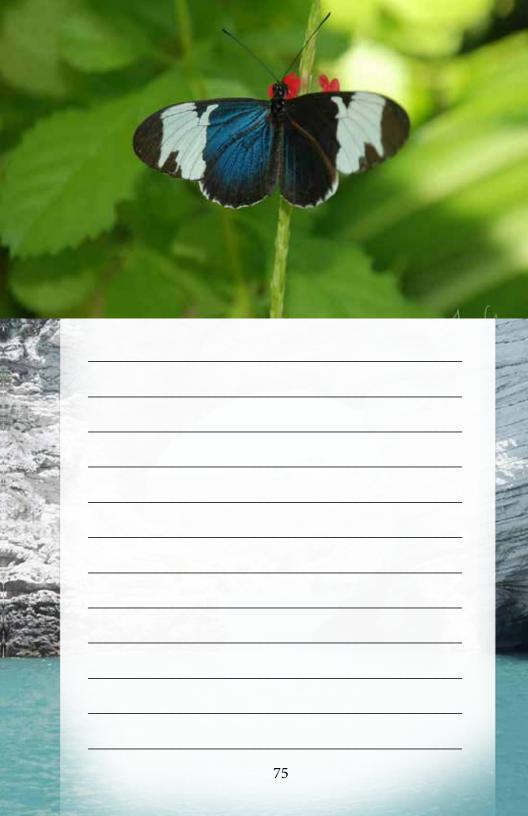
Right Focus:

Looks upward to Jesus for our identity. Brings favor and power of God to do what He has called us to do. Looks outward loving others as we love ourselves.

Wrong Focus:

Looks inward for identity. Brings failure. Brings inflated egos which causes us to miss our calling.

If you feel you are missing God's power and purpose for your life, you possibly have become inward focused.



Live with Purpose

Ephesians 2:10, TLB "It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others."

Ephesians 5:17, TLB "'Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to."

God created each of us on purpose with a purpose.

Pray and ask God.

What burdens do you carry to help make life better? What do you sense your great contribution to the Kingdom is to be?

Discover your gifts and talents.

What are your spiritual gifts? What are your natural talents? Do the people around you affirm what you believe you are? Part of growing self-awareness is seeing yourself accurately, including what you are good at as well as the skills that may never be your strength.

Predetermine your legacy.

Legacy is the cool part. Be humbled that God might use you for anything related to the eternal impact in people's lives. When your days are finished, what mark will you have left? How will you have touched people's lives? What will your contribution be?

Matthew 25:21, NKJV "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few

things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." ———————————————————————————————————



Spiritual growth is the only guarnatee that your life will get better. It's not trying... it's training that brings transformation.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Jo

Journey

