THE Mike Murdock COLLECTOR'S EDITION

THE WISDOM COMMENTARY 3©

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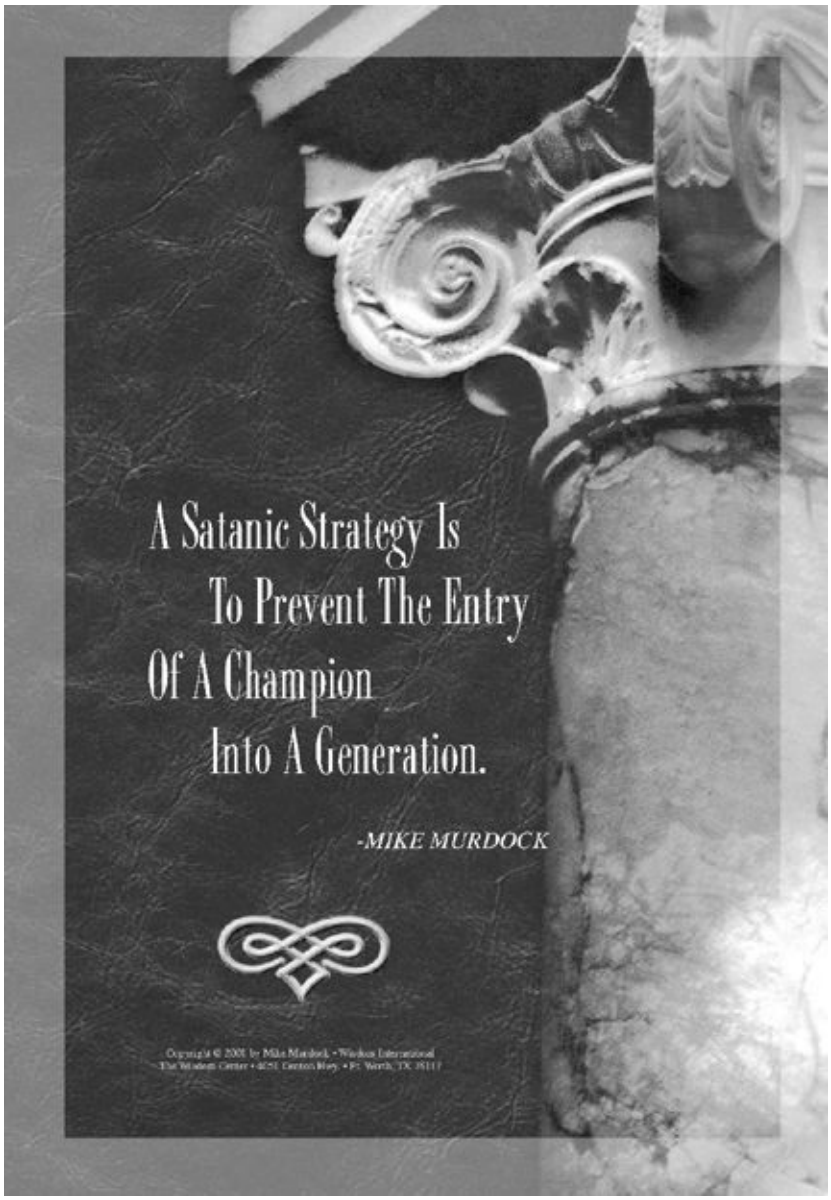
A Satanic Strategy Is
To Prevent The Entry
Of A Champion
Into A Generation.
-MIKE MURDOCK
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1

Abortion

Abortion Is Murder.

Abortion is more than murder.

At what point does the fetus…the embryo…this little life force organism become a human? *Does it become a human when it has hands?* Does it become a human when it has a head or when it has a heartbeat?

Abortion is a very controversial topic in the world system. To the Christian whose belief system is based on the Bible…there should be no controversy. Yet, there are some wonderful people who love God, who love the Bible, who believe that abortion is a controversial issue. The tragedy…*we have opened the door to trivialize human life.*

Abortion is a satanic attack on multiple levels; it is an *attack* on the woman…an *attack* on human life…*an attempt to abort an Assignment.* Abortion is really a satanic strategy to prevent the entry of a Champion into a generation.

I have got a word for you, young lady who is reading today, who is considering having an abortion. So many have talked to me…they are serving God, living for God, but they cannot seem to shake the sense of shame that is attached to the event…*the regret.* They become very cynical…overly critical toward others… because guilt is working against them on a subconscious level.

Abortion is the practice of heathens. "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood," (Psalm 106:37-38).

God wants the human body to be celebrated and treasured. "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well," (Psalm 139:14).

To abort a child is to destroy the purposes of God. God has a purpose in everything that He created. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee," (Jeremiah 1:5). God has a purpose in everything that He created. *To abort a child is to destroy the purposes of God.*

The Holy Spirit is the Source of life. In Job 33:4, He created humans. In

Job 26:13, He put the crook in the serpent. He designed the shape of the animals. God is very committed to what He has created here. Jesus put a great value on human life. “And He saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace,” (Mark 3:4). Jesus said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me,” (Matthew 19:14).

There are three things I believe about abortion.

First, I believe that if you ever get in the presence of God and The Word of God is strong in your life, you will be against all abortion. The only exception is when a mother's life is at stake. *I do not believe that even rape is justification to destroy that child.*

Once a woman on my staff came to me and said, “I don't believe that God created all humans because I'm a daughter of rape.” I said, “Really?” She said, “Yes, my mother was raped, and they didn't believe in abortion and so I'm here today.” I looked at her and The Holy Spirit gave me an answer for her. He said, “Where there was a thorn, God decided to leave a rose.” I said, “Even though you don't know your father, even though your mother was raped…there were some qualities in your father when combined with the qualities in your mother that have created *a supernatural You.* There has never been a *you* before God created *you.”* Today, she is a minister under a well known ministry organization.

Do I believe that children born out of rape are in the plan of God? *You bet your life I do.* I believe life is from God Himself. *He is the giver of life.* He is the restorer of life. God selects the genetic qualities from a father and a mother and combines those qualities to create an original. If you are a child of rape…born out of wedlock or your mother tried to abort you and didn't, do not let that destroy your sense of significance and worth. *Get back in God's presence.* God has a reason for you being born. Everything He created has a divine purpose. I urge you in the name of Jesus to *rise up…take your place.* It has been said that your mess is your message. Your pain is your pulpit. Wherever you have been hurting is where God will use you.

Secondly, I believe abortion is a sin. It is murder. We know that it is murder because Exodus 20:13 says, *“Thou shalt not kill.”* It is more than murder. Abortion is destructive. I believe that you will pay dearly for it. I believe you will pay for it in your conscience; you will pay for it in your life. To take that position is deadly, because to me, you are opposing the Source of Life…*The Holy Spirit.* All the laws in the world will not make abortion right in the eyes of God. I believe that God will judge America for all the abortions.

Thirdly, I believe abortion shows we do not want to pay the price for our sin. Abortion is not an acceptable contraceptive. I know that there is a militancy about the abortion issue. I have never seen so many people angry about killing a child. Regrettably the passion and the energy of the abortionist is greater than that of the anti-abortionist.

To the anti-abortionist I would like to say, "Stay strong." Not all of us will rally to this one cause. Everybody is called differently. I would say stop using the phrase "pro-life" and start using the phrase "pro-child." On your bumper stickers, put "pro-child" and use a picture of a child's face. Supporters of abortion use the phrase "pro-choice" to suggest that they are for the woman. I would say in your advertisement and in your anti-abortion crusade, use the phrase, "pro-child" instead of "pro-life." The phrase pro-life is difficult to illustrate as "life" cannot be easily defined, nor depicted. When you say life, *what is that?* Is that *a plant?* Is it *a tree?* I believe, however, if you use the phrase "pro-child" in your advertisement with a picture of a child's face, it will be far more effective, as it would register differently with the people.

It is horrifying, but *think about this.* More than 107,000 unborn babies are killed every month in America…in the womb. *It is a picture.* We respond to *pictures.* If you would use the word "pro-child" instead of "pro-life," I think it would carry greater significance.

In championing the "pro-child" cause, I want to remind you that the issue goes *deeper* than the sin. The issue is the Lordship of Jesus. Just because somebody has the child does not mean they are born-again. It does not mean that the *child* will be born again. This is what I say about the homosexual issue. I believe we have magnified various sins. I want to remind you that just because a person does not practice or commit a particular sin does not mean he will make Heaven. I think Billy Graham has the core truth and that is, "Bring someone to Jesus, and when Jesus comes in your life, He will give you the proper perspective, the proper way to look at things." Thank God if you have an anti-abortion ministry; *that* voice needs to be raised. Remember though, there are many people who are anti-abortion who are going to hell because they do not know Jesus. So, the issue is *bigger* than abortion. It is *much bigger* than that. It is…is Jesus Lord of my life?



Our Prayer Together…

“Father, I pray today for those who have had an abortion. I pray for the young woman right now who has the memories that are torturing her. Oh Father, pour Your healing oil over her conscience. Give her a *new* life, a *new* heart. Let her see a picture of her *future.* Let her move away from her past. In the name of Jesus.

I ask God to forgive you and to give you a new picture of your future. As far as the east is from the west, your sins are removed, and God will not remember them any more. Isaiah said He will do a new thing. Let go of *the memory.* Let go of *yesterday.* Amen.”

Ask God to forgive you.

Leave that sin at Calvary.

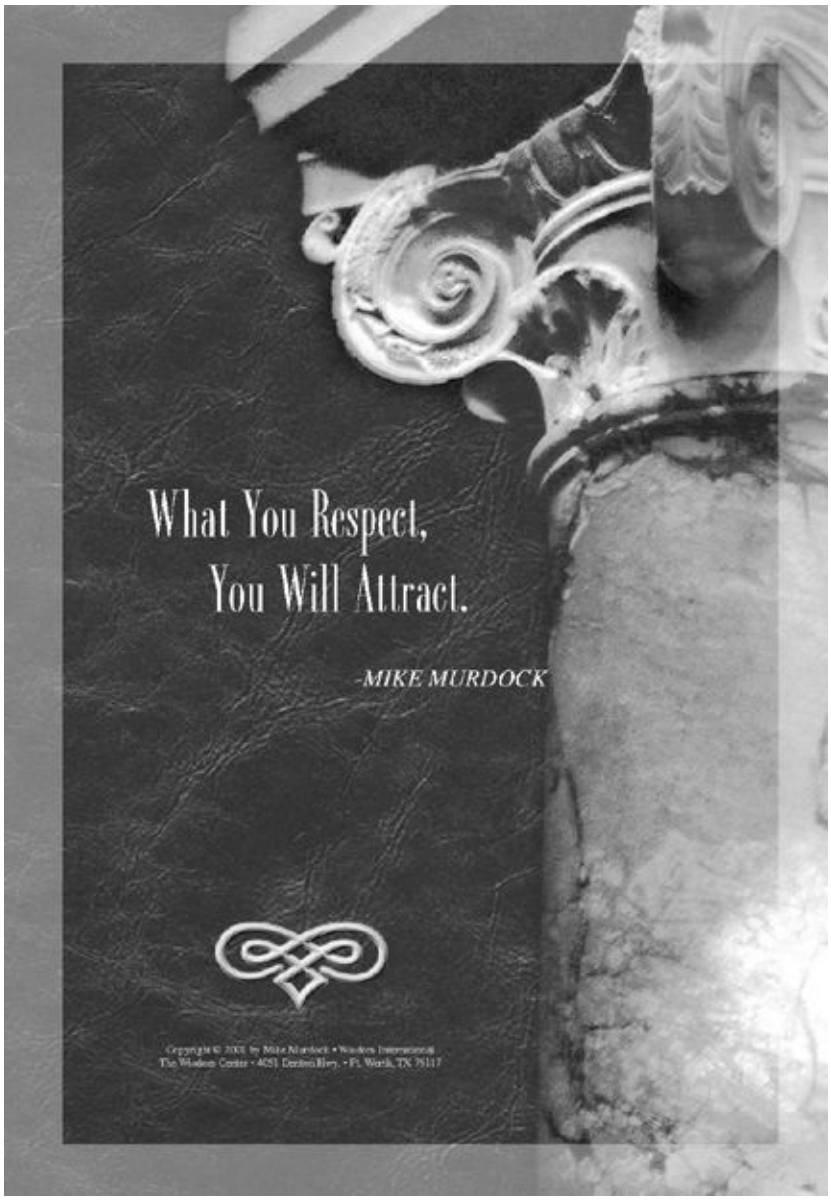
If you have had an abortion, ask God's mercy and say, “God give me a new life.” God may even call you into a new ministry to help other young ladies who are being tempted to have an abortion.

If you have discovered that you are pregnant, you are not married, you are tormented, you do not want to tell your mom, you do not want to tell your dad, you will not tell anybody…let me say this. A child is precious in the eyes of God. If you cannot raise that child, and you cannot support that child, there are thousands who want to adopt a child. My own son, I adopted when he was eight weeks old. I saw him first when he was four weeks old, and I was thrilled. I have stayed in touch with his biological mother all of these years. A precious woman who later had five more children…*thank God she did not abort that child who became my son.*

If you are pregnant with a child you do not want, please do *not* murder that child. *Do not kill that child.* That child has a divine purpose, a divine Assignment. Do not confront The Holy Spirit. If you are of the persuasion that abortion is not really murder until a certain stage, *rethink that position.* Go back into God's presence. Look back at His Word. The fact that there is even a question about it ought to make you think twice. You need to rethink that issue… *rethink it. Look at it again.*

In the times of Moses and in the times of Jesus, they tried to kill every male child under two years old. There was an attempt to abort, even after they were born, trying to abort their entry into a generation. Satan wants to stop every champion…*every potential achiever for God.* I think *that* is what is behind the abortion issue. It is not about murdering a baby. It is bigger than that. It is about stopping a *message* from God entering a generation. You may be carrying a

Jeremiah. There may be an *Ezekiel.* Young woman, you may have an *Isaiah* inside you. You may have the next *Billy Graham.* The next *Oral Roberts* may be inside your womb. “God give us a new caring for human life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”


What You Respect,
You Will Attract.
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2

Abundance

Abundance Is A Theme Throughout The Word Of God.

Peter's first epistle speaks of God's abundant mercy that endures forever. He talks about our love toward each other and our ability to increase in love. “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you,” (1 Thessalonians 3:12). *We know that we have a God of increase.*

The gospel has two sides: the *Person* of Jesus and the *Principles* of Jesus. The Person of Jesus creates your *peace,* but the Principles of Jesus create your *prosperity.*

We know that satan is a force for theft…for making us less. Jesus said, “The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly,” (John 10:10). In the book of Job we find satan stealing, but when God's blessing came upon Job, there was Abundance.

God revealed His opinion of Abundance throughout the Bible. “(The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as He hath promised you!),” (Deuteronomy 1:11).

Abundance is guaranteed to every obedient child of God. God revealed through Isaiah that our decisions for obedience will bring prosperity. “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land,” (Isaiah 1:19). *“If” means…You Make The Decision. Life consists of a string of decisions.*

God is a God of Plenty. “And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good,” (Deuteronomy 30:9).

In Scripture, *Character* is also key. “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon,” (Psalm 92:12).

There are several keys to Abundance. As admirable as it is to adapt to lack and to try to live on less, you can never hide from this innate invisible craving inside of you for more. Even preachers who are anti-prosperity, at the end of their telecast say, “We need your help. Would you help us go on another TV station?” *Everybody wants more.* The acorn strives to become the oak tree. We

are commanded to increase. God has planted Seeds of Greatness within us. The desire for more is not satanic*…it is the divine nature in us struggling for expression.*

3 Keys To Abundance

1. Identify The Source. Know that the Source of more, or the Source of Abundance…is God. *God is the Source of every good thing.* Every good and every perfect gift comes from God (see James 1:17). His methods are clear in Scripture.

2. Understand The Purpose. The purpose of Abundance is to create a wall of protection around your family. The purpose of Abundance is to provide for your children an adequate upbringing…college…the things they need, etc. Second, to protect and provide for world evangelism. Countless missionaries have left their Assignment…because of lack.

3. Persuasion. I think you have to have a persuasion. You must have *a persuasion* that God wants you to have Abundance. A sinner who believes that God wants him to have more, will have more than a Christian who does not believe that part of the Bible. God's Word is clear on the subject. “No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly,” (Psalm 84:11).

7 Forces For Abundance

1. The Tithe. Just as Abraham brought Melchezidek, the king, a tithe as a symbolic gesture of honoring God, so we bring the first ten percent of our income back to the house of the Lord. Many pastors do not stress the tithe because they see so many other needs besides the tithe in people's lives. He sees anger. He sees offenses. He sees unforgiveness. *(Focus can be blinding.)* The average pastor will not really emphasize the tithe as much as he should.

Tithing to God's work, giving Him the first dime of every dollar, guarantees God's divine protection. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it,” (Malachi 3:10).

Twenty percent of what Christ talked about was money. He talked more about money than He did prayer and faith*…the tithe is important.* Wherever you go to church, whoever feeds you spiritually; *to me…*that *is* your storehouse.

Wherever you are getting your dominant major spiritual food is your spiritual covering. Bring that tithe to the house of the Lord. I do not care if the Pastor is driving the nicest car there. I do not care what you *see…tithe* to the house of the Lord. I do not care what church you go to, bring that first ten percent.

2. Honoring Your Mother And Father. I believe a second key to Abundance is honoring your parents that it may go well with you. You are honoring the first decision The Holy Spirit made about your life, and that was who would bring you into the world.

3. Work. The Bible says if a man works, he will enjoy the fruit of his labors. Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica and said that if you do not work, you should not eat.

4. Following Instructions. The Bible says in the multitude of counselors there is safety. The Bible says poverty and shame will come to him that refuses instruction. People in my life…staff members, relatives, partners…who are going through financial problems have broken an instruction I gave them. I have not had one person yet, who followed my instructions, to fail financially… *ever.*When I give them an instruction… those who are failing financially…are those who do the opposite. They go do what they want to do, and then they come back to me saying, "I'm really going through financial problems." *They would not follow a simple instruction.*

5. Problem-Solving. Your salary is decided by the problem you solve. *Your rewards* are decided by the problems you solve.

6. Decisions. *Decisions Decide Wealth.* Abundance is decided by your decisions…decisions in relationships…decisions about whose Mentorship you will follow. Decisions decide *poverty.* Decisions decide *frustration.* Decisions decide *stress.* Decisions decide *joy.* Wealth is not a money word. *It is a supply word. Decisions Decide Wealth.*

7. Seed-Sowing. Sow with *Expectation.* Stripping expectation from your Seed is theft of the only pleasure God knows. He expected you to be motivated by supply…by the promise of provision. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom," (Luke 6:38).

Today I believe God wants you to have Abundance. I pray in Jesus name that God gives you a new persuasion about Abundance. You may say, "Well, Mike, I am a widow and I do not have any money. I am on a fixed income of $500 from Social Security." *God* is your source, not your Social Security, not even your

kids who refuse to help you. *God is your source,* but you can only attract what you put a value on. You will never attract what you love, and you will never attract what you need. *You can only attract something in life that you value.* What you respect will come toward you. What you do not respect will move away from you…whether it is God, a miracle or a dog. Remember Wisdom Key #3: *Whatever You Respect, You Will Attract.*



Our Prayer Together…

"Father, destroy in us any Seeds of doubt about accumulation and Abundance. Father, there is a satanic blindness in the Body of Christ about Abundance. *I hate it.* I *despise* it…because it has limited us in our outreach. Forgive us of any falsehood we have believed about prosperity and Abundance. I ask You to expose every pharisaical attitude about Abundance. Lord, there are people in leadership who walk in Abundance, yet they try to destroy that very message for other people. *To them*, it is okay to have millions, but it is not okay for anybody else to have it. Father, I come against that lying spirit in Jesus' name. Awaken us to truth. *Awaken us to truth."*

3

Abuse

Abuse Is A Horrifying Thing.

There Are Three Parts Of Abuse: Those Who Abuse Others, Those Who Are Abused And Those Who Protect, Counsel, And Help Those Who Are Abused.

We know that God will destroy abusers because He puts a great value on human life. David put it this way, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made,” (Psalm 139:14). Jesus Himself said, “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish,” (Matthew 18:6, 14).

That Scripture in particular is linked to children, but there are mothers who are abused. There are wives who are abused. There are fathers who are abused. There are parents who experience abuse *by their children.* An elderly lady, crying and weeping, shared with me something her son and her daughter had done…literally taking money out of her accounts…her own children had stolen from her. She said, “I don't have any money for food.”

Abuse occurs daily everywhere in the world.

I saw a documentary on little girls that were being purchased and sold into prostitution overseas…little boys that were taken and sold into servitude.

Abuse is a horrifying thing.

I read about the slave trade and the days of slavery right here in America. It is hard to believe that ever existed here, and yet it still exists in many areas of the world. Verbal abuse creates scars too.

Where do you draw the line?

I listen to television talk show hosts, as they literally abuse our president every single week publicly, and I hear thousands of people laugh with glee when the leader of our nation is verbally abused on the air. *I hear all kinds of abuse.* There is physical abuse…someone beating their child. I am not talking about spanking. I am not talking about discipline. I am talking about when they beat their child mercilessly. There are women who go to work with a black eye, with a broken elbow, because of an abusive husband.

First, I want to talk to the abuser. It has been said that the hurting, hurt others. If you have been abused in your childhood, and you are perpetuating that abuse in your marriage or your home, ask God to forgive you. Ask God to stop the anger and whatever is causing you to abuse others. If you do not judge yourself in this area, God will judge you. It is critical that you get God's strength to overcome. *Go for help.* Go to your Pastor. Go to counselors because that abusive spirit inside you is demonic…it is satanic. *It is destructive.* We are called to love. We are called to kindness. We are called to gentleness…not to strife.

The second message is to those who are abused. Someone has hurt you verbally…perhaps you were sexually abused as a child. I cannot even fathom a grown man molesting a little boy or a little girl, but it happens constantly. If you are being abused, you need to report it. You need to go to somebody. I do not care what it takes, the Bible says in the multitude of counselors there is safety and there is Wisdom. Also know …*the abuse is not your fault!* A good counselor can teach you about setting boundaries.

To me it seems that the Bible was written for people who are being abused. "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up," (Psalm 27:10).

"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me," (Psalm 56:11). The Word of God will dissolve the fear of man. You must rise above your fear of the abuser. He is not the God of your life. You have a God that is going to help you.

Victory is possible. "And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve," (Isaiah 14:3).

God will never quit loving you no matter how abuse makes you feel, no matter how ashamed you feel. No matter how insignificant you feel, the love of God will never stop coming toward your life. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us," (Romans 8:35, 37).

Ahab murdered Naboth to get his vineyard.

Cain, the first son on earth, the first son born to man, killed Abel, his brother.

Even Stephen, the anointed deacon, was stoned …*to death.*

Abuse is happening everywhere…every day…to people all around you.

Listen carefully. If you are being abused, know that abuse is not God's plan. Know that it is *not* God's will for you …*to be abused.* If you are a daughter that is reading this book and your father is touching you, violating you in a sexual way, you *must* secure help. You must *reach* for help. I know it is not that you do not love your father, but that element in him is demonic. *It is satanic.* It is from the devil himself. That man calling himself your father may love you, he may care about you, but he is under the control of demonic spirits if he is touching you, violating you sexually.

1. Go For Help.

2. Call For The Authorities.

3. Secure Proof. You must have proof. I believe false accusation against a righteous person is as wrong as the person who is abusing. It must be truthful. It must be right. *You must reach for help.*

4. Get Counseling. "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety," (Proverbs 24:6). Do not tell *everybody,* but go to *somebody.* Tell them, "This is what is happening in my life." If you are a wife that is being abused by a husband and he says, "I'll kill you if you tell anybody," you *must* get out of that situation. *You must get out.* Whatever it takes, you must get out. Go to your older brother. Go to your father. *You must seek help.* You must *reach out* for change. You must *defy* an abuser. You must *come against* that spirit with everything within you.

5. Seek Divine Intervention. I would urge you if you are being abused, to live in Psalm 91. Begin to get Scripture inside your heart about God's protection in putting angels around you. You must get Divine help first. We know God will not change. We do not know what people around us will say. You have no assurance of trusting many others, but God is for you. If God be for you, who can successfully succeed against your life?

6. You Must Get A Fresh Picture Of Your Future. The worst thing about being abused is the affect on your self portrait. Remember Wisdom Key #334: *Your Self-Portrait Determines What You Are Willing To Endure.* Do not put up with abuse from any other human. Do not endure it. Do not put up with it. *It is not the will of God.* It will change the way you see yourself, and you will start thinking, "I deserve this treatment." You can begin to grow accustomed to abuse if you do not refuse it.

I have heard that if a girl is abused sexually in her home, when she gets older and her husband abuses her, she will accept it and endure it because a pattern of

thinking develops over the years… “Maybe I have done something to deserve this.” I do not understand that psychology. Even a child that is molested by a parent begins to feel shame and thinks, “I've done something wrong.” They say that even if a father beats a child, that child begins to think, “Maybe I've done something to deserve this treatment.”

God does not want you to experience shame. You are worth as much as any human. Your life is as valuable to God as Billy Graham's or the president of the United States. Your life matters to God as much as any other human. There is no human life that God values and puts a greater importance on. I believe that is why He says He is not a respecter of persons meaning, “My love comes to every person.”

Reach out for help. Defy the abuser. There will be a *time*. There will be a *place*. *Destroy that relationship.* Get out of it the best way that you can, the quickest way that you can.

If you know someone who is being abused, report it. Report it to the authorities. If you know anyone who is abusing another person, report them. *I have.* I have done it, and I believe it is the right thing to do.

What about when something happened years ago in your childhood? I believe you can overcome it. “Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things old. Behold, I will do a new thing,” (Isaiah 43:18-19). I would not try to go back and make somebody straight who abused you twenty years ago and fifteen years ago. I believe to do that, magnifies it. I believe it solidifies it in your mind and in your conscience. Has there been abuse in your life in the past? You bet your life there has. If you go back to correct every person in your past, you will forfeit your future. *You will poison your future by going back to the past.* I believe God gave us an instruction. “Remember ye not the former things.” If it is over, if it is past, if it is behind you, God can set you free. God can *heal* you of it.

I do not believe in the counseling that takes you back into the pit of the past and delves into it and goes further and deeper. I believe this magnifies the abuse. I believe doing this, makes us a hostage to the past. *Memory Is More Enslaving Than Any Injustice* (Wisdom Key #53). I believe God will give you new pictures. Instead of going back into your memory, let God move you into your future through your imagination. *Your Memory Replays Your Past; Your Imagination Preplays Your Future* (Wisdom Key #349).

Father, forgive us if we have abused anybody in our life in any way …*even with our words.* I ask God to forgive you, give you a power and strength to rise

above that. Ask the people who you have abused to have mercy toward you and forgive you. Make restitution when possible. *The proof of true repentance is immediate restitution.*

I pray for you that if you have been abused in any way that God will take the shame off you, the guilt, the fear, the pain and the offense that has taken hold inside you…even the bitterness that may have come and risen inside you. I pray that God will forgive the person who abused you, but more than anything that God will empower you to rise above it and say, "I can overcome it." I refuse to be molested. I refuse to be cursed out every day. I refuse to live in an abusive environment, and I rise above it. I pray that God will give you a supernatural power that, through the power of The Holy Spirit, you will rise up against that and even the memory of it. If you were in a marriage that was abusive, and you are no longer in that marriage, stop revisiting those painful places. May God give you a fresh vision of your future.

I pray today that if you see somebody being abused or if you know of anybody that is being abused that you will report it, that you will move swiftly to protect them in every conceivable way. I do not care if it is in the apartment next to you and you hear a man beating his wife. If you see a father dragging his child across a yard in an abusive fashion, *address it.* Do not let anybody you know remain in that situation.

What You Make Happen For Others, God Will Make Happen For You. The opposite is also true. Every person who abuses another human will be penalized by God. God will deal with that person. I do not care if it is an attorney. I do not care if it is a doctor taking advantage of the disrobed woman in his office. I do not care where it is, every person who abuses someone that God created will pay a horrible price. *Report the abuse.* Move them *swiftly* out of it.

This is the first time I have addressed anything like this, but it is happening everywhere in the world. There are girls who do not want to be alone with their father, because he touches them. I believe there are some unwholesome situations. There is a man I am thinking of right now that thought nothing of his seventeen year old daughter taking a bath and him sitting there using the toilet right there in the same room. That is unwholesome. It is unwise. It is not godly. You will be judged for it. *Keep things clean.* Keep things *right,* and whatever you do, make sure that those around you have a good environment. Remember Wisdom Key #146: *The Purpose Of Memory Is To Revisit Places Of Pleasure.*

Recommended Investments:

Wisdom for Winning (Book/B-01/228 pages/$10)
Wisdom for Winning (Cassette Tape/TS-01/6 tapes/$30)

4

Access

Access Is First A Gift, Then A Test And Then A Reward.

Access is first a gift.

For you to read my books, watch me on television or listen to me is a gift to me. You do not have to…you could be shopping. There are a hundred other channels to watch, thousands of other churches to attend and millions of other books to read. There are probably some that are far more exciting than Wisdom as far as energizing. For me to have access to your life is a gift.

As I continue to teach you and share with you, the access becomes a test. Then, when you keep giving it to me after a period of weeks or months, it becomes a reward for whatever I am sowing into your life.

Throughout Scripture, the Bible says to be careful when you are in someone's presence. It says if you go to a king's house, put a knife to your throat so you do not look like a glutton when you are standing there. “When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite,” (Proverbs 23:1-2). Another Scripture says to “Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee,” (Proverbs 25:17).

Access is a marvelous gift. It is also a test because the more you are exposed to somebody, they see your heart, they see your flaws, they see your mistakes. Can you handle the gift of relationship? Then it is a reward.

Any time someone is in my presence, I am scanning, I am looking, I am discerning. Nobody wants to be around dangerous people.

Ruth was instructed by Naomi to change her clothes, wash the barley out of her hair. She said, “If you are going to meet with Boaz, package for the man that you want to impress.” She knew Boaz was going to see what she was before he heard what she was. You are a walking message system. “Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking,” (Ruth 3:1-3).

When Joseph went to face Pharaoh, he shaved his beard because in those days Egyptians hated beards. He changed his clothes. He packaged for the environment he wanted to enter. “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh,” (Genesis 41:14).

Esther did not barge into the king's palace saying, “You know we went to bed last week, so I want some time with you.” She honored the gift of access. (Read Esther 5.)

A great preacher of the gospel we all know told me one of the most fascinating stories I ever heard. It was about when he went to a foreign country. He said, “Mike, we only had 30,000-35,000 people there, and I knew something was wrong.” I said, “My Lord, I would be thrilled if I had 30,000.” He said, “No, there should have been more, and I remembered the last American evangelist that went there was critical of the Roman Catholic Church.” He said, “I asked, ‘Who is the spiritual voice of this country?’ They told me the archbishop of the Catholic church.” He said, “I asked the archbishop for access. I asked him could I have a few minutes with him.” He gave him ten minutes. When he walked in, he made this statement to the archbishop. “I am not here to destroy the Catholic Church. I am here to lift up Jesus.” The man gave him forty minutes, prayed with him, and said, “The next time you come back to our country, I will publicly endorse you.” When he went back to that country, 500,000 people showed up to hear him. He treasured access.

Billy Graham, an incredible example to every man of God, said, “I refuse to say anything publicly that might rob me of the opportunity to minister to somebody privately.” Sometimes we are so critical that the minute we have with somebody or the two minutes we have with them becomes destructive.

Access is first a gift. Then it will test you. Third, it becomes a reward.

Recommended Investments:

Wisdom for Winning (Book/B-01/228 pages/$10)

The Gift Of Access And How To Keep It (CD/SOML-19/$10)

5

Adversity

Somebody Will Not Like What You Are Doing. Ever.

In the ancient writings of Ezra, a remarkable portrait is painted for us. When the foundation of the temple of the Lord was being laid, trumpets were sounded. They sang together by chorus in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord. Many of the priests wept and shouted for joy.

The noise was heard afar off. "And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off," (Ezra 3:10-13).

Then, the attack began.

Here Are 22 Defense Techniques To Remember During Seasons of Adversity

1. Expect Someone To Be Unhappy Over Your Progress. They always are. They "…hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose," (Ezra 4:5).

Read Ezra 4 for yourself. "Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read…they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem," (Ezra 4:23-24). Remember Wisdom Key #65: *Anything Good Is Hated By Everything Evil.*

2. Remember That You Are A Champion, Not A Loser.

Champions Spend Their Time Building Their Dreams.

Losers Spend Their Lives Criticizing Those Dreams.

Losers Focus On What They Are Going Through; Champions Focus On What They Are Going To (Wisdom Key #138).

3. Invest Your Words And Energy In Creating New Goals And Dreams. Losers invest their words and labor in trying to destroy the goals of others. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers," (Ephesians 4:29-31).

4. Recognize That What Makes You Weep May Cause Others To Become Angry. Nehemiah wept over the condition of Jerusalem. "The wall of Jerusalem also is 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).

5. Remember That When Your Assignment Is Awakened Within You, Your Adversary Is Awakened Against You. It happened to Nehemiah. "When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel…they laughed us to scorn, and despised us," (Nehemiah 2:10, 19). "They were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it," (Nehemiah 4:7-8).

6. Pray, Confess, Weep And Cast Yourself Down Before God. "Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore," (Ezra 10:1).

7. Fast. Ezra did. "Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away," (Ezra 10:6).

8. Exhort Those Working Around You To Be Strong And Unafraid, And To Be Willing To Fight For Their Families. Ezra did. "And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses,"

(Nehemiah 4:14).

9. Stay Awake, Alert And Aware. Nehemiah did. “Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them,” (Nehemiah 4:9). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,” (1 Peter 5:8).

10. Stay Productive And Focused. Nehemiah did. “We returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work,” (Nehemiah 4:15).

11. Rearrange Your Daily Routine In Order To Be Cautious, Guarded And Protected From Your Enemies. Nehemiah did. “So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing,” (Nehemiah 4:23).

12. Encourage Singers And Spiritual Leaders Over You To Stay At Their Place Of Assignment. Nehemiah did. “Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,” (Nehemiah 7:1).

13. Secure The Leadership And Management Skills Of Faithful, Godly Men. Nehemiah did. “That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many,” (Nehemiah 7:2).

14. Study The Biographies Of Those Who Have Endured. Paul experienced much attack and criticism. “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words,” (2 Timothy 4:14-15).

15. Forgive Those Who Attack You, Knowing That God Will Stand With You. Paul did. When Paul experienced attack and alienation, he forgave and depended on the delivering power of God. “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion,” (2 Timothy 4:16-17).

16. Stay Focused On Your Assignment. Paul did. Paul stayed focused on the results of his ministry and kept his expectation on God as his deliverer. “And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen,” (2 Timothy 4:18).

17. Pursue The Presence Of God And His Word. David did. When David was attacked and criticized, he pursued the presence of God and absorbed the words of the covenant. “Unless Thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction,” (Psalm 119:92).

18. Develop More Wisdom Regarding The Purpose Of The Adversity.

- Criticism is an observation designed to *distract* you.
- Attack is opposition designed to *destroy* you.
- Criticism is intended to *demoralize* you.
- Attack is intended to *demoralize those around you,* and anyone desiring to help you.
- Criticism is meant to make your future *undesirable.*
- Attack is to make your future *unreachable.*
- Critics will oppose your *methods.*
- Enemies oppose your *motives.*

19. Remember That Your Attitude Is More Important Than The Adversity You Are Going Through. *Attacks pass.* Your attitude, if bitter or demoralized, can grow within you a root of bitterness that will poison every day of your future. “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled,” (Hebrews 12:15).

20. Secure The Ministry Of Another Intercessor. “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven,” (Matthew 18:19).

21. Expect Your Faith To Be Honored Supernaturally By The God Who Intervenes…Just When You Need It The Most. “And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them,” (Mark 11:22-24).

22. Expect God To Bring The Counsel Of Your Enemies To Nought. “And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work,” (Nehemiah 4:15).

5 Keys That Unlock Victory During Seasons of

Adversity

1. Attack Reveals That Your Enemy Fully Believes You Are Capable Of Obtaining Your Goal. They would not waste their ammunition, time, finances and effort if they thought your dreams or goals were impossible. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,” (Philippians 4:13). If your enemy believes in your future, so should you!

2. Satan Only Attacks At The Birth Of Something Significant In Your Life. It may be your ministry, as with Jesus in Matthew chapter four. It may be the birth of a champion in your household, like the birth of Moses that activated the killing of all the newborn children in Egypt. (See Exodus 1.) It may be the birth of a miracle about to occur in your personal life. (See Daniel 9.)

3. Satan Uses Those Closest To You As Gates Into Your Heart. Your intercession is often the only covering they have, so pray daily for the grace and mercies of God to be shown toward those you love. “And a man's foes shall be they of his own household,” (Matthew 10:36).

4. The Word Of God Is The Best Defense You Possess. Jesus used it in Matthew 4 during His temptation season. It will work every time to demoralize the tirade of words satan uses relentlessly against your mind. “Unless Thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction,” (Psalm 119:92).

5. Angels Are Continually Ready To Minister To You At The Conclusion Of A Crisis. “Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him,” (Matthew 4:11).

Recommended Investments:

Seeds of Wisdom on Adversity (Book/B-21/32 pages/$3)

The Mentor's Manna on Adversity (Book/B-81/32 pages/$3)

6

Books



Make Moments Count.

What you read*…is what you will become.* Reading prevents boredom. That is why magazines and books are kept in the waiting rooms of physicians and hospitals. When you bring the book of your choice with you, you can maintain a continuous flow of appropriate information into your heart and mind. Remember Wisdom Key #218: *What Enters You Determines What Exits You.*

6 Facts You Should Remember About Reading

1. Reading Will Often Discourage Unproductive Conversation With Others. Have you ever sat beside someone who could not stop talking? Unfortunately, most people who love to talk a lot do not require anything significant to energize them. They will talk about anything just to avoid silence. When you keep a book handy, this usually discourages them.

2. Keep A List Of The Books You Want To Read Each Month. This prevents unwise selections in moments of boredom or fatigue. Everyone should read at least one book a week. At the beginning of each year, select books that you would like to complete by the end of the year and select a new one each Sunday. Just pages a day will take you through a book every single week.

3. Bring Books With You On Airplane Trips And Vacations. You are away from the busyness of your daily schedule. The phone cannot ring. The television is off. You can withdraw in your own private mental world. Focus is possible. You can purchase books in airports, but it is better for you to bring your own choice with you.

4. Keep Reading Material In Your Washroom. Avoid two year old magazines that do not keep you current and energized. Place books there that are priority and important to you. I keep a Bible with my books as well.

5. Keep Two Books In Your Automobile At All Times. I suggest keeping a fiction book and a non-fiction book simultaneously. Moods vary. Sometimes, you want to relax and other times you will want to learn. Keep both convenient for such occasions. During traffic jams, this relieves the stress of “doing nothing” en route to an appointment.

6. Make Books Accessible To Others Riding With You As Well. This reading habit "brings your thoughts into captivity," (see 2 Corinthians 10:5). This neutralizes the influence of others around you who would use these occasions to break your focus. Your life stays on course. Your focus is protected. You continue to grow even in the spare moments between appointments.

My life is quite full. There is little time for loneliness, self pity or "down time." Every moment matters to me. My hours matter to me. I travel a lot. I have for forty-one years. I have noticed that the only time I want to read a novel is for relaxation on a plane. When I am home, I am emotionally attached to my projects and feeling the responsibility of staff members. So, I will take those moments on an airplane to nap (power naps), read the newspaper, or read a novel. Ten years ago, I would write letters on planes and review business proposals. That has changed as well.

Your needs change continuously. Familiarize yourself with your personal rhythms of each day. Cooperate with them and you can become more productive than you realize.

Do not fight against the surges of energy in your life. Identify and flow with them. Make moments count.

Keep A Book With You At All Times.

It is one of the Secrets of The Uncommon Life.

7

Busyness

If Satan Cannot Stop You, He Accelerates You.

Focus often blinds you.

It is the "downside" of focus. It is the negative side of having an obsession for your Assignment. You have goals and dreams. Your daily agenda revolves around that obsession. Every conversation contributes to that dream you are attempting to birth. You are fighting, clawing and exhausting every ounce of your being to complete your Assignment on earth.

Effects of Busyness

1. Busyness Can Cause You To Overlook Somebody Near You Who Is Hurting. They start withdrawing. They become introspective. Many times, they are reluctant to speak up. They see your stress, burdens and busyness. They feel unimportant, insignificant and unnecessary.

They believe any pursuit of your attention is considered an interruption or distraction. They feel it. They know it.

This occurred with me. Three of us were working in my Wisdom Room on a project. I was consumed with a book. I had fought hard to preserve this private time, away from the pulpit and traveling. Suddenly, one of my staff began to cry. It dawned on me immediately that she had asked me several hours earlier to pray for her father. He was in a dangerous and critical situation in the hospital hundreds of miles away. I had intended to pray for him, but my book was my obsession. As she sat there, her mind could not disconnect from the love she had for her father.

I was wrong. I had overlooked the needs of someone nearest me. I immediately stopped, apologized and called a special time of prayer.

2. Busyness Can Cause You To Overlook The Needs Of Those Near You. Someone who never causes trouble is usually ignored. This occurred to me some months ago. My general manager mentioned a very difficult situation one of the staff members was facing. I was stunned. They had been living with this problem for a long time. I had not known it. Why? She was not a complainer, nor a whiner. She was a thankful person. She was not a reacher. She was not a

manipulator, maneuvering everyone toward the solution of her problem. She was quiet, shy and alone. Others who had experienced similar problems were demanding, vocal and outspoken. So they received the attention they wanted. Quiet children need attention as much as opinionated children. They are simply overlooked.

Your most supportive people will seldom reveal their deepest needs. While praying recently, The Holy Spirit reminded me of one of the staff members. “When did they receive their last raise?” I asked my general manager.

“I don't really know,” was her reply. “But, I will find out.”

She had not received a raise in over two years of working for the ministry. She had never complained. She had never griped. But I had overlooked her needs.

My mail piles up. Phone calls pour in by the hundreds to my office every week. Everyone seems to be in crisis.

Too often we respond to the *loudest.*

Too often we respond to the most *obnoxious.*

Too often we respond to the most *persistent.*

That is why the families of ministers are often the last to receive our attention. Our staff is often the last to receive our favor.

Those nearest us should be the first to receive the fruit of our love, blessings and attention.

Who needs a special season of restoration and relaxation? Who needs a listening ear? Who is being ignored by others? Who is in a true financial crisis? “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it,” (Proverbs 3:27).

What You Do Daily Determines What You Become Permanently (Wisdom Key #232).

Habit Will Always Take You Further Than Desire.

Creating a perfect day is a vital discovery. Duplicating that kind of day consistently will guarantee uncommon success and help you avoid the pitfalls of busyness. Here are seven keys to creating a perfect day in your life.

7 Keys To Creating A Perfect Day

1. You Must Make Measurable And Significant Movement Toward Good Health. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of The Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's,” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

2. You Must Make Measurable And Significant Movement Toward Order. Remember Wisdom Key #337: *Order Is Simply The Accurate Arrangement Of Things.* I have noticed that the smallest effort in drawing up a plan for the day, cleaning out my closet or rearrangement of books in my library, generates joy. The slightest movement toward order generates a measure of pleasure. “But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk,” (1 Corinthians 7:17).

3. You Must Make Measurable And Significant Movement Toward Uncommon Wisdom. “Wisdom is the principal thing,” (Proverbs 4:7).

4. You Must Make Measurable And Significant Movement Toward Financial Stability. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth,” (3 John 1:2).

5. You Must Make Measurable And Significant Movement Toward Your Assignment. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

6. You Must Nurture And Develop Significant Relationships. You must monitor, motivate and Mentor those who are in your Love Circle. “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12).

7. You Must Listen Constantly To The Voice Of The Holy Spirit. He is your lifetime companion. “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even The Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you,” (John 14:16-17).

Your Assignment is a daily miracle.

It is a daily event.

You are only responsible for today.

When you learn how to obey the voice of The Holy Spirit hourly, you will have learned the secret of life.

Each Act Of Obedience Shortens The Distance To Any Miracle You Are Pursuing (Wisdom Key #70).

Recommended Investments:

The Mentor's Manna on Achievement (Book/B-79/32 pages/$3)

Seeds of Wisdom on Time-Management, Vol. 19 (Book/B-121/32 pages/$5)

Seeds of Wisdom on Decision-Making, Vol 23 (Book/B-125/32 pages/$5)

8

Communication



7 Master Keys In Effective Communication

1. Communicate Effectively With People. Be an effective communicator. You may say, “People are all the same.” People are not the same. Do you think every dog is the same? Do you think every flower is the same? Do you think Chinese food is just like sauerkraut? There are different levels of people.

Discovery creates distance. For example, one spouse may begin to learn a lot, and to develop their mind by extracting information from others and by internalizing great thoughts. If that spouse goes home every day to a mate whose obsession is the four walls, they will quickly lose communication as a couple. That is why you will often hear people say, “We seemed to have grown apart.” Why? Because discovery creates distance.

So how do you communicate with others? Let me give you some very basic thoughts. I do not particularly like the word “communication.” It is not one of my favorite words. However, I use it because it encompasses countenance, tone of voice, and appearance. Communication is the message you want to send.

I was in Rome, Italy, when I was in my 20’s. I heard some men yelling and screaming down below my hotel room. After I had developed a lot of Italian friendships, I found out later that this is typical Italian communication. In fact, they really measure caring that way.

Irish folks are also passionate in their exchange. I am Irish. Many years ago I went to preach for a great pastor in Ireland, along with Bob Gass, another Irish evangelist. It was the number one church in Ireland, a great church, with thousands of people. On the way from the airport, they had to stop the car to keep us from fighting. I went to preach for this pastor. I was in a state of shock that somebody could be so obtuse and have such an incredible church. He was actually a phenomenal man. I did not find that out for a few days. He was anti-prosperity and I was just breaking into it. That pastor and I did become fast friends, but our initial communication with each other was quite spirited.

People communicate differently with different people. People act differently with you than they do with other people. I do not believe that you really know anybody. You know the way they are with you. They plug into different energy

levels.

2. Study Communication In The Bible. The Bible is a book about communication. The Bible is filled with examples of communication. God talking to man. Man talking to God. Man talking to man. God talking to angels. Angels talking to men. God talking to satan. Satan talking to God. Satan talking to men. Men talking to satan. The entire Bible, the 66 books, 800,000 plus words, the 1189 chapters, is about communication.

God is a writer. We know that from what He gave us. He is a thinker. In Jeremiah 29:11 He says, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil…." God is a remarkable communicator. The Holy Spirit is the voice of the Godhead.

3. Learn From Effective Communicators. Begin to focus completely on developing and increasing your skill at communicating effectively with those around you. This means in your communication you create the desired result.

It does not necessarily mean that you are a poor communicator if you do not get your desired result. We know that because God does not always get what He wants, yet He is an incredible communicator.

That is why Jesus wept as He looked across Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Luke 13:34).

Billy Graham, superb, articulate in creating a perfect explanation of the gospel, who in a single message has destroyed the doubts of millions of people, was still despised, misinterpreted and rejected by millions of others.

I listened to President Bill Clinton as he read his autobiography. He has mastered the every day language so that men he is ten times smarter than, thinks he is like them. He is phenomenal at accessing the mediocre mind.

I listen to the letters of Abraham Lincoln, who is considered by most thinkers to be the most brilliant stalwart, integrous president in the history of the United States of America. The wording in his letters is absolutely astounding and reflects the thought processes of his mind. Many people never discover this about him, because they are more preoccupied with his beard and his hat. He is also known for freeing slaves. But the man was absolutely astounding in his communication.

Can you name a more effective communicator in your lifetime than the apostle Paul? He studied under Gamaliel, one of the leading lawyers of his day.

The apostle Paul was a master mind who was unafraid to enter the arena with the most ignorant humans. If you put all the ignorant people you can find—void of knowledge, void of any kind of enlightenment, he could penetrate them, walk right in the midst of them and say, “Let me talk to you.”

Historians record that he was just under five feet and squint-eyed… incredibly repulsive. There was not a thing appealing about him except his communication. He turned the world upside down. Kings begged for conversations with him because he talked to the invisible spirit in men.

Billy Graham does the same. That is why conviction enters. Once, when he went to England, the critics really came out against him. They were very, very upset. They called him emotional. At that time, the choir would sing, “Just As I Am Without One Plea.” There were hundreds of voices. The critics said, “He is a deceiver. He manipulates people with his music.” So he turned to George Beverly Shea and said, “Tonight do not let the choir sing. We will have no music. And we will see what God will do.”

That night when he entered the close of his message, there was no music, no organ, no piano, nothing…he gave the invitation. “Those who want to receive Jesus Christ can move to the nearest aisle and come and accept Christ.” Without any singing, without any sound, without any kind of music whatsoever, nothing…thousands poured out of the stadium to receive salvation.

4. Understand The Importance Of Communication. How important is communication? I believe that every failure begins with a conversation. Eve conversing with satan. The Proverbs 7 prostitute conversing with the young man. From Genesis to the Revelation, from Jezebel discussing with Ahab his obsession with Naboth's vineyard…every failure has been birthed out of a conversation. Every loss…loss of character, loss of money and every ensuing tragedy has been birthed out of communication.

The story of the Titanic is worth investigating. There was actually a ship within reach of rescuing them but there was a mis-communication.

I do not believe that communication is adequately taught nor developed. It is not a skill that receives the correct emphasis, and yet everything we want will come through the skill and the gifting of communication. It explains the mystery of how evil men can present lies and captivate billions through communication.

How can one man keep 27 million people like slaves at his feet? Communication. Consider the Holocaust. When Adolph Hitler decided he wanted a purged race of humans highly developed, he would destroy and kill.

An evil man capable of communicating his vision effectively can do more damage than 10,000 righteous men can do unless they learn the gift and the skill of communication.

What are the six themes of Proverbs? Wisdom. Women. Wine. Work. Wealth. There is the other one that is throughout the entire book, Words.

In the book of Proverbs, there is a fascinating Scripture that just intrigues me. “Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right,” (Proverbs 16:13). I have read it, looked at it, and stared at it. It says men in high places will search for a man who knows how to speak right words. It did not simply say good words, but right words. Good words at the wrong time are wrong words. It is right words that create the desired result. “Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer,” (Proverbs 24:26).

If you had an hour with Einstein what would you talk about? What would you say? The theory of relativity is probably not what you are thinking about nor the direction of your thinking.

I want you to think for a moment of communication in the Scriptures and how God talked to man. One of the first pictures is God talking to Adam and Eve.

How do you talk to a king? If you had an hour with Solomon or, if you had 30 minutes with President Bush, what would you say? How do you exchange with somebody like God? Yet the Bible is very clear that God wants to communicate with you and He wants you to talk to Him.

The Bible emphasizes effective communication, talking to another. Discussing things with each other. Sending a message to each other. Little things.

There is not a human on earth who does not dream of someone that knows how to talk to them. The cry of every woman is “give me a man that can talk to me.” Across from you lady is a man on a recliner dreaming the same dream. He would work two jobs if he could find the woman who knew how to talk to him. We crave someone who knows how to talk to us. That is why God said, “I will talk to you.”

Think of the Scriptures. The serpent talking to Eve created their loss. Remember, every loss begins with a conversation. They lost out on the Garden of Eden. It was located in Mesopotamia, the most beautiful, gorgeous place in the world, the richest soil, the richest everything. They lost it all through one conversation.

Talking to wrong people leaves you stained. You may have heard me say, “Never crowd a thought where there is not a mind.” Why was Jesus not provoked to drag the Pharisees into a public debate? Because these are some of the people He was referring to when He said, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,” (2 Corinthians 6:17). My father often speaks of a mixed multitude. When Israel left Egypt they brought with them a mixed multitude. Some that knew God. Some that did not know God. It was the mixed multitude.

5. Understand The Power Of Wrong Communication. How do you destroy the value of something? You mix it with something else to destroy it. Great people have entered into communication with wrong people and wrecked their dreams. Wrecked their joy. Wrecked their future. You cannot afford communication with wrong people.

Paul, the apostle, used this phrase, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners,” (1 Corinthians 15:33). In selling they call it hard sell and soft sell. Hard sell, “You need this. Come on. Bam. Bam. Bam. You need this.” Soft sell is, “You know, whatever you think. You might want to check out other places. It may not be the one you want.” He is really real. He is not trying to sell. No, it is a soft sell.

You have a rapper, who basically is filled with murder, hatred, anger, bitterness, but he goes on a Tonight Show, and he seems like the guy next door that you would like to know. He uses his personality like a surgeon uses a scalpel. But if you listen to his words, they are as poison penetrating like a drug addict's needle. Those poisonous words of rebellion enters the heart, the very spirit and soul of our youth until they are void, empty, and have zero respect for any adult. But the rapper through communication with one hand, he tames the mom and dad…looking nice and easy going. With the other hand, with the whip, POW, ignites the fires of rebellion in 40 million teenagers.

Take the Natalie Holloway case, the story of the missing girl in Aruba which is quite puzzling. It is not that the news media cares. It is not a compassion that is motivating the media to cover the Holloway case. It is not a case of, “We have got to find this girl.” They only go where there is a story. It is whatever keeps you watching. More people watching means the advertisers can be charged more.

This is why all through Scripture we are advised about our communication with others. I believe that there are people who have lost their jobs simply because they did not know how to communicate. They did not know how to

communicate to a leader or communicate with others. They did not know when to be silent and when to listen and learn. They did not know when to withhold their opinion. They did not know how to present their opinion. Do you think that every restaurant has the same quality food?

How much time and energy are you investing in learning how to speak effectively in your everyday life? Do you answer the phone with a grunt? When you enter a room, do you assess the environment and see who is ready for you? Is it time to speak? I believe many are failing in life because communication is a gift and a skill that they have not considered valuable and important. We have not developed it in our private conversations. We do not labor for clarity.

There are parents who do not know how to talk. There are fathers who "grunt" through the house and do not provide quality exchange with their family. I think this is a major cause of division in households.

There are parents who have not learned how to communicate with a son or a daughter effectively with interest. What are the last five significant questions you have asked your son or daughter? What are the last five questions you have asked that showed thought and caring?

What are the qualities of your discussions? What do you talk about? They say small people talk about other people. Average people talk about themselves. Great people talk about ideas. Does communication matter to you?

Communication can decide your feelings for a week. There are people who can destroy your dreams in a moment, in ten seconds with one sentence out of their lips. They can cause you to momentarily forfeit everything you have wanted. Think of the power of wrong words. Evil has an influence and an odor. There are people who enter an environment imprinting it with their emotional odor, obliterating all the fragrance of every good thing in that environment. Now think of the incredible power of right words.

My mother told me over and over, "I can tell when you have been with somebody wrong at school. When you come in you are a different person."

Evil communication corrupts. Think of this woman sitting there and her son is going to jail for killing three people and the mama says, "Judge, he is a good boy. He got in with the wrong crowd." Now we think that is a mother whose perception is so warped and messed up that she is covering for her little boy. All through history communication has turned great men to mediocre men, mediocre men to evil men.

Communication involves accuracy, clarity and timeliness.

6. Learn To Listen. Listening is a necessary part of communication. It is as necessary to hear right as speaking. There is not one of us who does not long for somebody who can hear our entire sentence. Have you ever talked to someone who suddenly before you had said three words, they went, “Oh.” Their mind already filled in your sentence. The Bible said it is folly or foolish for a man to answer a matter before he hears it.

Go through the newspaper tonight and circle everywhere there has been a wrong communication. Listen to television, and you will soon realize that every tragedy in the world can probably be traced to miscommunication. “I miss spoke.” That is how they explain a lie.

7. Recognize The Divine Privilege Of Communication. God gave us the privilege of speaking, talking and sharing. Every person who is deaf or who is en route to a deaf life losing 17- 22 percent hearing will tell you that when things get muffled around them, there is an agitation that begins. “What did you say?” They begin to get mad at people who they think are not speaking loud enough. “What, what, what, what?” You see a perfectly peaceful man suddenly agitated because he did not understand.

The difference in people is communication skills. “Well, he has a good heart.” I believe there are great men who have missed out on great lives because they did not take the time to invest in developing good communication skills. Geniuses lay in gutters because they do not learn communication skills. I believe there are women who are dreaming of a great marriage that will never happen because they do not know how to talk to a man.

Do you know how to talk to a child? Do you know how to talk to your particular child? If you are not interested in learning communication, then there is no value in discussing its rewards. But most everything we want good to happen in our lives is on the other side of effective communication. There is not a day that goes by that I am not astounded by what I have not known.

Communication is the essence of life. To know what another is saying, what another is feeling, what another is experiencing is a gift from God. The ability to speak, the ability to express your heart is a divine gift. “He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?” (Psalm 94:9).

Communication is a gift.

9

Conflict

Conflict Distracts.

When a staff member cannot get along with others, unity and productivity are diminished. Focus is broken. Projects are delayed. The spiritual progress of *an entire church* can be paralyzed.

A contentious person often considers himself very honest and up front. In fact, they take pride in telling you "the way things really are." Subconsciously, they are often modeling someone in their life (a father or mother) who accomplished their goals through intimidation. They admire this person and have decided to follow that pattern. Unfortunately, they failed to see the losses created.

Confront those who cause conflict and contention. Do not expect them to fade into the sunset. They never do.

Remember Wisdom Key #31: *You Cannot Correct What You Are Unwilling To Confront.*

Your success depends on a peaceful and happy climate. You must constantly be aware of signs of discontent. Deal with it before it spreads like a virus throughout your organization.

One of the famous staff managers for a United States President said, "I manage by the acorn management philosophy. I look for problems when they are the size of an acorn. I refuse to watch them grow into oak trees."

13 Facts About Contentious People

1. Contentious People Often Destroy The Momentum, Bonding And Synergy That Unity Creates. "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses…avoid them," (Romans 16:17).

2. Contentious People Nullify The Law Of Agreement, The Greatest Law Of Success On Earth. "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up," (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

3. The True Character Of A Contentious Person Is Rarely Revealed Until You Rebuke Them. If he is a scorner and fool, he will hate you. If he is a wise person simply needing correction, he will love you. “Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee,” (Proverbs 9:8).

4. You Can Succeed Almost Anywhere Else, Except With A Contentious Person. Solomon experienced this. “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house,” (Proverbs 25:24).

5. Contentious People Discuss The Business Of Others. “He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears,” (Proverbs 26:17).

6. A Contentious Person Enjoys Debate, Disputing And Opposing Whatever Has Been Spoken. A contentious person always looks for a reason to disagree. They ignore every point of agreement.

7. A Contentious Person Is Always The Door For Satan To Launch Every Evil Work In Your Life. “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work,” (James 3:16).

8. A Contentious Person Is Not Walking In Wisdom. “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy,” (James 3:17).

9. A Contentious Attitude Is Contagious. When someone permits the spirit of conflict to enter their life, they will affect everyone around them. I have seen a peaceful household turn to argument thirty minutes after someone entered the room. Happy congregations become chaotic and embittered when one “talebearer” joined the church.

10. Unthankfulness Always Births A Contentious Attitude. It is the sin that God abhors. It was the *first* sin. Satan was unthankful for his position and chose to fight for dominion. Remember Wisdom Key #167: *The Quickest Cure For Ingratitude Is Loss.*

11. Ingratitude Is Poisonous. It can destroy a family within weeks. It can ruin a successful ministry within months. Churches exploding with growth have been fragmented within weeks when a spirit of ingratitude invaded the congregation.

12. Contentious People Often Sabotage The Work Of God. Many years ago I heard one of the most startling statements from a famous missionary. I was sitting under some huge trees in East Africa. Monkeys were jumping from limb

to limb.

“Mike, the number one reason missionaries do not stay on the mission field is their inability to get along with the other missionaries working in their same territory.”

Think about it. Missionaries who should stay in love with Jesus, obsessed with bringing the gospel to the lost, return home because of arguments and the failure to create harmony and an environment of agreement.

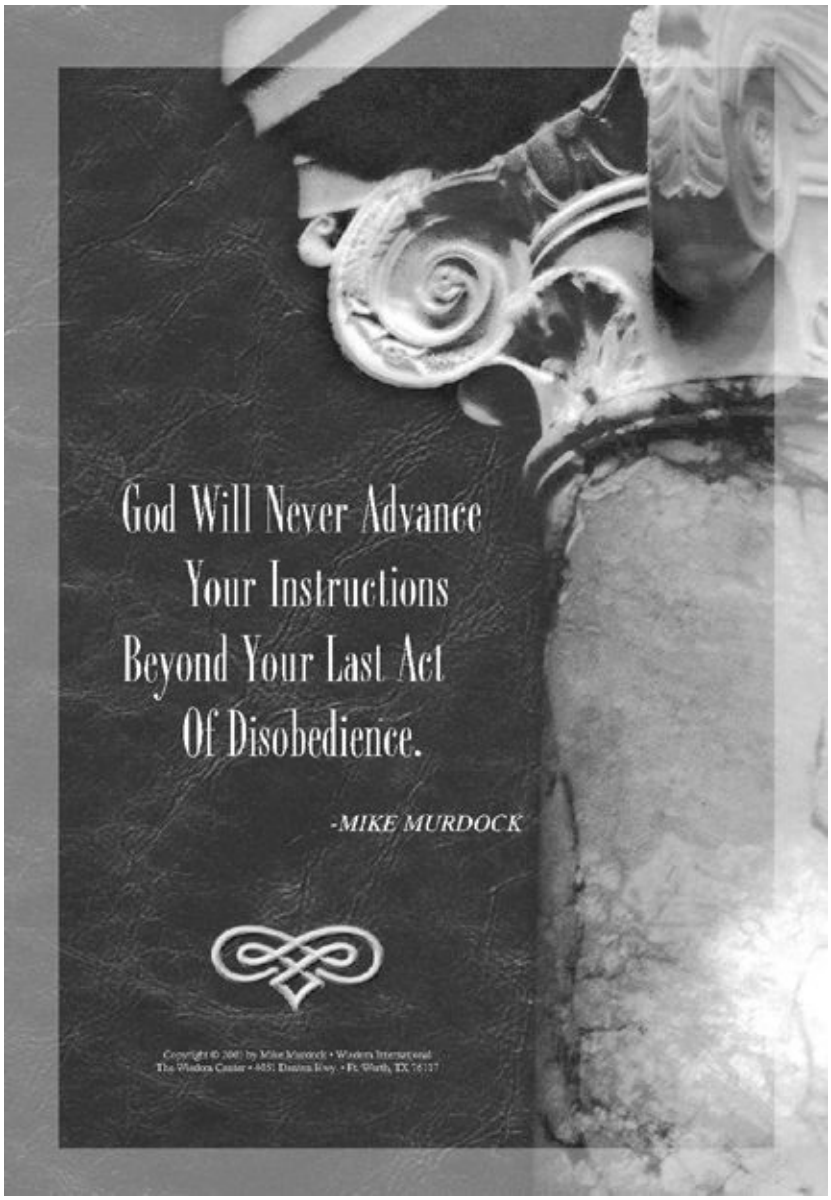
13. Any Contentious Person Who Refuses To Change Must Be Removed. “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly,” (Proverbs 26:20-22).

Stop any conversation birthing contention. Immediately speak up and interrupt the conversation with statements like, “Oh, it is wonderful how God will turn this for our good! I am so thankful for what God is about to do in this situation! Don't we have a wonderful God?” It will be like throwing cold water on a destructive fire.

Boldly confront the contentious about their attitude. Others are bold enough to poison your atmosphere and climate with arrows of unthankfulness piercing the air. Dominate your turf. Take charge. Use your words to turn the tide.

Agreement is one of the greatest enemies satan fears.

Identify And Confront Contentious People Involved In Your Life.


God Will Never Advance
Your Instructions
Beyond Your Last Act
Of Disobedience.
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10

Disobedience

Disobedience Will Paralyze Your Progress.

The great Israelite Joshua experienced this. “So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country,” (Joshua 6:27). Everybody had heard about Joshua. Victories were being collected. The anointing and presence of God was manifest all over Israel.

Suddenly tragedy struck. “But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing…and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel,” (Joshua 7:1).

Disobedience Turns God Into An Enemy.

Joshua had found the winning combination. His leaders were fierce fighters. His fame had been noised abroad. His mantle was secure. His leadership was extraordinary.

Suddenly, everything came apart.

The Israelites lost the battle of Ai. They were crushed. Their reputation unraveled. Joshua raced back to his tent and began to tear his clothes and cry out to the Lord. God then told him the reason they lost the battle. Disobedience was in the camp. One of his men, Achan, had kept some of the spoils from the city of Jericho, in direct disobedience to the Lord's commands. (See Joshua 7:19-21.)

God Can Become Your Enemy.

God can remove His Hedge of Protection.

Your tears will rush like Niagara Falls.

Your laughter stops.

Your victories become memories.

God can remind you of your frailty in a single moment.

This is seldom taught. We have such a “God loves you” philosophy these days, that we have totally forgotten that the severity of the Lord is just as certain as His goodness. Hell is just as certain as Heaven.

Disobedience produces losses.

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye

refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it," (Isaiah 1:19-20).

You can *argue* about it.

You can *rebel* against it.

You can *complain* about it.

But you cannot read the Scriptures without understanding clearly that obedience produces the river of blessing while disobedience brings famine and desolation.

When The Seeds Of Disobedience Are Planted, The Reward System Begins To Shut Down. Certainly, the mercies of God permit the blessings to fall like occasional rain drops. He attempts to keep you reminded of His mercy and His blessings. But continued disobedience eventually destroys your relationship with God. Remember Wisdom Key #78: *Disobedience Is Always More Costly Than Obedience.*

That is why mercy often becomes dangerous.

When judgment is delayed, it is often misinterpreted. It is easy to assume that God did not really notice…that obedience is not that important, after all. Then, the judgment comes —*swiftly and thoroughly.*

My mother taught me an important truth.

"Son, the will of God is really an attitude." She continued, "If you get out of the will of God, if you will fall upon your face and cry loud to Him and ask Him to put you back in the center of His plan, in a single moment those blessings can begin to flow again."

Have you failed the Lord? Did you listen to the wrong person and sow a Seed of defiance and rebellion to God's plan? Please embrace this wonderful truth: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise," (Psalm 51:17).



Our Prayer Together…

"Heavenly Father, I recognize my disobedience. I ask You to forgive me this very moment for failing to honor Your voice. I *know* I have sinned. This is not the direction I want my life to go. I give all of my life, my heart and my future to

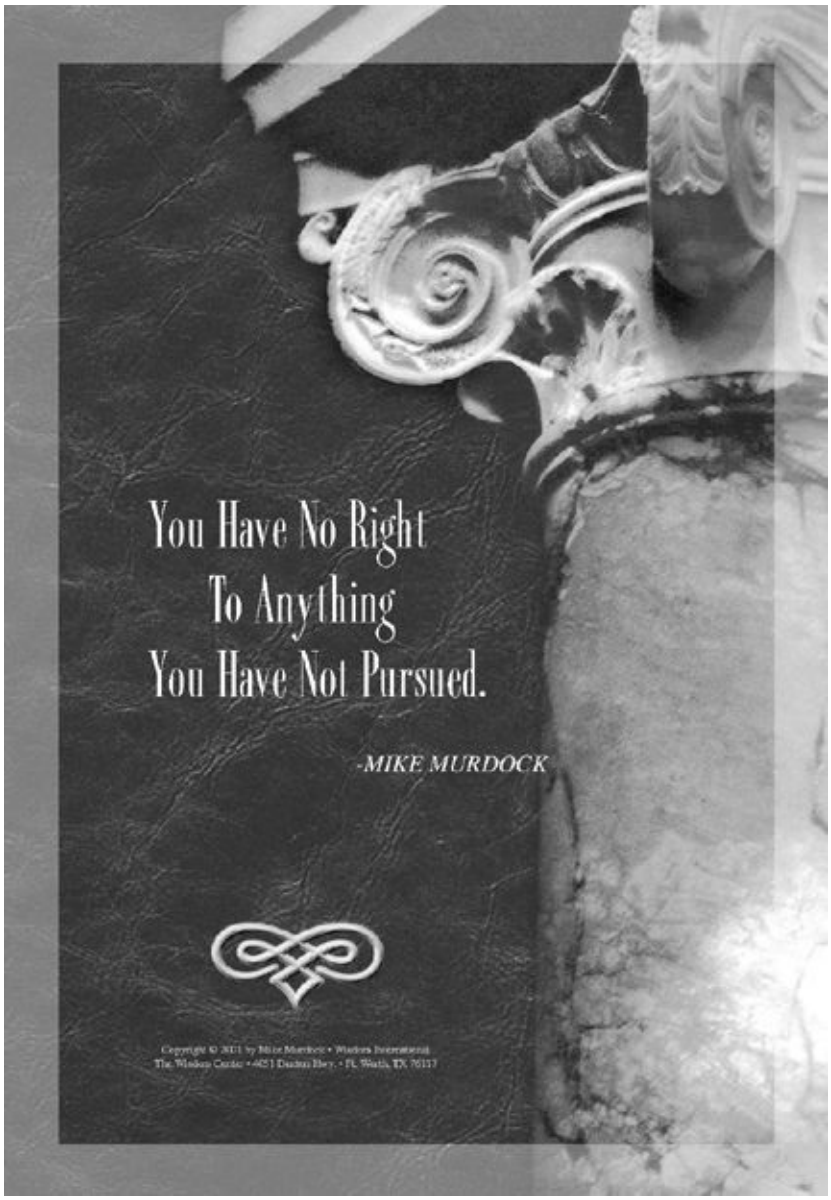
You today. Heal me on the inside. Heal my mind, my memories…my life. I embrace You as my Savior, my Lord, and my God. From this moment forward, let Your mercy and peace flow toward me. Let today be the beginning of miraculous changes. From this day forward, I will walk uprightly toward You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Stay obedient. Too much is at stake.

Remember Wisdom Key #345: *God Will Never Advance Your Instructions Beyond Your Last Act Of Disobedience.*

Recommended Investment:

The Strategy of Hourly Obedience (Cassette Tape/TS-08/6 tapes/$30)


You Have No Right
To Anything
You Have Not Pursued.
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11

Fear of Man

Fear Is Tormenting.

Fear increases the size of your enemy mentally. Fear causes your hope to shrivel and die. Fear is a devastating tool of satan that has robbed millions of a victorious life.

The Israelites' journey toward Canaan has been told countless times. They left Egypt with a flurry of miracles. God had used painful and devastating situations to persuade Pharaoh. His determination to keep the Israelites in Egypt withered under the awesome power of God. Moses was a remarkable leader. His patience is legendary. The Israelites hated the days of Egyptian slavery.

At last, they were headed toward Canaan, the Land of Promise. The grapes were huge. The land was luscious. The supply was limitless.

But, there were giants in their Land of Promise.

Twelve spies were chosen to review and evaluate the land of Canaan. Ten returned full of doubt and unbelief. Two returned with great faith—Joshua and Caleb. However, when the ten spies began to talk about the size of the giants and said, "We are like grasshoppers in their sight," the hope of the Israelites died within them.

They wept all night. The faith of the two spies was totally disregarded. The Israelites forfeited the incredible promised land of Canaan.

Forty more years of wandering occurred, not because of the giants, but because of their fear of the giants.

- *Giants cannot destroy you.*
- *Your fear of your giants can destroy you.*

Imagine being one of the children of the Israelites. Your ear is listening at the campfire of your parents while they discuss their fear of the giants —*people they had never even seen yet.* They have toiled and labored as slaves. Now, they seem to have forgotten those days.

Their pain of the past is gone.

They have forgotten the tears of slavery.

Their focus is the giants—their obstacles in the Land of Promise.

What a picture of life! God has given us many promises of miracles, Harvests and supernatural blessings. Yet, the giants are always there that require conquering.

- Champions are not crowned for desiring to be champions.
- Champions are crowned after they defeat an enemy.

You have no right to a victory for which you have not fought. *You Have No Right To Anything You Have Not Pursued* (Wisdom Key #237).

Warfare is necessary for your victory.

Victory qualifies you for rewards.

Overcomers are the only people The Holy Spirit will reward in eternity. “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels,” (Revelation 3:5).

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name,” (Revelation 3:12).

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne,” (Revelation 3:21).

Fear torments. “Because fear hath torment,” (1 John 4:18).

Love is an enemy of fear. When love fills your heart, fear has no place in your life. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love,” (1 John 4:18).

The fruit of The Holy Spirit is love. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,” (Galatians 5:22).

So, your life in the Spirit will cause fear to dissolve and be dispelled from your life.

The disciples lost their fears after the coming of The Holy Spirit. Peter denied the Lord. Thomas doubted Him. Judas betrayed Him and committed suicide. Every disciple fled and ran away during the crucifixion. The disciples were embarrassed, humiliated, shamed and confused.

Think about it. When the maiden at the home of the high priest questioned Peter, he crumbled. Perhaps, this was the experience Jesus referred to earlier

when He spoke to Peter. “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren,” (Luke 22:31-32). Jesus warned him of an enemy. He saw satan setting the trap.

Anything close to Jesus receives attack.

Yet, Jesus truly believed that Peter would overcome every pitfall of satan. (See Luke 22:32.) He anticipated the success of Peter. “When thou art converted.” Jesus did not say…“if.” He said…“when.”

Then, He provided Peter another focus. “Strengthen your brethren.” What was He saying?

- Stop your introspection.
- Do not over-analyze the attack of satan against you.
- Do not boast to everybody about your great ability to overcome.

Now, focus on others. Many are experiencing fear, unbelief and weakness like yourself. Focus on their overcoming.

This is the incredible work of The Holy Spirit. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind,” (2 Timothy 1:7).

The disciples did not even fear while they experienced beatings. They rejoiced and were happy that they were considered worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. “And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name,” (Acts 5:40-41).

The disciples intensified their obedience and evangelism after the beatings. “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ,” (Acts 5:42).

Dreams have been dashed on the Rocks of Fear for hundreds of years. Champions carrying the Seeds of Greatness within them have lost their grip on incredible goals and dreams…because of fear.

I heard someone say that a baby is born with two basic fears. But, by the time the child is twenty years old, over 172,000 fears have been documented.

14 Facts You Should Know About Fear

- Fear *changes* your focus.

- Fear *weakens* your resolve, determination and will power.
- Fear *breaks* the Golden Connection of choice friendships.
- Fear has *crushed* the hopes of a young man and woman about to be married.
- Fear has *sabotaged* a million promotions.
- Fear *prevents* you from making important changes in your life.
- Fear wears various *disguises.* It wraps itself in the Robe of Reality, Honesty, Caution and Logic.
- Fear is a more *deceptive* enemy than satan.
- Fear is *within* you.
- Fear *stops* you from reaching—thinking that rejection will await.
- Fear stops you from asking for forgiveness —*afraid* that mercy will not be offered.
- Fear stops you from admitting your guilt and that you are wrong—afraid that grace will not be returned.
- *The Holy Spirit is an enemy to fear.* The Holy Spirit is the One Who sustained Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed concerning "the cup of suffering."
- The fear of man can stop physical healings from occurring in your body.

Look at the blind man. He cried out to Jesus, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me," (Mark 10:48). The crowd around him told him to hold his peace. (See Mark 10:48.)

But, he refused to fear the opposition of men around him. And, he received his miracle.

Millions have surrendered to their fears…while their heart dreams for a miracle.

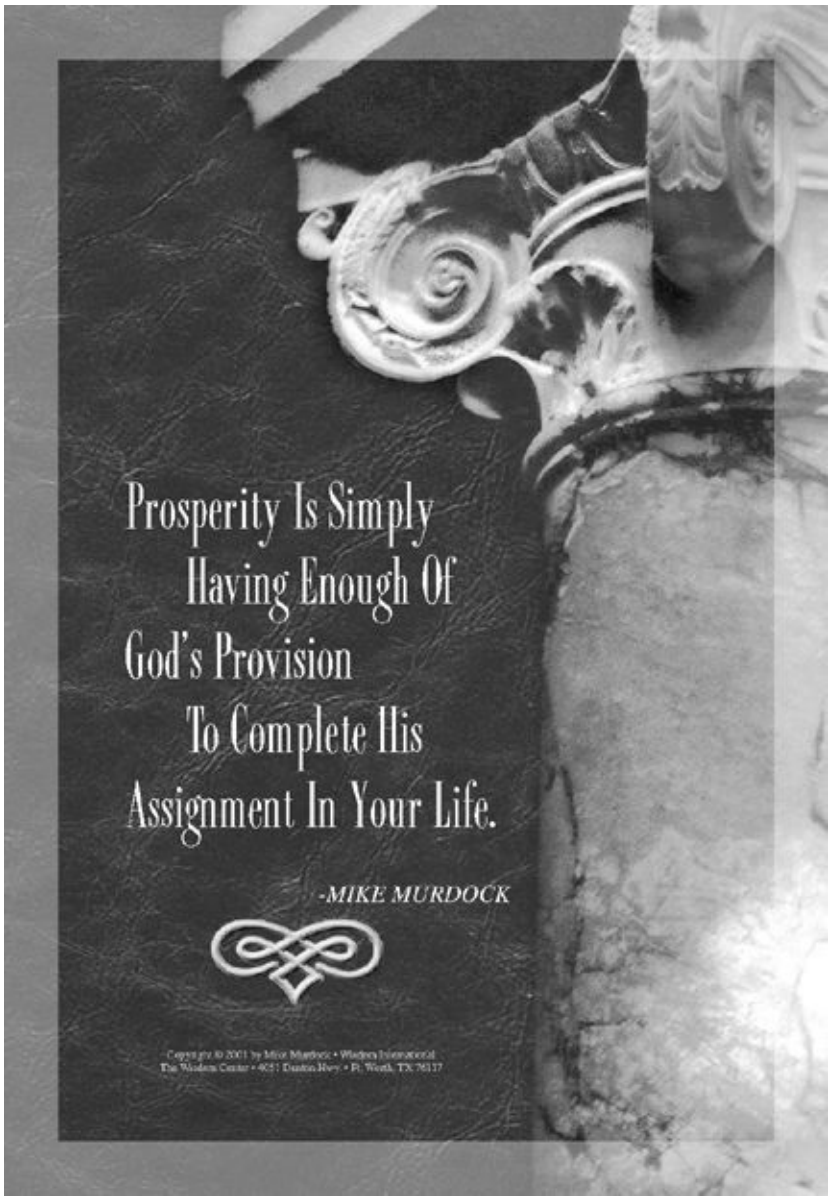
Do not let this happen to you today.

Come into His presence. Reach out toward The Holy Spirit. Ask Him to dispel every ounce of fear within you. Begin to thank Jesus for paying the price, making you an overcomer and interceding for you before the Father.

- Somebody is fighting hell for you today.
- Somebody will defeat fear for you today.
- That somebody is The Holy Spirit.

Many fears exist: the fear of loss…failure…poverty…false accusation… sickness and disease…cancer…rejection. But, you have a friend, the Comforter, The Holy Spirit.

Always remember, The Holy Spirit can eliminate all fear of man.


Prosperity Is Simply
Having Enough Of
God's Provision
To Complete His
Assignment In Your Life.
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12

Financial Breakthrough

God Hates Poverty.

Someone asked me, “Do you believe that Jesus was poor?” Of course not. One of the 12 was literally His treasurer. When the disciples saw a woman use two years cost of perfume and dry His feet with her hair, they said, “Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?” (John 12:5). Apparently they did not view Jesus as poor. In the same chapter Jesus said, “For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always,” (John 12:8). The Bible says that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He said that the earth and the heavens, the silver and the gold are His. We know that He says over and over in Scripture about opening the windows of Heaven, pouring out the blessing we do not have room enough to even handle. Throughout the Bible, great achievers obedient to divine calling, were very, very prosperous financially.

Abraham, the friend of God, the patriarch, was incredibly wealthy. Isaac, his son, was so blessed that ungodly Philistines hated him and envied him. We know from the book of Proverbs the rewards of Wisdom were always wealth and riches as well as supply and provision.

We know from the first three verses of Psalms 112 that wealth and riches will be in the house of the man who loves the Law of God. What is wealth? *Wealth is when you have as much of something you need or want.* It is more than money. It is a supply principle.

I am saying these things to you before we pray so that you can have the mindset of Christ, the mindset of God. God is my source. Everything we have came from Him. He wants me to have enough provision…enough for my family. The Bible says a man who does not provide for his own family is worse than an infidel.

We know that God wants us to have enough to give to the poor, because He said my reaction to the poor determines His reaction to my health in Psalm 41:1-3 and even Isaiah 58:4-12.

God wants you to have enough money to finance the gospel throughout the earth. “How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is

written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15). "He that winneth souls is wise," (Proverbs 11:30).

3 Keys For Financial Breakthrough

1. The Full Confidence That God Wants Us To Be Blessed. It has been said that Faith begins where the will of God is known. "For he that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," (Hebrews 11:6). I cannot change your money, I cannot change your wealth, I cannot change your finances until I change your focus, change your persuasion. You must believe that God is your source.

Nobody is more misunderstood than God. Many believe that God is simply "the man upstairs." They have not fully understood that He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," (Hebrews 4:15). Yet, He invited us to approach Him boldly for every need in our life. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need," (Hebrews 4:16).

2. The Willingness To Pursue Blessing…The Willingness To *Reach.* You cannot qualify for something you are unwilling to pursue. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," (Matthew 7:7).

"Yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss," (James 4:2-3).

3. Know That God Wants Us To Have Abundance For Multiple Purposes. God wants you to have enough finances to provide everything your loved ones need for their success. "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," (1 Timothy 5:8).

God wants you to have enough finances to help the poor. "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again," (Proverbs 19:17).

Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more

abundantly," (John 10:10).

God's desire for our prosperity is seen clearly in the following verse. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth," (3 John 2).

I want to pray for three things:

1. That God will help you clarify and define your financial focus. What do you want? "Well, Mike, I just want more money." Well, I could give you a nickel and your prayer would be answered. *You must have a clearly defined goal.* You can only have faith in something you can *see* in the room of your experience or the world of your imagination. What do you want financially? Five-hundred-and-twenty-five dollars for your apartment rent? *What do you want?* Faith requires an instruction. What do you want? You must narrow it down clearly. Do you want a job? *Where?* What Job? *How much do you want to make?* You must *focus* your faith.

2. That The Word of the Living God will work inside you, making you a magnet for good things to come into your life. His Word is alive in you like a Seed growing the Divine Wisdom of God. You must embrace His Word as your Financial Wisdom…what He said *in His Word.* He said that a man who is spiritual, which means an effective problem solver, will stand before Uncommon Men. This means if you become an effective problem-solver, God will connect you with men in position to promote you.

3. That you will be filled with Godly Expectation. Expectation is required. You must start expecting insights from God…*golden connections* from God. You must expect The Holy Spirit to talk to you and connect you with *Divine Investments* that will make a difference in your life.



Our Prayer Together…

"In the name of Jesus, the Source of every good thing in our life, I come into a covenant with you that God will birth in you a defined, irrefutable, clear-cut goal for your financial world.

I come into a covenant with you that The Word of God will grow in you like a Seed until the financial faith of God is operating in your life, and you will be *fully persuaded* that The Holy Spirit will link you Divinely to the place where

your gift will flourish…your place of belonging, with golden connections and Wisdom and concepts and insights.

I release an expectation that your faith will be like a magnet taking you, leading you like a Divine Compass hour by hour, even in the coming days. In the next eight days, may God open the windows of Heaven on your life.

I decree that every Seed that you have planted in the work of God, every Seed that you have sowed will silence every adversary and will release a hundredfold return according to the words of Jesus in Mark 10:28-30. *It is done.* It is done…in Jesus' name. Amen."

13

Fruit of The Spirit

The Holy Spirit Is The Greatest Secret Of The Universe.

My greatest discovery is the habitual companionship of The Holy Spirit.

Jesus was always analyzing the results of His efforts…a major *master key* in success circles. He studied the soil to see if it was good soil or bad soil. When He saw a fig tree that was not producing…He cursed it.

We know from the Bible, God always rewards a man according to His work…the law of *cause and effect.*..the Seed and the Harvest. God uses interesting comparisons. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise," (Proverbs 6:6). *God uses everything around us to teach us.*

Regarding the fruit of The Holy Spirit in our life, Paul said, "But the fruit of the Spirit,"…not fruits…"The *fruit* of the Spirit"…The Holy Spirit…"is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law," (Galatians 5:22-23). Now what was He saying here? He was saying when The Holy Spirit comes in your life, He is the catalyst, the factory, for the feelings you want to feel. We all want to feel love. We all want to feel gentleness. We all want to feel great things…joy…in our life. The Holy Spirit in us is the factory for those emotions, for those feelings…in us, through us…through other people.

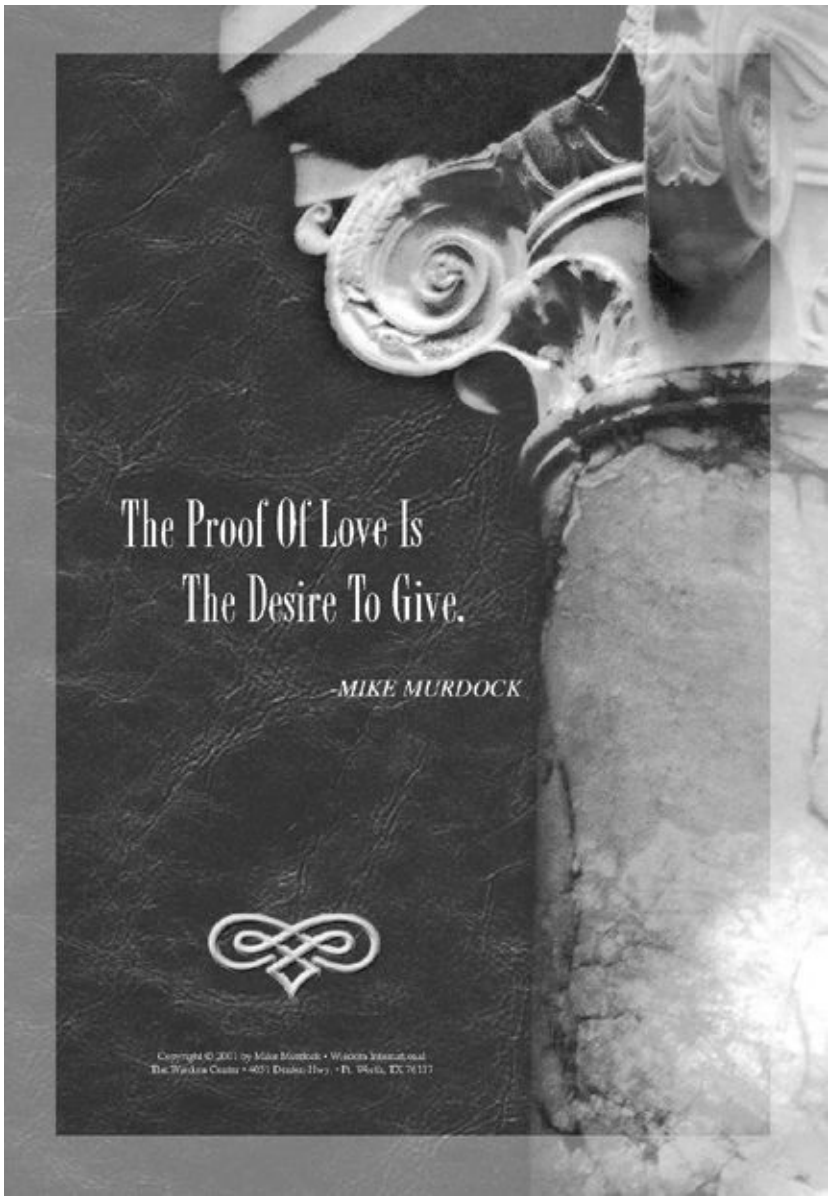
The greatest discovery of my life was the habitual companionship of The Holy Spirit on my right side. There are three keys that will revolutionize your life.

3 Keys To Habitual Companionship With The Holy Spirit

1. Talk To Him Today.

2. Release Him Today.

3. Look And Expect Miraculous Results.



14

Gift Giving

A Gift Is A Portrait Of Love.

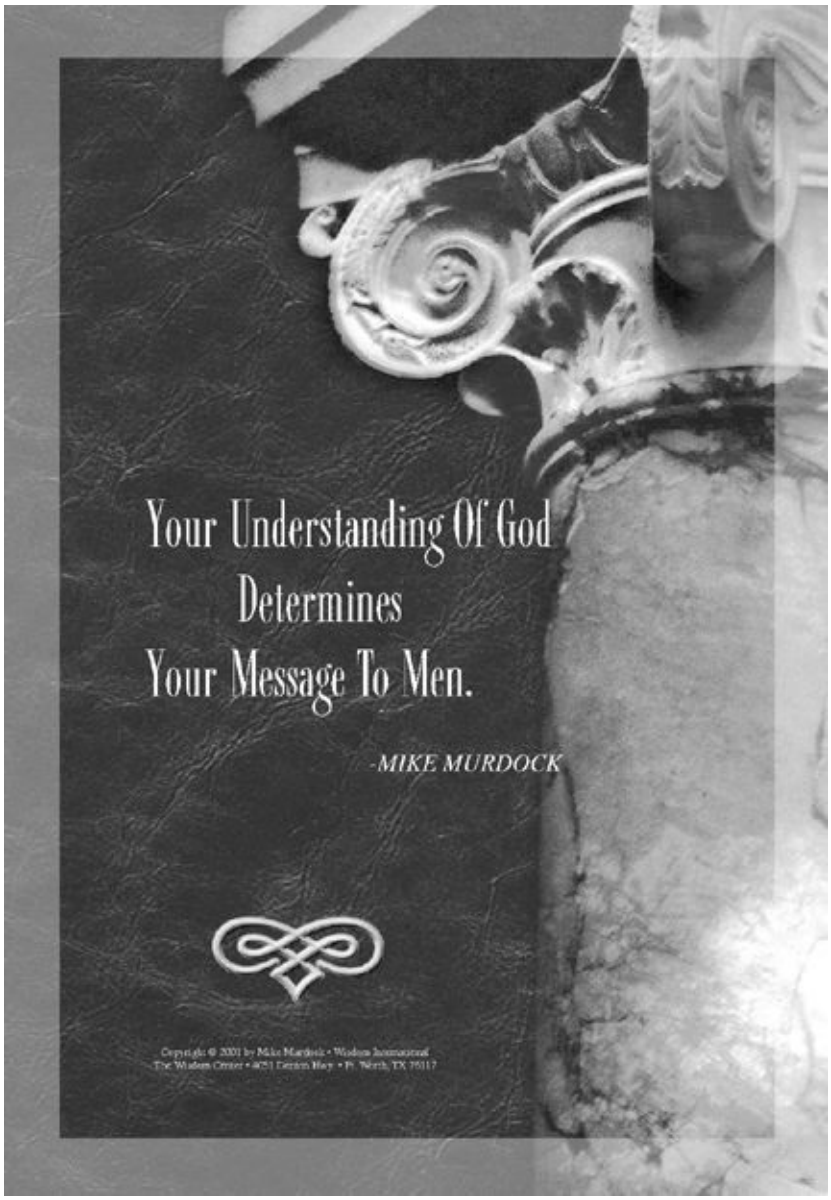
It is a picture…a persuasion of your feelings. God is a gift giver. “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?” (Matthew 7:11).

“A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth,” (Proverbs 17:8).

“A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men,” (Proverbs 18:16).

“Every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts,” (Proverbs 19:6). Giving gifts is one of the five languages of love. Did you know that words can be a gift to somebody? Did you know that kindness is a gift? Abandoning false accusation is a gift? Consider Christmas giving and birthday giving.

One of the twelve proofs of love is the willingness to give…*the passion to give.*…the passion to pleasure. Remember that when you give to someone, your gift to another creates guilt, greed or gratitude. My reaction to a gift is a picture of my character. My reaction to the gift of Jesus to me is a picture of my passion for Christ and for God. *The Ungodly Give Gifts To Control Decision-Makers; The Godly Give Gifts To Reward Problem- Solvers.* This is one of the greatest Wisdom Keys in the world.


Your Understanding Of God
Determines
Your Message To Men.
-MIKE MURDOCK
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15

Goodness of God

God Is Great; God Is Good.

I have heard doctors, psychologists, and psychiatrists say that your experiences with your earthly father become a portrait of how you view your Heavenly Father. If your earthly father was affectionate and warm and always expressing his love for you and giving you gifts, *that* is the way you see God. If he was introverted, cold and rarely said anything, *that* is the way you see God. If he beat you and cursed you, *that* is the way you see your Heavenly Father. I do not know if that is really true, but it is understandable.

I believe that God was concerned about being understood. He said, “So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts,” (Isaiah 55:9).

Listen to what He said about Himself in the Scriptures:

“O Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good,” (1 Chronicles 16:34).

“O taste and see that the Lord is good,” (Psalm 34:8).

“The goodness of God endureth continually,” (Psalm 52:1).

“For Thou, Lord, art good,” (Psalm 86:5).

“For the Lord is good,” (Psalm 100:5).

“The Lord is good to all,” (Psalm 145:9).

“Not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance,” (Romans 2:4).

God wanted us to see His goodness.

You say, “Well what about His judgment? What about hell?” Would you live in a nation that had no prisons? Would you live in a nation that would not remove rapists or murderers? *Of course you wouldn't.* Part of what makes America great…is the justice system.

God said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?” (Matthew 7:11).

Recognize that the goodness of God is accessible, available and perpetual.

God is *constantly looking* for someone qualified to receive. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him,” (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Recommended Investments:

The Blessing Bible (Book/B-28/252 pages/$10)

The Holy Spirit Handbook (Book/B-100/153 pages/$15)

16

Gratitude

Gratitude Is Magnetic.

Ruth was appreciative.

Appreciative means, “Showing appreciation of someone or something; to be grateful.”

It is interesting to note the reaction of Ruth when Boaz gave her permission to stay in his field and glean barley. She thanked him warmly. “Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore,” (Ruth 2:10-11).

She continues on in verse 13, “Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.” She did not assume that Boaz's kindness was owed her. She really did not even ask for extra favor. She valued even the smallest crumb of barley left for her.

Appreciative people have a magnetism to them. Their ability to value acts of kindness inspires us and makes us want to perform accordingly.

Jessica is a beautiful little nine-year-old girl in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is so articulate, expressive and appreciative. Every time I have done something special for her, she looks up with those big beautiful eyes and the biggest smile you can imagine, and says, “Oh, thank you so very much!” It is the attitude of appreciation that makes children so delightful and makes us want to produce for them.

It is often said that Christmas is for children. Now why do we say this when it is celebrated as the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth? Why doesn't every one of us enjoy Christmas like children?

Children appreciate.

They *celebrate* gifts.

Gifts are great events to them.

It is so unfortunate that after some of us receive so many gifts and blessings for so many years, our ability *to appreciate* seems to deteriorate and diminish dramatically. Work on this in your personal life. Work on this in your home. Do not take for granted that your husband is "supposed to bring home the paycheck." Do not assume that it is "a woman's place" to clean up the house and prepare the meals.

Appreciation of those around you will make you *unforgettable.*

Find ways to express your appreciation.

Do it verbally. Speak kind words of appreciation. *Do it privately.* When no one else is around, be gentle in expressing your true appreciation and gratefulness.

Do it publicly. Others need to hear that you know and appreciate what God has blessed you with.

Do it often.…not just once a year at a birthday or an anniversary. *Do it generously.* Go the extra mile when you buy a gift for someone special whom you love and appreciate.

Do it thoughtfully. One of my closest friends in Sarasota, Florida, sent me two books a few weeks ago. What kind of books? The very author that he knows I love to read. He had put *thought* into the purchase of my gifts. He knew what I wanted to read. I have had many people give me books they *thought* I ought to read…very few have purchased me books that I *wanted* to read.

Do it quickly. If someone has blessed your life significantly, do not wait several months or years to express it. Try to establish the habit of responding to an act of kindness within seventy-two hours.

Do it cheerfully. When you express your appreciation, do not do it grudgingly as if it is a pain or an effort.

You will become *unforgettable* to every friend in your life.

Exude gratitude continuously.

Tommy Tenney, my dear friend, once told me, "Mike, gratitude is a replenisher." When somebody is thankful, it restores what you have given…what you have lost. When you make deposits in others and they begin to show their gratitude and thankfulness, it strengthens you. It restores what you have given up. *It is a fueling process.*

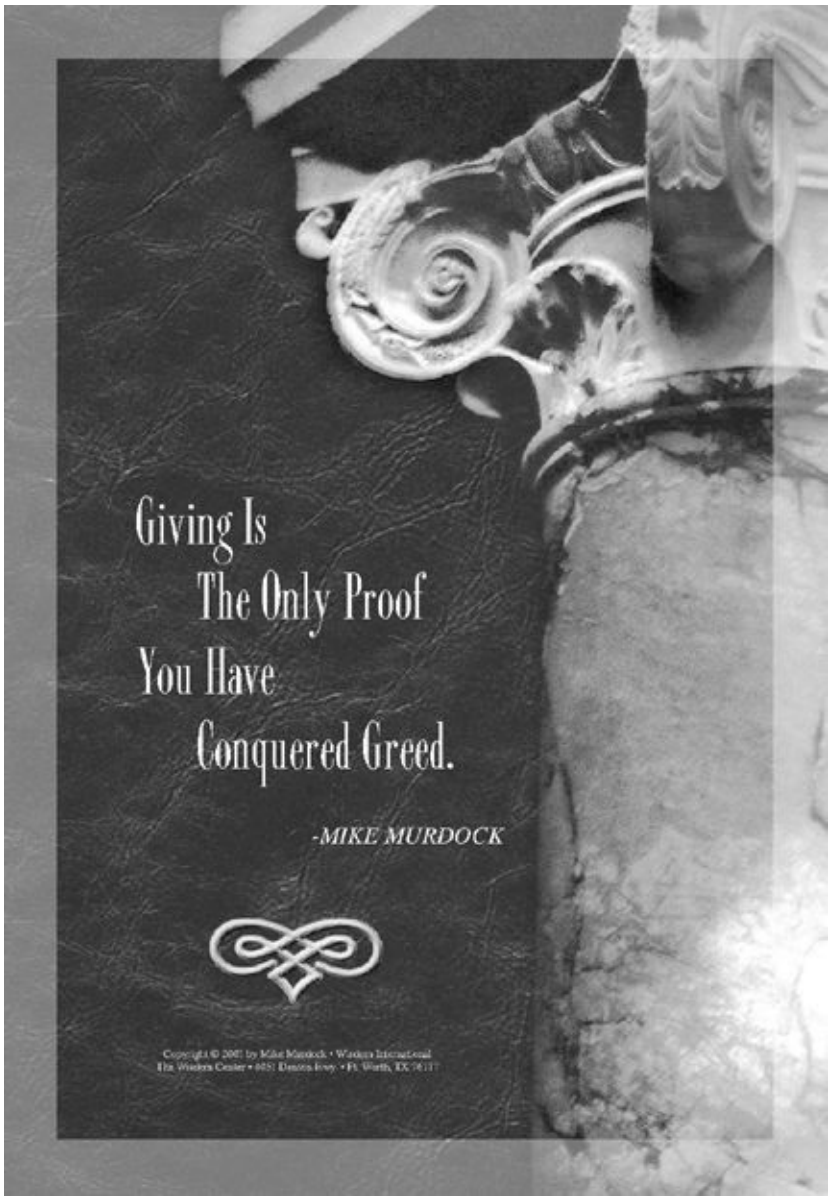
The first sin that ever occurred happened in the presence of God. One of the

chief angels, Lucifer, became unthankful for what he had received…unthankful to Jehovah for the gift of access…unthankful for the incredible environment of praise and worship. *Familiarity can be deadly.* What you *keep* seeing, you *stop* seeing. What you *keep* feeling, you *stop* feeling. Sometimes you have to work on your gratitude. He was unthankful, and it birthed pride.

Listen to what the Bible says. "It is a good thing to give thanks," (Psalm 92:1). "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name," (Psalm 100:4). "Cease not to give thanks," (Ephesians 1:16). Worship is the cure for ingratitude. Remember Wisdom Key #295: *Worship Is The Correction Of Focus.* "In every thing give thanks," (1 Thessalonians 5:18). *Gratitude is what you give back to a giver.*

Handwritten notes can express your gratitude. A verbal thank you …*can really make a difference. The Magnetism Of Your Kindness Will Outlast The Memory Of Your Genius* (Wisdom Key #48).

Be thankful today. Work on it. *Labor for it.* Cultivate it. You will develop an irrefutable and irresistible aura.


Giving Is
The Only Proof
You Have
Conquered Greed.
-MIKE MURDOCK

17

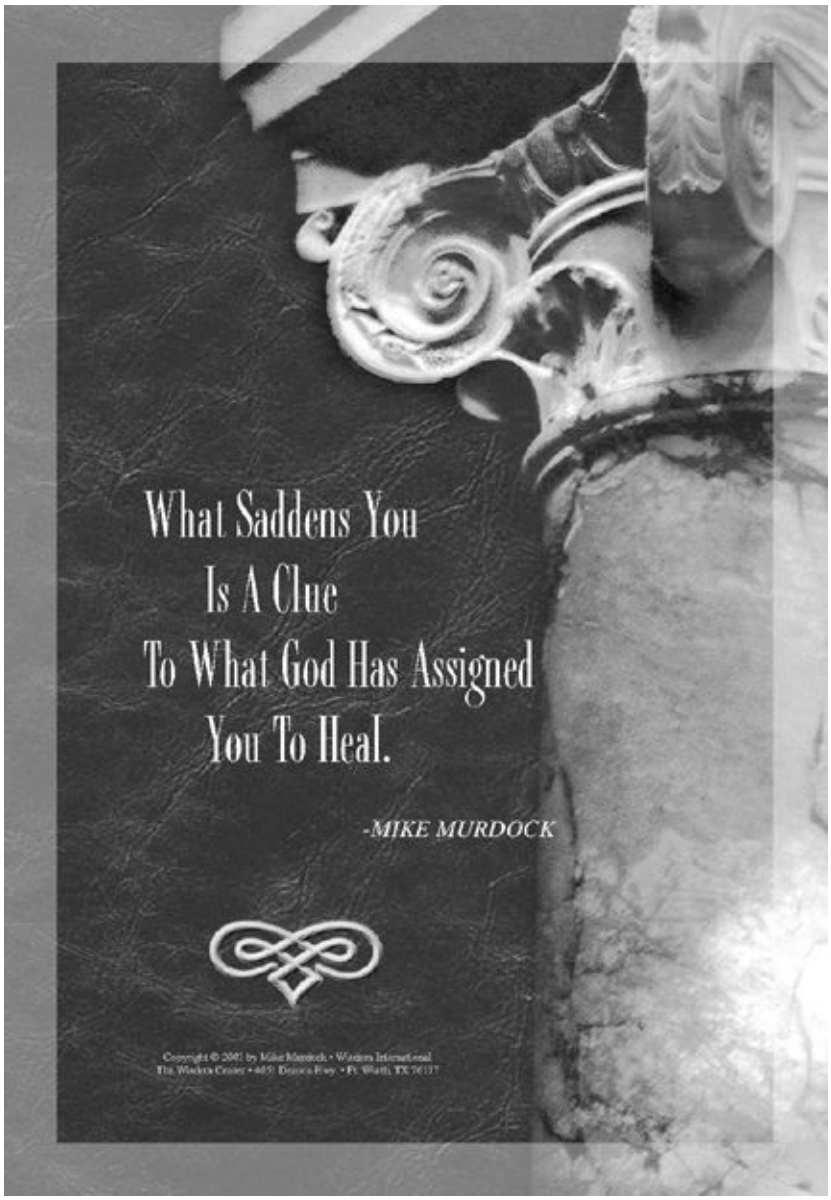
Greed

Greed Is Not Passion For Increase And Accumulation.

I feel that *greed* is the most misunderstood word in the human language. God's first instruction to humans was to multiply. We are *commanded* to increase. Greed is not a passion for gathering and multiplying and prosperity. Every instruction from God is connected to prosperity. *If* I obey His Word, He *will* bless me.

Greed is not attached to the words prosperity, finances or wealth. The Bible says Abraham was a friend of God, and God blessed him. Isaac reaped one hundredfold in the same year. The Bible is full of Scriptures that say, if I obey God and follow His commandments, I will be blessed. The Psalmist said if I love The Word of God and live the law of God, wealth and riches will be in my house. (See Psalm 112:1-3.)

What is Greed? Greed is not a passion for excellence. We know that God is a God of excellence. Greed is wanting what belongs to another. Greed is the unwillingness to be satisfied with what we have earned. The Bible says be content with what you have. “Godliness with contentment is great gain,” (1 Timothy 6:6). “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver,” (Ecclesiastes 5:10). “So the eyes of man are never satisfied,” (Proverbs 27:20). “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house,” (Proverbs 15:27). *Giving Is The Only Proof You Have Conquered Greed.* Giving is taking what God has given you and returning it with expectation of a partnership.


What Saddens You
Is A Clue
To What God Has Assigned
You To Heal.
-MIKE MURDOCK
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18

Grief

Sadness Is An Aura.

Life is full of pain, grief, tears, heartache…*a collection of disappointments.* Grief is an environment in our nation. Continuously in the news…everything you read is about grief. Nothing is ever as bad as it first appears *if* God gets involved. Loss is usually the first step toward discovering God. Thank God The Word of God addresses grief.

9 Facts About Grief

1. We Know That Grief Is Seasonal And Will Never Last. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning," (Psalm 30:5).

2. We Know That God Is The Healer Of Grief. "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds," (Psalm 147:3).

3. We Know That Grief Is Fueled, Nurtured And Birthed Through Our Memories Replaying Painful Experiences. Remember Wisdom Key #27: *Your Life Is Whatever You Choose To Remember.*

4. God Has An Answer. "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert," (Isaiah 43:18-19).

5. We Know That God Expects Us To Initiate Changes To Reverse The Grief. It is our personal responsibility. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," (Matthew 11:28).

6. We Know That God Said That The Grieving Season Would Change And That The Tears Will Turn To Triumph. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted," (Matthew 5:4).

7. We Know That God Feels Every Second Of Our Pain. "For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," (Hebrews 4:15).

8. Jesus Knew Grief. In the movie "The Passion of The Christ," by Mel Gibson, you saw grief depicted in the face of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Grief

comes through many relationships. *God feels what you feel. No one* has known more grief than Jesus. *No one* has experienced more disappointment and rejection than God. *He is not distant.*

9. We Know That The Hope Of Eternity With Christ Is The Absence Of All Sadness And Grief. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away," (Revelation 21:4).

19

Guidance

Every Failure Will Occur Because Of A Lack Of Guidance.

Proper guidance can eliminate any fears in your life.

Wisdom Decides Your Success.…longevity does not. There are twenty-year-old men who have accomplished more than forty-year-old men. Job expressed the concept this way, “Great men are not always wise,” (Job 32:9).

Passion determines what you *pursue.*

What you *pursue* determines what you qualify to *receive.* Remember Wisdom Key #204: *There Are Two Ways To Increase Wisdom: Mistakes And Mentors.* God uses mistakes to teach fools unwilling to sit at the feet of a Mentor. Guidance is receiving from another's influence, their experience and the advantage of their persuasion. The Bible is full of Scriptural references to men who sought guidance. God Himself talks about men who *seek* and *learn.* “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” (Matthew 7:7).

At the age of twelve, Jesus gave us the portrait of a seeker by asking questions.

7 Facts About Guidance

1. Uncommon Leaders Pursue Godly Guidance. David cried, “For Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Thy name's sake, lead me and guide me,” (Psalm 31:3).

2. God Desires To Guide Us. “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye,” (Psalm 32:8).

3. Counsel And Guidance Eliminates Loss And Establishes Protection. “For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety,” (Proverbs 24:6).

4. Guidance Is Closer Than You Can Imagine If You Will Stay Sensitive To The Divine Inner Voice Of The Holy Spirit. “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left,” (Isaiah 30:21).

5. The Reward Of Embracing Great Guidance Is Prosperity. “And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not,” (Isaiah 58:11).

6. The Cry Of Youth Is A Cry Of Loss And Grief. God said through the prophet Jeremiah, “Wilt thou not from this time cry unto Me, My father, Thou art the guide of my youth?” (Jeremiah 3:4).

7. The Holy Spirit's Purpose Is To Guide Us Into The Center Of Blessing. “Howbeit when He, The Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come,” (John 16:13).

20

Guilt

Suicides Occur Hourly.

Depression is an epidemic around the world.

Men take their own lives and the lives of their children.

Guilt is a poisonous cancer that can multiply. It is different than conviction.

Conviction is from The Holy Spirit.

Guilt is satanic oppression that you have not received your forgiveness from God.

9 Keys To Overcoming Guilt

1. Your Conversation With God Can Remove Your Guilt. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool," (Isaiah 1:18).

2. Jesus Came To Earth To Remove Our Guilt. "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved," (John 3:17).

3. Guilt Dissolves In The Presence Of The Holy Spirit. When you obey Him, guilt is removed. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit," (Romans 8:1).

4. Conviction From God Can Produce Life.

5. Guilt Is Satanic. "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us," (Romans 8:33-34).

6. Guilt Is Not Inevitable. You have a choice.

7. Your Personal Responsibility Is To Remove The Burden Of Your Guilt. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," (1 John 1:9).

8. A Way Of Escape Has Been Provided, Making Guilt Therefore A Choice. Because guilt is a choice…it is therefore not inevitable. Confession can remove it.

9. When The Fire Of Guilt Is Extinguished, Our Faith In God Flourishes…Miracles Result. "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God," (1 John 3:20-21).

The instant cure for guilt is confession.

Confess your need of Christ. Do it aloud. *Do it now.*…watch Him forever change your life.

21

Healing Prayer

Does God Want Me Well?

The greatest detriment, hindrance, obstacle to receiving healing is the question: *Does God really want me to be healed?* Some teach that God uses disease and sickness to teach us. That is not found in the Scriptures. John teaches us that The Holy Spirit is our Teacher…that The Word of God is our Wisdom. God does not use disease and sickness to teach us. You say, "Well, Mike, I have heard people say that they learned things when they were sick." I have heard the same statement and logic introduced when someone was on drugs. They learned some things while on drugs.

5 Facts You Should Know About Healing

1. God Promises Benefits To Christians That He Does Not Promise To Disobedient People. "I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee," (Exodus 15:26).

Are you obedient today?

Are you pointing toward Christ? Are you reaching for God? Is your heart hungering for Him? Are you rebellious? Are you stubborn? Obedience is a key ingredient in receiving a benefit from God.

If you are serving Christ, if you are living for Christ, healing belongs to you. "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly," (Psalm 84:11). If you have not, just accept Him right now. "Jesus, I accept You; I want You in my life."

2. In Scripture, God Provided Healing Equal To Salvation. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases," (Psalm 103:2-3). The crucifixion…the blood of Jesus, was for our healing as well as our salvation. Everything He did was for our ultimate healing. Calvary is all about healing… healing of the spirit of man…healing of the mind of man…healing of the body, too. Healing is the children's bread. (See Mark 7:26-28.)

3. Healing Is Sometimes Progressive…*That Is, Time Is Often Involved.* I

want to release the Seeds of healing today that you will receive the total Harvest of complete health. You can be healed instantly, even in a moment or even in the next twenty-four hours. “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord,” (Jeremiah 30:17).

4. We Know That Jesus Was A Relentless, Persistent Healer Who Went Looking For Sick People. *God is looking for you today.* God is searching for you today. “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with The Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him,” (Acts 10:38).

5. Health And Healing Are Always The Will Of God. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth,” (3 John 1:2).

Anything broken can be repaired. Anything lost can be found. Anything damaged can be restored. Anything closed can be opened.

I want us to pray. If you have your Bible close by, just take your Bible and put it over your heart, would you? The Bible says where two people agree as touching anything, it shall be done. Let us pray the prayer of agreement for the removal of your sickness through the healing power of Jesus.



Our Prayer Together…

“Precious Holy Spirit, today You are our healer. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, by Whose stripes you were healed, I take authority over the disease in your body, the pain, the disorder. I command the pain to go from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. *Pain, go! Disease, go! Sickness, go!* I release the healing power of Jesus of Nazareth, from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. Be healed in the name of Jesus. *It is done.* Amen.”

Lay your hand wherever you need His healing power and say, “I release the healing of Jesus of Nazareth now.” Just say it aloud. “I release the healing of Jesus of Nazareth now. Amen.” So be it for the glory of God.

22

Integrity

People Talk.

Everyone knew about Ruth.

Boaz describes it this way, “And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore,” (Ruth 2:11).

Later he spoke, “Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman,” (Ruth 3:10-11).

People talk…good things and bad things…false accusations… current assessments.

People spoke well of Ruth.

Her sacrificial attitude and dedication to preserving and maintaining the life of her widowed mother-in-law was a known fact in the community. Obviously, she had not even dated or bonded with any of the young men in the city—poor or rich. Her total focus was on Naomi.

Productivity is a choice.

Ruth's reputation for integrity had registered heavily in the heart and mind of Boaz…he did not hesitate to respond to her pursuit of him.

Others should commend you. “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips,” (Proverbs 27:2).

Reputation is more powerful than money. “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold,” (Proverbs 22:1).

A good name is more magnetic than a strong fragrance. “A Good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth,” (Ecclesiastes 7:1).

Several years ago, I arrived at the home of a young lady to take her to supper. As we were driving to the restaurant, she remarked, “I had another date planned tonight, but I told him I had to visit a relative in the hospital.”

Lying was a convenience to her. Her lack of integrity sickened me. I had been excited about establishing a relationship with her only to find out within minutes that falsehood came naturally and easily to her. Obviously, I would have been the next victim on her list. It was our *first* and *last* date together.

Whatever it requires, *develop integrity.*

Focus on integrity. Think before you talk. Carefully examine each word and sentence that comes from your lips. Be quick to correct yourself …*to clarify.* Never say anything insincere. Refuse to brag on someone's singing if it is untrue. Do not say things merely to encourage others. “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men,” (Romans 12:17).

The compassion of Ruth was known.

Observe the manner in which a woman speaks to her mother. Note well how a man treats his mother. Also, observe how he reacts to the struggle and heartaches of the unfortunate.

Ruth's purity and virtue were known. Admittedly, many false accusations are hurled these days. Good people have been stained through vindictive and violent people. Joseph is not the only story in which someone's righteous reputation was devastated through the lies of those who have been refused or ignored.

The entire town knew of Ruth's loyal obsession and kindness to her mother-in-law. They said she treated her mother-in-law better than seven sons would treat a mother. That kind of treatment is almost unheard of these days.

This does not mean you have to advertise all your good deeds. It is not important that you trumpet to the world all your acts of kindness and mercy. Remember Wisdom Key #48: *The Magnetism Of Your Kindness Will Outlast The Memory Of Your Genius.* Somehow, God has a way of “letting it be made known.”

What you are, will eventually be exposed and known.

Integrity and loyalty are marvelous qualities that will make you unforgettable.

Become Known For Integrity.

23

Joy

Joy Is The Fragrance Reserved For The Obedient.

The obedience of Jonah brought joy to 120,000 people. Read carefully the book of Jonah. God was angry. The wickedness of Nineveh had come up before Him. So, God decided to assign Jonah to that city of 120,000 people. Jonah rebelled. God decided to educate him properly in the big fish. I call it, "Seaweed University." Jonah repented and "Arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord," (Jonah 3:3).

The people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, "From the greatest of them even to the least of them," (Jonah 3:5).

God responded favorably. "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not," (Jonah 3:10).

An entire city experienced miraculous joy.

The obedience of one man brought joy to an entire city.

- When a man of God obeys…*miracles flow.*
- When miracles flow…*joy erupts.*

It happened after David defeated Goliath. The Philistines were routed by the Israelites. Joy filled the streets. "And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands," (1 Samuel 18:6-7).

The obedience of Elijah brought joy to the heart and home of an impoverished widow. Read 1 Kings 17 for an electrifying account of Elijah's encounter with the widow of Zarephath. "And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of

bread in thine hand. And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die," (1 Kings 17:8-12).

The widow had one meal left between her and her son. He was dying. Can you imagine her emaciated body and tortured countenance? Her son was skin and bones. Life seemed almost over for them both. *It seemed that her faith had not worked.* Undoubtedly, she had sung songs of confidence in God. This day, she had no song.

You Are Never Closer To A Miracle Than When You Receive An Instruction From A Man Of God. "And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah," (1 Kings 17:13-16).

In 1 Kings 17:9, A man of God received his Assignment from God. "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee."

His Assignment reversed the curse of hell against her life. His entry birthed a miracle.

His obedience brought supernatural provision for the rest of the famine.

Queen Esther brought an entire nation great joy. Haman was an enemy of all the Jews. He had conspired against the Jews to destroy them. But, Queen Esther came before the king. She exposed his wicked plans. The Jews were allowed to "…gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey," (Esther 8:11).

Joy filled the cities. "The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour," (Esther 8:16).

The obedience of Joseph brought joy to a starving nation. Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt, second in power only to Pharaoh. Imagine the great joy he brought to his father and brothers when he provided them housing, food and

access to himself by bringing them into Egypt with him!

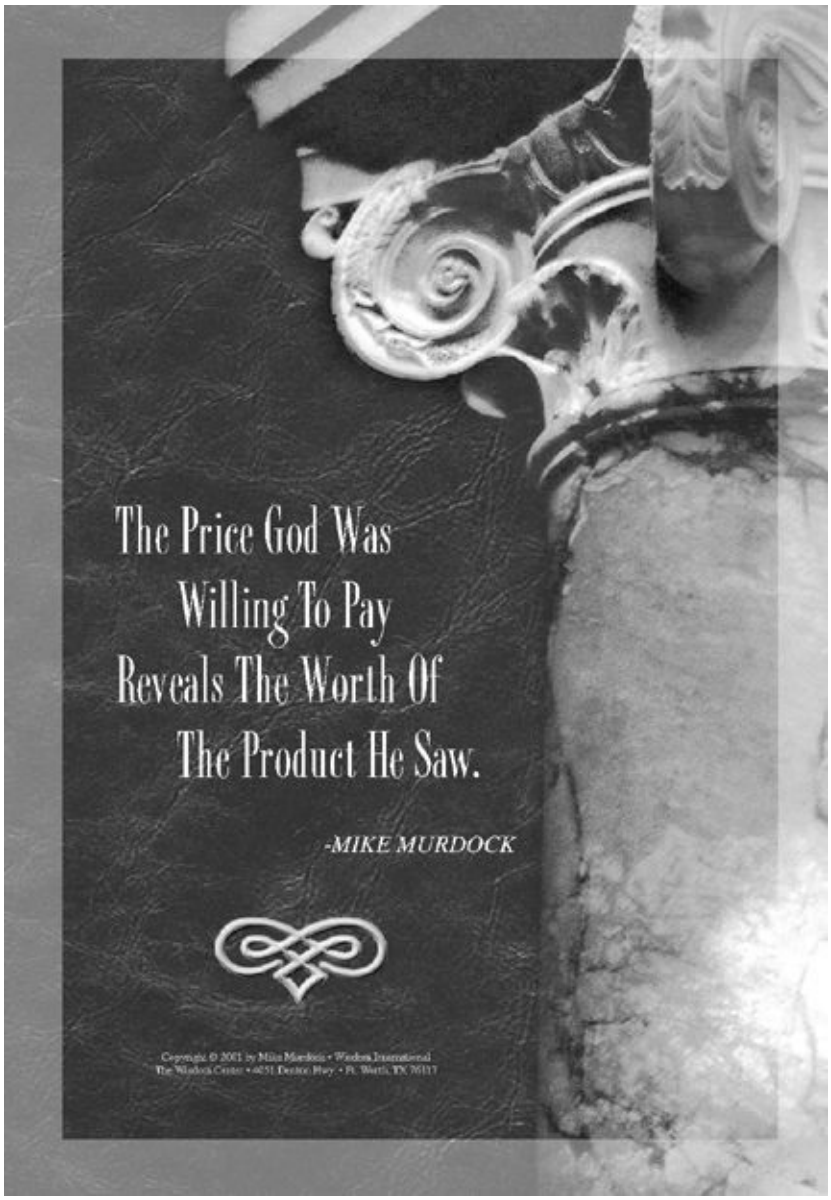
Your obedience to an instruction from God can bring someone great joy. Remember Wisdom Key #70: *Each Act Of Obedience Shortens The Distance To Any Miracle You Are Pursuing.*

Be willing to face your enemy. *Confront your critics.* Endure the season of overload. Your own Assignment may not appear to be very significant at this time. Your mind may be a whirlpool of options and choices to make. You may toss and turn at night, wondering how you are going to feed your own children and make your car payment. *Begin completing the Assignment closest to your heart.* Listen carefully to The Holy Spirit.

Each act of obedience will create a new wave of blessing around you. Those you love will reap ten thousand times from your obedience to God.

Seasons change. Your present season may be extremely difficult. It may seem to stretch every fiber of your being. You may even feel like giving up, quitting and walking away from your Assignment. Do not do it. Joy is too close to give up now! “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning,” (Psalm 30:5).

Your obedience to God will bring someone great joy.


The Price God Was
Willing To Pay
Reveals The Worth Of
The Product He Saw.
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Knowing Yourself



7 Keys To Knowing Yourself

1. Determine Your Self-Portrait.

Your Self-Portrait Determines Your Self-Conduct.

The picture you develop of yourself is crucial to your success or failure. God wants you to see yourself as His highest creation. In the book of Philemon, we are instructed to acknowledge every good thing in us. (See verse 6.) Of course, it should be clearly understood, that our righteousness comes from God. "…man at his best state is altogether vanity," (Psalm 39:5).

Someone might say we are worth nothing. However God, as a businessman, invested His Son for us. To me, an investment is a portrait of confidence. The Price God Was Willing To Pay Reveals The Worth Of The Product He Saw.

You are not an accident waiting to happen. Everything inside of you is known, treasured and intended for full use by your Creator. (See Psalm 139:14.)

Something incredible is inside you. God decided who you would be, before He placed you in your mother's womb. (See Jeremiah 1:5.)

God knows the purpose for which you were created.

God is looking at something within you that you have never seen. God sees something you contain that you have not yet discovered. (See Isaiah 55:9.)

The way you see you…decides how you act…and in reality controls your behavior. Your father, mother, sisters and brothers had everything to do with your self-portrait. Everyone around you constantly feeds your view of you; you grow up with these opinions inside of you.

Your understanding is a Golden Key to your success. Understanding is the ability to interpret life as God sees it. It is the ability to see the total picture of you…as God sees you.

How do you view yourself? You will always struggle subconsciously to fulfill your own self-portrait.

You may be looking at your beginnings.

God is looking at your end.

You may be obsessed with your flaws.

God is obsessed with your future.

You may be focusing on your enemies.

God is focusing on your eventuality.

God is not waiting on your "becoming."

He is awaiting your discovery of it.

Develop a new picture of yourself. Soon you will begin to see yourself, not where you have been, but where you are going…not what you have done, but what you are going to do.

Developing a new picture of you is the way to begin moving into the realm of success. Stop looking at the distorted, defeated picture of yourself, that satan would have you see.

Instead, see yourself the way God sees you…full of potential and promise. See yourself in the image of God.

You Will Accept One of 4 Possible Evaluations of Your Life

1. What You Think About Yourself.

2. What Others Think About You.

3. What Satan Thinks About You.

4. What God Thinks About You.

The Bible is a book of pictures…it contains God's picture of you. He does not create cheap merchandise. You are His creation. You have worth. You have value. He implanted in you the Seeds of Success, Faith and Power. Act like it… live like it!

Quit belittling yourself. Do you have the mind of Christ? Then you are super-brilliant! Say aloud, "I have the mind of Christ. I am amazed at the brilliant mind now in operation in my life!"

Through daily intake of Scripture, you can reinforce the correct picture of yourself, as God sees you.

Become more familiar with The Word of God, in order to create a mental gallery…photographs of success. Your own destiny can be determined by the way you see yourself.

2. Identify Your Needs.

Information Births Self-Confidence.

There is a need for…knowing yourself. The more you know about yourself, the easier it becomes to satisfy your needs. We are born with needs…needs for food and affection, etc.

Doctors have said that children who are not given affection in their early years are severely affected. Some even die if they do not receive the attention or affection when needed. We were created to be held…to be touched; it is a need.

One of the most incredible teachers I know teaches that all adult problems are simply needs that went unmet in their youth.

4 Needs You Must Identify

- Identify Your Immediate Needs.
- Identify Your Emotional Needs.
- Identify What You Need To Hear.
- Identify Your Sexual Needs.

3. Identify Those Who Create Your Joy.

Your Questions Determine The Answers You Discover.

What really excites you? What are you doing on the happiest days of your life? What would you love to do if money were no longer a factor? The answers to these questions are clues to your life Assignment.

Do you know how to move toward your joy? What you truly love the most is a clue to a marvelous gift and quality inside you. Know Yourself! If you are doing what you love…what you are called to do, there should be joy in your life. That is the purpose of your abilities…to grow and be productive. You will only have Wisdom for something you love.

4 Keys To Creating And Protecting Your Joy

1. Identify Your Recreational Needs.

2. Identify People Who Make You Think.

3. Identify People Who Bring You Comfort.

4. Identify Events And Scenarios That Birth Energy And Joy In You.

There are some people in whose presence you lose all sight of your goals. You must identify them and move away from them. You must identify the people in whose presence you become less.

Know your needs. Identity the scenarios which activate you. Identify the scenarios where you feel burdened or pressured.

Remember, your attachment to The Word of God affects your attitude, your happiness and consequently, the joy of your achievements. God has a success plan for you spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, socially and in your family life. God desires your Success. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth,” (3 John 2).

4. Discover The Environment Which Brings Out The Best In You.

Go Where You Are Celebrated Instead Of Where You Are Tolerated.

You must discern what environment and atmosphere brings out the best in you. Everybody needs something different around them. Sculpturing an environment that specifically motivates you is an important key to Uncommon Productivity.

What kind of environment do you find most enjoyable? Some people discover that they need many people around them to be productive. Others prefer solitude.

6 Elements of Sculpturing The Environment That Brings Out The Best In You

1. Your Environment Is Worth Any Investment. I know the value of protecting the climate around myself. When I need energy to move quickly from project to project, I love to listen to praise music that is energizing and exciting.

When I want to ponder and reflect, I love to listen to slower, worshipful music. Nobody else can create your atmosphere for you. You must discern and pursue your desired environment…for yourself…you must know yourself.

2. Identify The People Who Create An Environment Of Peace For You. Some may not birth energy; instead they create an environment of peace for you. You need a nest without thorns. You need some people who will let you relax,

not people who interrogate you constantly. You need some people who will create a peaceful environment for you.

3. Identify People Who Create Or Dissolve Your Agitation. You need someone who does not fuel the fire of agitation. I really want someone with this ability and attitude around me.

4. What Level Of Freedom Do You Require In Your Conversations? The Bible says David behaved himself wisely before the people. He acted one way in front of his people and another way privately. My mother taught me that this did not mean that David was deceptive, rather, it meant that he possessed the skill of adaptation…he valued others and then conducted himself accordingly.

When he danced before the Lord after his great victories, his wife stared at him from the balcony with great hatred and anger. His joy infuriated her. She was jealous because of the attention he received. What freedom do you require conversationally and who are the people you can trust? You talk differently to your mechanic than you would talk to your wife. What level of freedom do you require intellectually?

5. Avoid Broken Focus. When wrong people are talking to you, you will make the wrong decisions. Choose friendships that will build the faith-life in you.

6. Permit The True You To Become Strong. I have often heard people insistently tell a shy person, "You must talk more." Then, the same person will turn to someone who is talking a lot, and tell them, "Be quiet! Just sit and listen!" We instruct our youth, "Get more serious about life!" We instruct the elderly, "You need to be less serious and lighten up!"

Do not move away from the essence of what God has made you. Understand the importance of your uniqueness.

Your Chosen Focus Is The World You Have Created For Yourself.

5. Identify Your Intellectual Needs.

Those Who Cannot Increase You Will Inevitably Decrease You. Identify what you like to think about…what you like to talk about. What do you love to learn about? Build a personal library around what you love.

Think about what you want. Develop decisiveness.

Design the life you want. Invest in yourself. Spend time, effort and money in developing your mind, your spirit and your inner man. You must decide for yourself what you really want out of life. Nobody else can decide for you. You

are what you have decided to be.

If you are unhappy with yourself, dare to reach for new information, new teaching and new truths that will elevate you and build your relationship with God. Invest in literature and teaching tapes.

Do not bankrupt your mind…your mind is worth growing! Do not starve your heart! Feed it what it desperately needs. Dare to embrace change. Ask yourself these questions:

…What Do You Want To Be Happening In The Circle Of Your Life Ten Years From Today?

…What Are The Ideal Circumstances For Your Retirement?

…What Do You Dream Of Becoming?

…Do You Have A Personal List Of Goals And Dreams?

…Have You Taken The Time To Write Your Goals Down?

You may feel differently today, than what you felt a year ago or ten years ago. I am not the same man that I was a year ago. My needs change.

Discoveries create distance. Every time you make a discovery, you move away from someone who does not know your new discovery. They will have to choose to walk with you.

It seems that most of us have a dominant influence of either our mind or our heart. There are Mind People and Heart People. Mind People are methodical, analytical and make decisions based on facts. Heart People appear more sensitive, more intuitive and they lean toward spontaneity and flexibility. Both kinds of people are necessary in your life.

Identify people who make you feel hopeless.

You should read one book a week. Become a well of information. “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels,” (Proverbs 1:5).

God knows your desires and needs, “For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things,” (Matthew 6:32).

Visit your local library. Subscribe to periodicals. Consult experts in your field of interest. Pray for Divine Direction.

Develop the Winner's Mentality. You become what you think.

You Cannot Be What You Are Not, But You Can Become What You Are Not.

6. Identify Those Who Birth Enthusiasm In You.

The Worth Of Any Relationship Can Be Measured By Its Contributions To Your Priorities.

Right people energize you. Wrong people exhaust you. Ask yourself these questions about every relationship. Will this friendship bring me closer to Jesus? Will this friendship soil the beauty of what God has begun in me? Get rid of anything that clouds your mind or spirit.

You are designed for connections. Friendships are greater than gold. They satisfy the inner part of us. Discern those orchestrated by The Holy Spirit and build those friendships carefully, consistently and wisely.

Godly friendships are a part of a victorious life. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,” (Proverbs 13:20). Be selective. Friends will add to or take away from your Life Goals. Treasure any friend who generates energy and enthusiasm towards your dreams and goals.

Your relationship to your family is vital to your happiness. The Winner is one who sees the needs of each member and strives to help fill that emptiness. Time spent with family is never wasted time.

What kind of family life or time do you feel is necessary? Obviously, a bachelor schedules his life differently from a family man with five children or a divorced mother of an infant. The job that is right for you should provide adequate time with those you love.

Relationships are a risk. They demand time, energy, attention and discipline. Like tender plants, they require patience.

Think of each friendship as a beautiful flower in the garden of your life. That garden must be nurtured, fertilized and watered regularly. Do not let petty and insignificant differences—trivia—sap the beauty of those flowers.

Millions of people wither in loneliness, refusing to labor on the monument of love. Open your heart to those around you.

You must choose the level and mentality you want to live at. Unwise friendships and associations have destroyed the potential and the abilities of multiplied thousands of could-be winners. Reevaluate your life and friendships.

4 Qualities of Wise Associations That Birth Enthusiasm

1. Those Who Speak Words That Build Your Faith And Confidence.

2. Those Who See The Worthiness Of Your God-Given Dreams.

3. Those Who Become Enthusiastic When You Enter Their Presence.

4. Those Who Remind You Of Your Special Gifts And Abilities.

Avoid intimate relationships with people who disrespect your dreams. You can minister to them. You can encourage them. You can speak words that will strengthen and bless them. However, do not draw them close to you or the burden will become too cumbersome and impossible for you to carry.

Right relationships increase your Wisdom. (See Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33.)

If your mate has no interest in what you are studying and learning, ask The Holy Spirit to activate enthusiasm in them, and to help you inspire interest in them for your passion.

You must know yourself and your personal limitations. Do not depend on others to inspire you regarding your dreams. Most people will distract you… many do not value what you are pursuing. You must name this for what it is and move on quickly.

Identify those who have blessed you and brought great joy and enthusiasm into your life. Find ways to express your appreciation. Do it privately… verbally…publicly and often.

7. Identify Who Your Heroes Are.

Respect Matters.

Respect those whom God has assigned and qualified to help you.

Who are your heroes and why?

Who are the people you admire? What is in them that you admire?

Recognition of a man or woman of God is vital for your total success. When God wants to bless you, He will schedule a man or woman of God in your life.

It is your responsibility to discern them, respect them and follow their instructions. “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper,” (2 Chronicles 20:20).

Obviously, my father is a hero for his prayer life. His ability to stay focused on God and read the Bible has placed him in that class.

Who are your financial heroes…spiritual heroes? A hero is not one who is

perfect. Flawless men do not exist. Men and Women of God sometimes experience failure too.

From whom are you learning? What are you learning from them?

There are four kinds of people who will affect your life, those who…Add…Subtract…Multiply…Divide.

I learned from Tony Robbins to evaluate continuously the results of every effort of my life.

I learned from Warren Buffet to set aside ten percent…ten cents from every dollar for your future. He said that all you need is the habit to take something out of every paycheck. He said the habit of putting a small portion aside…even five percent…is more powerful than the amount you put aside.

Every time I am with Oral Roberts, I am challenged…stirred. He asks me questions. He challenges me in ways no one ever has.

There are people in whose presence you improve, and you know it. Something changes in your spirit; something changes in your life. Your dreams get larger…more defined.

You must pursue and extract the Wisdom of God from Mentors He places in your life. “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels,” (Proverbs 1:5).

Everything You Need Or Want Is Already In Your Life—Merely Awaiting Your Recognition Of It.

The Word of God is our instrument panel that corrects our feelings, when they get off course. Our feelings do get off course.

It is wise to alter and change the flaws within ourselves. It is even wiser to acknowledge and embrace the center of your calling. Jesus knew His mission. He kept His focus. His focus was the salvation of mankind.

May God bless you as you become more power conscious of His Word and live in the level of Success He has designed for you.

Take small steps toward change. *You Can Get Anywhere You Want To Go If You Are Willing To Take Enough Small Steps.*

Recommended Investments:

The Law of Recognition (Book/B-114/247 pages/$15)

The Uncommon Achiever (Book/B-133/128 pages/$15)

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Leadership



22 Keys To Becoming An Uncommon Leader

1. Do Not Waste Time. Time is precious…*it is life itself.* When you waste your time, you are wasting your life.

Managing your time wisely is one of the most important keys to becoming an Uncommon Leader. Keep a written list of your daily tasks. Link each task to a specific time. This creates order—the accurate arrangement of things. It is the power key to productivity. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” (Ephesians 5:16).

2. Determine To Be Diligent. *Diligence Is Immediate Attention To An Assigned Task* (Wisdom Key #142). Respond immediately to your supervisor's instructions. Do not wait. Act! According to the Bible, this is a key element to every promotion. So, move…move…move quickly to your assigned tasks. “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich,” (Proverbs 10:4).

3. Honor Your Word. Truth is the most powerful force on earth. It cannot be changed. Be honest. Cherish your integrity. Keep your word. Never make a promise impossible to keep. “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold,” (Proverbs 22:1).

4. Do Not Make Quick Decisions. Your entire life hinges on the decisions you make. Your decisions will create tragedies or joy…laughter or tears…pain or pleasure. Do not let anyone rush you into any decision before you are prepared. Be patient. *Patience Is The Weapon That Forces Deception To Reveal Itself* (Wisdom Key #97). “Let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God,” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

5. Draw Up A Detailed Plan. Your vision is your future. The Bible is God's written list of goals. He wrote down what He wanted to happen. It may be difficult for you to transfer your thoughts to paper, but do it. Something wonderful starts happening when you actually see a blueprint of your future. “Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it,” (Habakkuk 2:2). “Where there is no vision, the people perish,” (Proverbs 29:18). Remember Wisdom Key #2: *When Your Heart Decides The Destination, Your*

Mind Will Design The Map To Reach It.

6. Go The Extra Mile. Jesus taught "The Law of the Second Mile." It simply means to do more than what is really expected of you. It means to think and look for extra ways to benefit others. Always remember Wisdom Key #5: *Your Rewards In Life Are Determined By The Kinds Of Problems You Are Willing To Solve For Others.* "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain," (Matthew 5:41).

7. Pursue Wisdom. Wisdom is simply doing what God would do in a given situation. Wisdom is the Master Key to becoming an Uncommon Leader. Jesus was made unto us the Wisdom of God. *The Word Of God Is The Wisdom Of God* (Wisdom Key #8). Whatever you face today, just do what you know Jesus would do. "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth," (Proverbs 4:5).

8. Fear God. The fear of God does not mean to be afraid of God. It means to respect, honor and complete any instruction He gives you. Your obedience triggers events that bring blessings. Disobedience triggers events that bring ruin. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life," (Proverbs 22:4).

9. Stay Healthy. Energy is a major ingredient for success. Respect your body. Listen to it. *When Fatigue Walks In, Faith Walks Out* (Wisdom Key #96). A well-known doctor, famous for treating patients with depression, said he had never had a depressed patient who was really physically fit. What you spend your time on is what you truly respect. "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee," (Exodus 23:25).

10. Be Faithful In The Little Things. *Little Hinges Swing Big Doors.* Acorns produce oak trees. Little things really do matter. Develop a passion for detail. Just do the basics and expect to see miracles everyday of your life. "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord," (Matthew 25:23).

11. Do Not Attempt Too Many Things. A famous billionaire once said, "I've seen as many people fail from attempting too many things as I have from attempting too few." Do not overload yourself. It will break your focus. Remember Wisdom Key #157: *The Only Reason Men Fail Is Broken Focus.* Find something worthy of consuming you…then *pour your life into it.* "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways," (James 1:8).

12. Remember The Poor. Thousands are homeless, destitute and impoverished. Your reaction to them determines God's reaction to you. Get involved. Plant your best Seed in a church or worthy organization committed to the poor. Your own success will be affected by your Compassion. “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again,” (Proverbs 19:17). “Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and Thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies,” (Psalm 41:1-2).

13. Ask The Giver. Everything comes from somebody. Whatever you need…already exists. *Ask.* Ask with joy. God wants to reveal His power to you. “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?” (Matthew 7:9-11).

14. Do Not Rush It. *Great things take time.* Human pregnancy takes nine months. Jesus’ preparation for ministry took thirty years. Willingly pace yourself on the journey to Becoming; your present joy depends on it. *The Greatest Success Quality On Earth Is The Willingness To Become* (Wisdom Key #275).

15. Network With Others. Remember, your success will require others. Develop people-skills. *Listen.* Learn. Absorb from others. Ask questions. Document answers. *Success is a collection of relationships.* Whatever you are willing to settle for, determines the quality of your future. “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

16. Consult The Learned. The difference between today and your future… is *information.* If you do not learn anything new today, tomorrow will be just like today. This means you delay your desired future…and create a longer today. So, read…listen… observe. *Your future is in your discoveries.* “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety,” (Proverbs 11:14).

17. Do What You Love. Whatever brings you the most fulfillment is an important key to your life. God wants you happy. That is a settled issue. Discover what makes you happy. You will have extraordinary success with something that becomes your obsession. Remember Wisdom Key #290: *You Will*

Only Have Significant Success With Something That Is An Obsession. "Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?" (Ecclesiastes 3:22).

18. Stay In The Center Of Your Expertise. Even in your mother's womb, you were given by God special gifts, talents and skills. What you enjoy doing the most is a clue to what God wants you to do with your life. Start today to build your daily agenda around this Assignment. "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called," (1 Corinthians 7:20).

19. Think Ahead. I call it "The Law of Inevitable Eventuality." If you eat two slices of pecan pie every night, what is the *inevitable eventuality?* If you smoke two packs of cigarettes a day, what is the *inevitable eventuality?* Whatever you are doing right now…is producing an inevitable future. Think, think, think…think ahead. *What You Do Daily Determines What You Become Permanently* (Wisdom Key #232). "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest," (Proverbs 6:6-8).

20. Look For A Problem To Solve. Everything God has made is a solution to a problem. Your worth and significance are determined by the kinds of problems you are solving for someone. If you want to earn $100.00 an hour, you must find a $100.00 an hour problem to solve. *Your Significance Is Not In Your Similarity To Another, But In Your Point Of Difference From Another* (Wisdom Key #54). Find your point of difference…and solve a problem with it. Success is *inevitable.* "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it," (Proverbs 3:27).

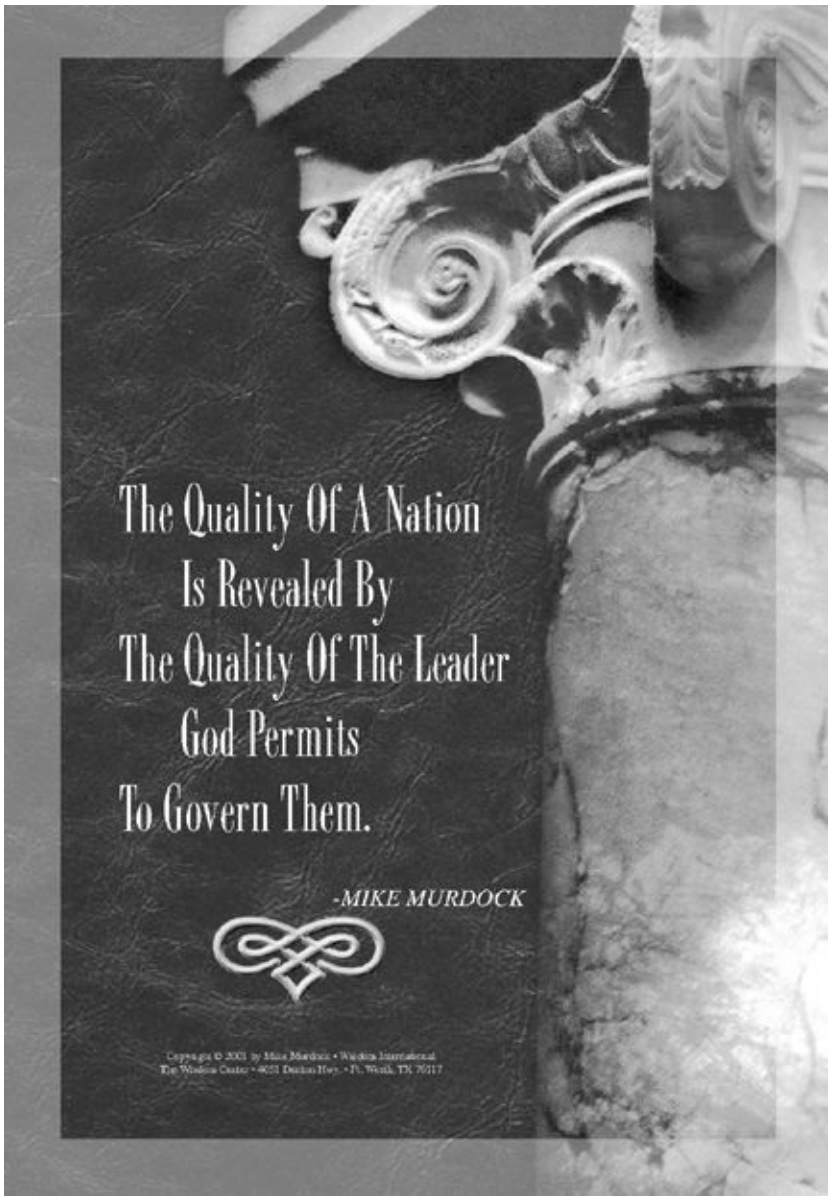
21. Discover Your Real Source. You do not have a thing God did not give you. Never forget it. He is your Total Source. He knows it. Uncommon Leaders know it too. "And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth," (Deuteronomy 8:13, 18).

22. Reach For Success. You will never possess anything you are unwilling to pursue. *You Have No Right To Anything You Have Not Pursued* (Wisdom Key #237). It is good to pursue good health, happiness and financial blessings. Your Heavenly Father wants you to experience all these blessings. Get ready today to launch the greatest chapter of your life…you have ever known. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul

prospereth," (3 John 1:2).

Recommended Investment:

The Leadership Secrets of Jesus (Book/B-91/196 pages/$12)


The Quality Of A Nation
Is Revealed By
The Quality Of The Leader
God Permits
To Govern Them.
-MIKE MURDOCK

26

Loss

Some Losses Are Avoidable.

Some Losses Are Vital.

Obedience is rarely easy. Yet, your Assignment will require many acts of obedience. Some of those instructions will create losses. However, those losses are necessary and essential for long term gains. God has reasons for every demand He makes upon your life. Remember Wisdom Key #78: *Disobedience Is Always More Costly Than Obedience.*

6 Examples of Loss Experienced By Achievers In The Bible

1. Moses Experienced The Loss Of Status And Position. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible," (Hebrews 11:24-27). Moses saw *the bigger picture.* He saw the future. He saw the reward. He knew the limitations of Egypt. He knew the *inevitable eventuality of promotion.* "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not," (Galatians 6:9).

You see, *seasons change.* "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away," (Ecclesiastes 3:1-6).

2. Abraham Knew The Losses Of Comfort, Friends And Home. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred,

and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee," (Genesis 12:1).

3. Abraham Was Tested With The Potential Loss Of His Son Of Promise, Isaac. "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of," (Genesis 22:1-2).

4. Abraham Knew The Loss Of Peaceful Relationships. "And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left," (Genesis 13:5-9).

Abraham persisted in serving God through seasons of loss. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform," (Romans 4:20-21).

Abraham was rewarded for every loss. He became the Father of nations. "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the Seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before Him Whom he believed, even God, Who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be," (Romans 4:16-18).

5. Stephen Lost His Life. I find the story of Stephen fascinating. He was the first minister of helps selected by the early church. The widows were being neglected. The twelve disciples asked the multitude to select seven men to handle the business of the church. The first they chose was "Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people," (Acts 6:5, 8).

When Stephen spoke, conviction was so powerful that men responded with

anger. “And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake,” (Acts 6:10).

When people saw Stephen, his countenance was like an angel. “And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel,” (Acts 6:15).

Overwhelmed with conviction, they decided to kill him. “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him:…And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit,” (Acts 7:54, 57-59).

Yes, he lost his life. But look at what happened. “But he, being full of The Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 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 7:55, 60).

God even rewarded Stephen at the losing of his life. Jesus rose and stood at the right hand of the Father to welcome Stephen's entry into God's glory.

6. The Apostle Paul Experienced Loss Of Position, Prestige And Influence. Consider the story in his own words: “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ,” (Philippians 3:5-7).

You must see treasures beyond your losses.

The Double Portion Blessing Of God Can Follow Every Major Loss. It happened to Job when he lost his children, his flocks, his herds and his position of credibility and popularity. “And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and

three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days," (Job 42:10-17).

Obedience To God May Create A Temporary Season Of Loss.

27

Networking

Greatness Is Everywhere.

"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge," (Proverbs 18:15).

People have different contributions. I believe you need different kinds of input into your life. Someone needs what you possess. You need something that they can contribute to you. You are the sum total of your experiences.

Personalities differ. Each person around you contains a different body of knowledge. It is up to you to "drop your pail in their well," and draw it out. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety," (Proverbs 11:14).

Consider those who surrounded Jesus…a tax collector, a physician, a fisherman…a woman who had been possessed with seven devils.

Some were *poor.* Some were *wealthy.* Some were very *energetic* while others were *passive.* Some were *explosive* like Peter. Others, like James, were *logical.*

Be willing to listen to others. Everyone sees through different eyes. They feel with different hearts. They hear through different ears. Someone knows something that you should know. You will not discover it until you take the time to stop and hear them out. *One piece of information can turn a failure into a success. Great decisions are products of great thoughts.*

Successful people treasure worthy friendships. Names are *vital.* Building a significant rolodex or address book is a must. Keep in touch regularly with those who love you.

Every successful pastor knows the importance of a name. That is why visitor cards are given out at most services. Receptions where greeters meet newcomers are held every Sunday morning. Millions of dollars are spent on television programs, radio broadcasts and newspaper ads—because of the names of those who are important to their vision.

Every successful businessman knows the importance of a single name. Listen to Ron Popeil, a multimillionaire who has enjoyed great success. "One of the mandates at Ronco, besides quality of innovation, is this: A name, address and phone number are worth gold. We always capture a telephone number in

addition to the name and address of a customer, because those items are very common, very valuable," (*The Salesman Of the Century,* page 219).

Avoid keeping names and addresses in many different places.

Keep one master address book.

My dentist's name is kept under "D." When I want to buy carpet, I look under "C" where I have placed the business card of a local carpet store.

Think of everyone around you as a potential problem solver for your life. Treasure your access to them. When you receive a business card, place it under the divider most appropriate. For instance, if you meet Mr. Sam Jones who sells automobiles, do not put his business card under "J" for Jones. You will not remember it a year later. Place his business card under "A" for automobiles.

Friendships are too precious to lose. They cost too much to treat lightly. I once read where one of our U.S. presidents had 7,500 names in his rolodex. He *loved* people. He *valued* people. He knew the importance of a name.

Build a master address book of those who truly matter to your life.

Pay Any Price To Stay Connected To Extraordinary People.

Jesus networked.

Network with people of all backgrounds.

This is one of the Secrets to becoming an Uncommon Achiever.



Our Prayer Together…

"I realize, Lord, that Your creation is filled with many extraordinary and different people. Give me the Wisdom and ability to recognize that who I spend my time with is a vital investment in my success. In Jesus' name. Amen."

28

Offerings

Gifts Tell A Story.

Gifts are vehicles…they are *communication.*

A gift is a *message.* A gift is a *picture.* When somebody gives me a gift…*it is big to* ***me***. It is real important to me, to respond appropriately to a gift. The importance of a gift or an offering… *especially to God…* should not be trivialized.

4 Facts About Offerings

1. Presentation Is Everything. One of my dearest friends pastors a great church in New York. He is also the chaplain for the New York Yankees. He gave me a beautiful check one time for $1,000, but it was more than a check. He had it in a certificate, framed…beautiful. I have received $1,000 checks before but not in the presentation that Pastor Fridel gave it. Presentation is the difference between eating at the most expensive restaurant in the city and being a pig. The same food, the same identical food that is eaten in the most expensive restaurants in the world may be eaten by hogs that night. The only difference is *presentation.* Whether it is a fast food restaurant or an expensive environment… the difference is presentation.

God has a lot to say about presentation. John the Baptist was the presenter of Jesus the Christ. Angels came and sung at the birth of Christ. *Packaging matters.* Naomi instructed Ruth to package appropriately to meet Boaz.

Giving is on my heart today because that is what I have been doing the last two hours…opening gifts, hoping I could respond appropriately to every gift. It is tragic when someone responds wrong to you. Have you ever given somebody a gift and they say, “Oh, I already have that?” Have you ever given a gift to someone who said, “I really didn't want this? I prefer something else,” and you were devastated?

Jesus studied gifts. He studied equally the *person* who gave the gift, and we know that because of two things. The widow who gave her last two mites, her last two pennies we will say…He said she gave more than everybody else. Obviously, He did not just look at the amount of the offering or the gift, but He

also viewed how much it took for her to give that gift…*that offering*.

The disciples sneered and complained over the woman who used two years income worth of perfume to put on the feet of Jesus…wiping His feet with her hair. They told Jesus that a better use would have been to give to the poor. The implication was that Jesus did not need the gift…*the poor did.* They did not think He should have received the perfume. They did not believe Jesus was worthy of that quality of gift. Jesus said that what she had done would become a memorial…and it is the way she is remembered, even today. When someone has a funeral or a memorial service, it is the way we remember them. We celebrate their life…their contribution. We talk about it…memorials are a big issue.

President Ronald Reagan had great respect for God and a profound respect for people. When he died, the procession was unreal.

The reaction of people around the world was unreal. Reactions…*reactions and presentations.* There was *ceremony* around his life.

2. God Wants Us To Become Ceremonial In Our Gift Giving. Jesus did not just lay down and die. It was a crucifixion. Eight inches of thorns crushed into His brow…a spear in His side…spikes in His hands…*His beard ripped from His face.*

Offerings are significant…*they are a gift.* "Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass," (Exodus 35:5). The wise men brought to Jesus at His birth, myrrh, frankincense, special ointments and perfumes. Your offering or your gift to another reveals the way you see them. Certain gifts have been established as the *appropriate* gifts for anniversaries… 50th anniversary…25th anniversary, etc. I like that because it puts ceremony into the gift…*keeps the gift from becoming trivial.*

I will never put a little box at the back of the church to trivialize the Seeds of the people. Here at The Wisdom Center in Fort Worth, we do not belittle an offering. We do not make it trite. We do not play it down…it is a representation of us. "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts," (Psalm 96:8). At The Wisdom Center, you do not *send* your offering…you *bring* it. When I bring an offering to God, it took the best hours of my day to obtain that money…so when I bring an offering, I am bringing Him *the best of my time.* It takes all my energy and my health to obtain money…to generate support. When I bring God an offering, I am bringing Him the cream of my health. It takes every relationship in my life to generate finances. When I bring God an offering, I am giving Him *the cream of my*

relationships. I am bringing Him *the cream of my knowledge and my discoveries.* My offering is *me…is me…is me!*

At The Wisdom Center we actually bring the offering like Exodus instructed us to. We bring our offering…our Seed to the front. Sometimes we will wave our Seed in the air before the Lord because it is a ceremony of thanksgiving and gratitude. Isn't it amazing how commonly the Seed is trivialized…and yet it is so big to God…so big that Jesus *studied* it?

3. An Offering Without Expectation Is An Offering Without A Future. "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine," (Proverbs 3:9-10). God wanted us to give with *expectation.* My Seed, my offering, has everything to do with my celebration of God and who He is. *For God so loved that He gave.*

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings," (Malachi 3:8). The word tithe means tenth. In the Bible, the first dime of every dollar, the first ten percent of our income is the holy part we return to God as an acknowledgment of our indebtedness to Him. My tithe is not the payment of my debt. It is the *acknowledgement* of my debt…because I owe *everything* to God. Everything I have, came from God. My eyesight came from God. My ability to hear, walk, talk…everything I have…came from God. Again, my tithe is not payment of my debt*…because I owe it all.* It is *acknowledgement* of my debt.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," (Malachi 3:10).

Giving is not a *money* principle.

It is a *supply* principle.

Sowing is not a *receiving* word.

It is a *provision* word. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again," (Luke 6:38). This passage reveals that the issue goes even further than finances*…we can sow mercy and forgiveness, too.*

4. When You Let Go Of What Is In Your Hand, God Will Let Go Of What Is In His Hand. Many years ago at a church in Dallas, I sowed a $1,000

Seed. It was my third one out of $5,000 I had received from song writing royalties. On a Sunday morning, I gave the $1,000 Seed. That afternoon I plummeted into a semi-depressed state. I knelt down. It was at a church where my dear friend was the pastor. At about 5:15 in his office, I said, “God, five days ago I had $5,000. I have given $3,000. If I am making a mistake, please forgive me. Stop me now.” He spoke three or four sentences to me. “When I Talk To You About A $1,000 Seed, I've Got A Harvest On My Mind. When You Let Go Of What's In Your Hand, I Will Let Go Of What's In My Hand.” He spoke a third sentence, *“Nothing Leaves Heaven Until Something Leaves Earth”* (Wisdom Key #147). I said, “I hope so.”

After service that night, a man walked up with a book of rare automobiles, points to Veta Ventura GT, and said, “Read it.” There were only, I think, 19 of them in the world. He said, “I have Serial No. 1 of the 19. It's my favorite car.” I think he called it his toy. He said, “God told me to give it to you.” The next morning a man walked in my office and said, “God told me to buy a brand new van for your ministry.” Tuesday a man called me to lunch. He said, “I couldn't sleep last night. The Holy Spirit woke me up in the middle of the night and said, Bless Mike Murdock's ministry.” He wrote me out a check for $10,000. My life has never been the same. I sowed that $1,000 Seed and broke the back of poverty with it.

When You Want Something You Have Never Had, You Have To Do Something You Have Never Done.

Offerings are huge to God, because they are pictures of our character. They are proof of our passion. Offerings document my confidence and my faith in God.

29

Pain



Every Champion Knows Pain.

Pain Is The Proof Of Disorder (Wisdom Key #89). Pain is any discomfort created by disorder in your body, your home or your life.

Order Is Simply The Accurate Arrangement Of Things (Wisdom Key #337). Pain, therefore, is not really your enemy. Rather, it is the proof that your enemy exists. Pain is a messenger instructing you that something is out of order in your life. God uses pain to talk to us…to change us…to motivate us to order.

Pain Is Discomfort Created By The Supernatural Birthing And Entry Of A Person, Season Or Miracle God Is Bringing Into Your Life.

Sometimes pain is unnecessary.

Sometimes it is necessary.

It depends on your *willingness* to change.

Mothers experience pain when they birth their children into the world. Jesus experienced pain when He launched His earthly ministry following the severe temptations of satan recorded in the fourth chapter of Matthew's gospel. Paul wrote about pain: “In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness,” (2 Corinthians 11:27).

22 Power Keys To Help You Walk Through The Painful Seasons In Your Life

1. Refuse To Panic. Slow down and take the time to hear the soft, quiet voice of The Holy Spirit. “The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord,” (Lamentations 3:25-26).

2. Admit Your Pain. Be honest with yourself and with those you love. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,” (James 5:16).

3. Determine To Stay In Pursuit Of God Even In Painful Experiences,

By Focusing On The Promised Promotion. "If so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us," (Romans 8:17-18). The apostle Paul reminded Timothy, his protégé, of this. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us," (2 Timothy 2:12).

4. Rearrange Your Daily Schedule To Make "The Secret Place" The Priority Of Each Morning. You must hear the voice of The Holy Spirit again. He *hears.* He *heals.* He *helps.* "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," (Psalm 91:1).

5. Hold Fast And Stand Strong By Absorbing The Word Of God Daily. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness," (Ephesians 6:14).

6. Remind Yourself That Pain Does Pass. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning," (Psalm 30:5).

7. Remember, Pain Is Often Produced By Ignorance. I remember driving 500 miles across the United States pulling a little trailer containing my clothes, public address system and tapes. When I walked into the office of the pastor, he looked up stunned. Several of his staff members were around. "What are you doing here?"

"I am here to begin the crusade," was my reply. "I am sorry. I have canceled that. You did not receive my letter?"

It broke my heart. I had just driven 500 miles in vain. Now that was painful. It happened through my ignorance. I had not confirmed by telephone the day before. I had not confirmed with him by letter. I had assumed that our original conversation was permanent.

8. Make A Firm Decision To Become A Learner. Discern the Mentors who could have enabled you to avoid this problem. *Learn. Read. Observe. Think.* Ask the Lord to forgive you and give you another opportunity to learn.

9. Honestly Confront The True Reasons For Your Pain. Did you do something ignorantly? Did you trust another to handle your business for you unwisely? Have you been in total rebellion to a known law of God? *Always name it for what it is.*

10. Discern Whether Your Pain Has Come Through Your Own Personal Rebellion To The Laws Of God Or The Laws Of The Land. Government is established by God. He expects us to honor those in authority over us. "Let every

soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil," (Romans 13:1-3).

You see, some people lie about their income. They deliberately break the law. They despise the leadership of the nation. They are in direct defiance of Scripture. "For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour," (Romans 13:6-7).

11. Repent If Your Pain Has Been Produced By Deliberate Disregard For Wise Counsel. There is no easier way to move out of pain than through the gate of repentance. "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

12. Face The Fact That Your Pain May Be Produced Because You Trusted The Wrong People. Many years ago, I gave all of my financial papers to a man that I thought was a certified public accountant. When the Internal Revenue Service approached me several years later, I discovered he was not certified at all. He had made some terrible mistakes. It cost me a fortune to locate the finances to repay properly. *I had trusted wrong people. The Young Trust. The Wise Test.*

13. Ask Forgiveness Of Those You May Have Wronged And Forgive Those Who Have Wronged You. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses," (Mark 11:25).

14. Be Thankful If Your Pain Is Really The Chastening Of The Lord. Remember the rewards that follow. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed," (Hebrews 12:11-13).

15. Reach Quickly For The Mentors Who Have Proven Their

Compassion And Competence In Times Of Storms. “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,” (James 5:13-16).

16. Use Suffering As A Powerful Motivation Toward Obedience And Restoration. “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him,” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

17. Remember, Broken People Often Become Masters At Mending Others. As one of my good friends often says, “Your mess is your message.” Wherever you have hurt the worst, is usually where God can use you the greatest.

18. Allow Pain To Increase Your Compassion For Others. The apostle Paul wrote it this way, “Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God,” (2 Corinthians 1:4).

19. Focus On Removing The Pain Of Someone Else. *What You Make Happen For Others, God Will Make Happen For You.* Concentrate on someone else. When Job prayed for his friends his own captivity was turned. “Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free,” (Ephesians 6:8).

20. Sow Your Greatest Seeds Of Patience, Expectation And Time During Seasons Of Pain. “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him,” (Psalm 126:5-6).

21. Refuse To Make Any Major Decisions Until The Holy Spirit Speaks. Your decisions will be based on escaping pain rather than fulfilling His command in your life. “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left,” (Isaiah 30:21).

22. Remind Yourself Of The Ultimate End Of Your Assignment, *To Live Forever In His Presence.* “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,

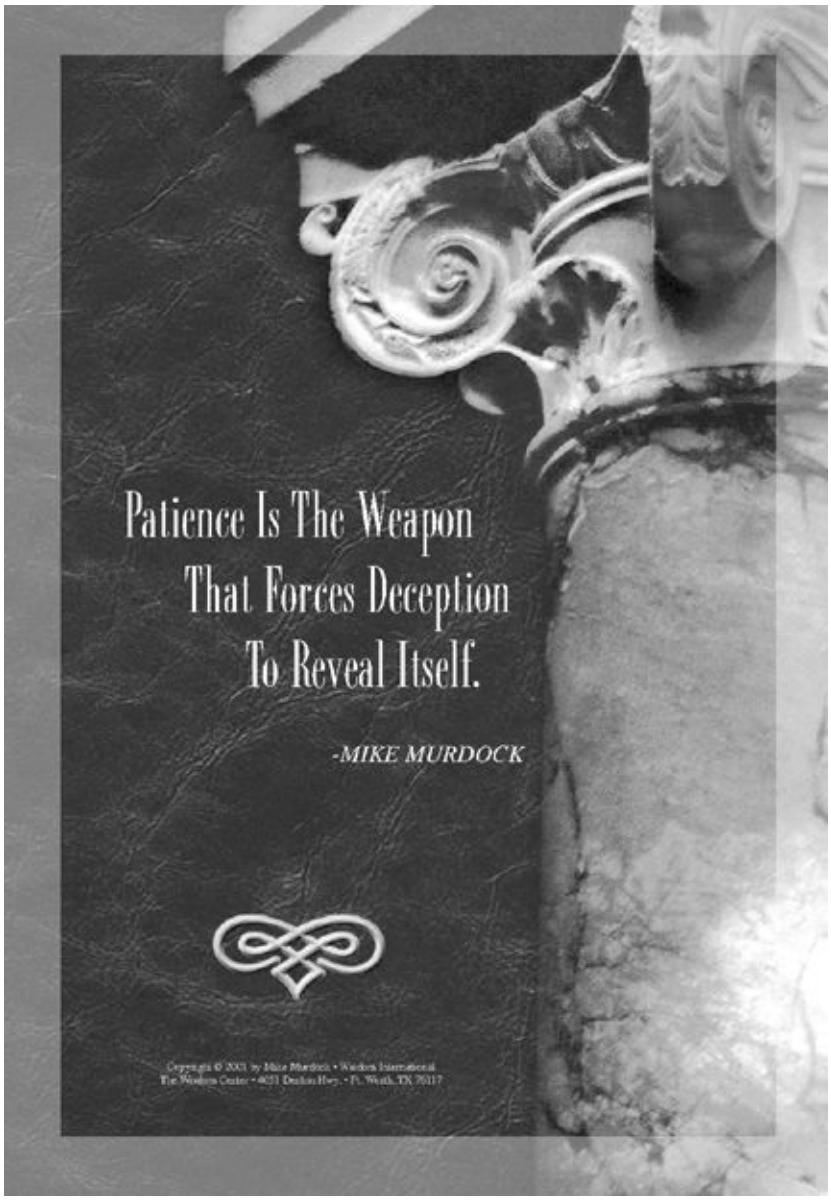
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son," (Revelation 21:3-7).

God *requires* endurance. (See Matthew 10:22.)

God *respects* endurance. (See 2 Timothy 2:3.)

God *rewards* endurance. (See James 1:12.)

Endurance qualifies you for the throne.


Patience Is The Weapon
That Forces Deception
To Reveal Itself.
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30

Patience

Patience Is Necessary.

Patience is not passive.

Patience is an aggressive force.

It is the patience of a father that motivates him to teach his son the same lesson again and again. It is the patience of a Mentor that causes him to repeat himself again and again. It was the patience of Ruth that qualified her for her Boaz. God declares that patience is necessary in your relationship with Him.

7 Facts About Patience

1. Patience Is Necessary In Understanding The Timing Of God And How He Deals With Other Humans. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass," (Psalm 37:7).

In the book of Jonah the city of Nineveh was evil. It was chaotic… heathenistic practices were terrifying to the nature of God or anybody else who wanted God. Yet God did not destroy them until He had sent Jonah, a preacher of the gospel. He told Jonah, "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee," (Jonah 3:2). Jonah went to Nineveh declaring that in forty days God was going to destroy the city unless they repented. The people cried out to God and repented. God gave them a season to *turn around.* God's patience with Nineveh saved the entire nation.

2. Patience Is Permitting God To Rearrange The Circumstances In Your Favor. "The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him," (Lamentations 3:25). *Patience produces favor.* God shows favor to the people who are willing to *trust* Him, *wait* on Him…become *entwined* with Him.

3. Patience Must Be Accompanied By Prayer. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer," (Romans 12:12). *Prayer puts pressure on divine schedules.* In Acts 12, Peter was in prison and the Bible says that "the church prayed for him." He had intercessors praying for him.

4. Tribulations Help Birth Patience. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience,

experience; and experience, hope," (Romans 5:3-4). *Storms* birth patience. *Pain* births patience. *Tribulation* works patience. *Patience produces experiences. Experiences produce expectation and hope.* "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing," (James 1:3-4).

5. Patience Is Holding On To The Desired Result. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not," (Galatians 6:9). *Patience is refusing to accept the present as permanent.* Patience is not embracing the present circumstances as something to endure. Patience is saying, "This is a place for movement!" In due season, we *shall* reap. Your patience is speaking. *Are you listening?* Patience is saying, "I will do whatever it takes to get from where I am at, to where I want to be." While in prison, Joseph told the butler to tell Pharaoh of his gift when he returned to Pharaoh's house; that he had done nothing to be in there. Joseph did not just sit around saying, "Well, I am a patient man maybe some day I will get out." Patience is not willingness to endure the present. *Patience is being willing to continue the battle.* Patience is not permitting fate to emerge. Patience is using the force of focus, the instrument of waiting, to *outlast your adversary.* Patience is keeping the goal as your focus. Patience is *perseverance, persistence, endurance,* holding on for a desired result.

6. A Lack Of Patience Can Produce Great Tragedies In Your Life. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God," (Philippians 4:6). A lack of patience caused Abraham to give birth to Ishmael instead of Isaac. Moses was not patient and he struck the rock and lost his trip to Canaan. *You will make more mistakes in getting ahead of God than you will make in getting behind.* Years ago I was dating a young Puerto Rican girl, so passionate and expressive. I asked my mother, "Mama, do you think she loves me?" My mother nodded and said, "Oh son, there's no doubt she loves you. Now, whether she would love you in five years from now I do not really know." That was my mother's way of saying…*wait.* Just be patient. My mother was right. The relationship only lasted a few short weeks.

A dear pastor friend in Tampa, Florida, will not make a significant purchase until he has had twenty-four hours to think about it. Do not hire somebody before you check their references and have done a background check. *Be patient. Patience Is The Weapon That Forces Deception To Emerge.*

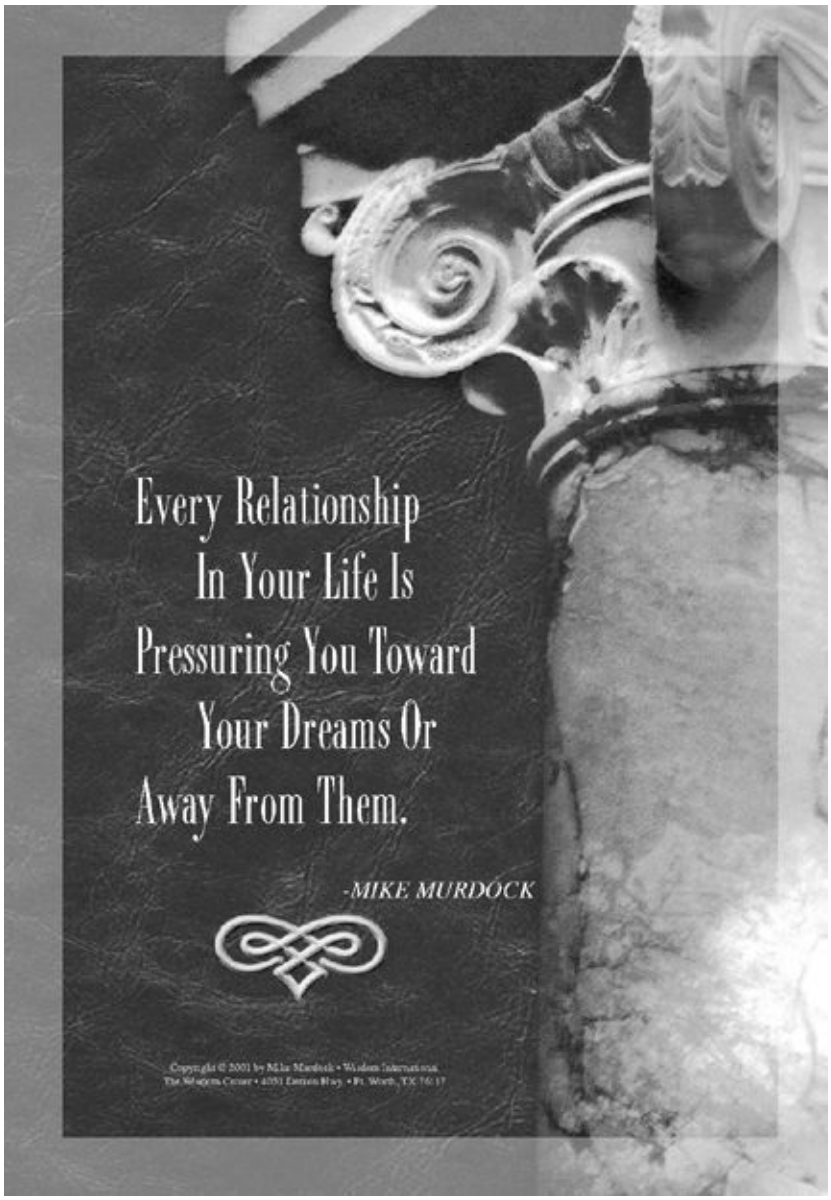
7. Uncommon Men Have Uncommon Patience. Dexter Yager, the businessman, says that when he buys a piece of ground, he will sometimes hold

on to that piece of property for years. He knows that if he is willing to wait, the market will change, and he will eventually be able to make the profit he wanted on that piece of property.

Warren Buffet, the most famous investor in the world and second richest man in America, talks about investment and the importance of patience. He suggests only investing in something that you know about or something you want to know about. He says you can not just jump out of an investment when you see something drop. You have to be patient and stay with it.

Sow patience into each other. Your willingness to wait is your gift to another. *Waiting Is The Proof Of Trust.* Be patient with yourself. See patience as the weapon that will cause information to emerge.

Remember Wisdom Key #188: *Time Will Expose What Interrogation Cannot.*


Every Relationship
In Your Life Is
Pressuring You Toward
Your Dreams Or
Away From Them.
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31

People Pressure

The Bible Is Full Of Examples Of People Pressure.

The moment there were two people in the Garden of Eden, pressure was birthed. Eve pressured Adam to take the forbidden fruit…chaos ensued. They lost the garden.

7 Facts About People Pressure

1. People Pressure Can Be A Good Thing. If my mother had not pressured me, I probably would not be playing the piano. If four men named the Revival Aires Quartet had not come to me and pressured me to listen and learn from albums, I may not have developed my piano playing. Without people pressure, you probably would not even make your bed. Without a policeman pressuring you to obey the law, you probably would not stop at a stop sign or obey the speed limit.

2. People Pressure Can Be A Gift From The Lord Enabling Us To Rise To Another Level. The school teacher pressuring you to spell right, testing you, grading you causes you to rise to a new level in education. Your pastor pressuring you to read The Word, causes you to rise to a new level in your spiritual life.

3. People Pressure Can Stop Tragedies. Jonah became the "people pressure" for Nineveh. He told the people, "In forty days God is going to destroy this city." The people repented and God saved the entire city. Haman was going to assassinate all the Jewish people of his province. He approached the king with his demonic, sadistic plot. However, Esther stepped in and put pressure on the king. She met with him twice and exposed the plans of Haman; her people…*the Jewish people…* were saved and permitted to defend themselves.

4. People Pressure From Wrong People Can Birth Tragedy, Loss And Devastation. *Every Relationship In Your Life Is Pressuring You Toward Your Dreams Or Away From Them.* Paul understood people pressure from evil men. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners," (1 Corinthians 15:33). Paul was writing to good people…they were easy going and kind; unfortunately, they were permitting influences to walk into their life, that were causing their fall into sin and error. How many times have you heard a mother

say, “My boy was a good boy, but he got mixed up with the wrong crowd?”

5. Evil Leaders Can Pressure People To Turn From Righteousness To Evil. “But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel,” (2 Kings 21:9). This is what God said in Deuteronomy about people who pressure you to change your focus from God to evil: “If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him,” (Deuteronomy 13:6, 8).

6. People Pressure Can Move You Toward God And Away From The Judgments Of God. “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men,” (2 Corinthians 5:11). Paul said we put pressure on you. He was doing all he could to turn people towards God, because he knew the terror, the judgments of God, that could come. D.L. Moody preached many years ago in Chicago and asked a question of the congregation, “What will you do with Christ? What will you do with the cross?” At the close of service he did not want the people to feel as if he were pressuring them to serve Christ, so he told them to come back tomorrow with their decision. That night after the service dismissed, the famous Chicago fire broke out across the city. The meeting with D.L. Moody was cancelled the next night, and it was years before those people came back to another meeting. He made the statement “Never again will I give people space and time to make that decision. I will bring them to a decision.”

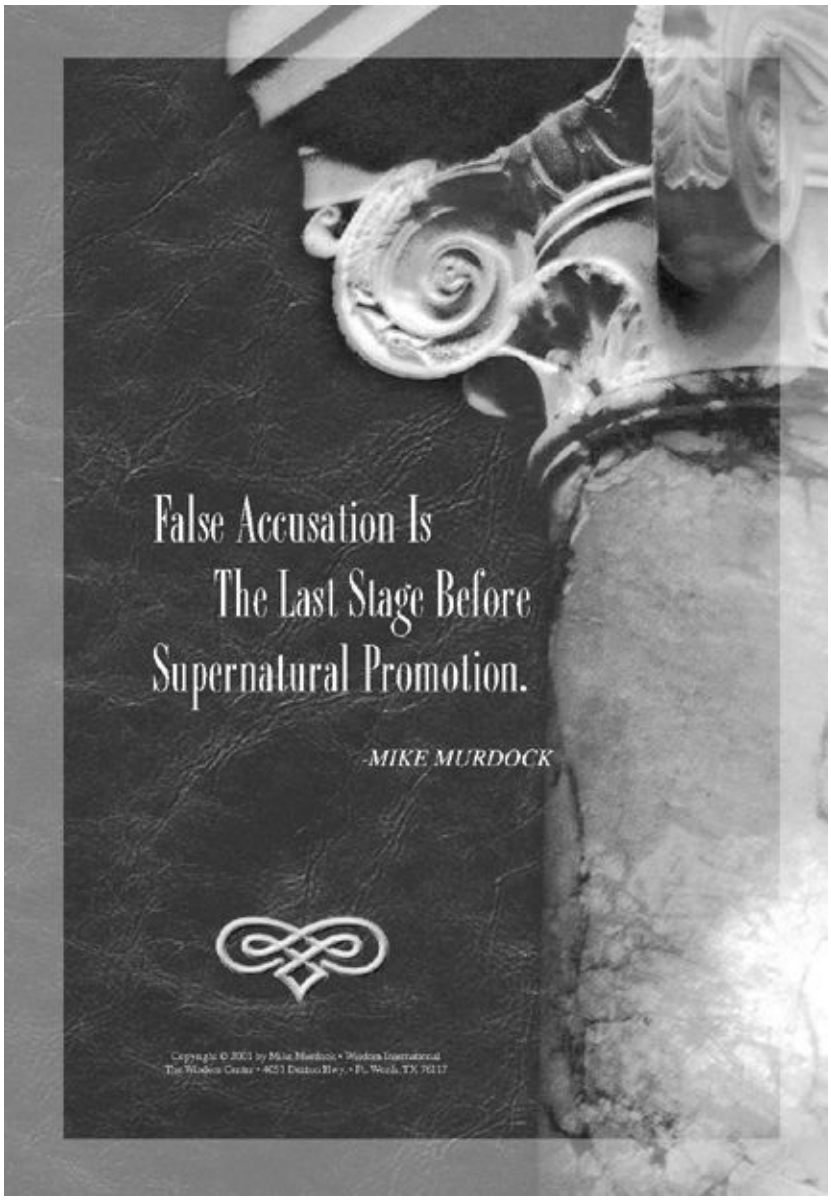
7. The Entire Bible Is A People Pressure Book. The Bible…all 1,189 chapters, 66 books, 800,000 words…puts pressure on you *for righteousness.* In the first fourteen verses of Deuteronomy 28, God says, “If you love Me you will obey Me,” and He lists all the things He will do for you, if you obey Him. He says if you do not obey, then judgment will fall on you and disease will come. He puts pressure on us to turn to righteousness. Solomon and other writers continuously said to resist people pressure from those who are evil around you. “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go,” (Proverbs 22:24). “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path,” (Proverbs 1:10, 15).

Recommended Investments:

Seeds of Wisdom on Relationships (Book/B-14/32 pages/$3)

The Leadership Secrets of Jesus (Book/B-91/196 pages/$12)

The Double Diamond Principle In Successful Relationships (Cassette tape/TS-16/6 tapes/$30)


False Accusation Is
The Last Stage Before
Supernatural Promotion.
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32

Persecution

Persecution Will Come.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," (2 Timothy 3:12). Every Christian woman married to an unbelieving man has experienced some form of persecution. Every healing ministry that is attracting the multitudes has attracted terrifying criticism, slanderous words and false accusation. Every godly person on earth, with influence persuading men to turn to Christ, and every human emptying hell of its souls, has experienced persecution at some point in their lives.

6 Facts About Persecution

1. Uncommon Men Always Stir Up Uncommon Persecution. The greatest men in the world have experienced tragic and devastating persecution.

In the book, *The Evangelist,* Billy Graham tells how he and his lovely wife, Ruth, invited reporters in to share with them the vision of their ministry. Within 72 hours, the reporters had twisted his words and put a headline that went around the world that almost destroyed his entire support base with one phrase … *one picture.* When asked why he didn't answer the criticism against his ministry, he said, "My friends don't require my explanation, and my enemies wouldn't believe it anyway." Judge Roy Moore, in Alabama, was persecuted when he refused to take down the Ten Commandments from the courthouse.

2. Everything Good Is Hated By Everything Evil. The war on earth is not Muslim versus Christianity or Baptists versus Methodists. The war on earth is not blacks versus whites. The war on earth is not the Arab nation versus the Israelites. The war on earth is light versus darkness, righteousness versus evil, God versus satan.

3. Jesus Forewarned His Disciples About Persecution. He said, "The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you," (John 15:20). They tried to make Jesus a liar and a fraud. They tried to trap Jesus with their words. Years ago, a preacher warned me saying, "Mike, please do not talk to the media. They will take one phrase and put a paragraph before it and use what you said out of context and discredit your whole ministry." One reporter said, "We can take the best man on earth and

make him look like a crook in a single story."

4. Persecution Can Often Come From Those Of Your Own Household. John Wesley's wife would stand in the back of the crowds in the street and scream out insults about him to the people.

5. Persecution Never Lessens God's Love For Us. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us," (Romans 8:35, 37).

6. Persecution Can Come When You Least Expect It. A wonderful man of God in Georgia said, "Mike, our church has been so blessed. We have favor with the press. Our newspaper has never done to us what they have done to other men of God." I proceeded to warn him that in 2 Timothy 3:12 the Bible said ALL who live godly would suffer persecution and to be careful. He insisted that his church was balanced and that the press *understood* them. In less than 12 months the newspapers in the town did everything they could to discredit him.

33

Power of God

The Power Of God.

What turns an evil man into a teacher and leader in righteousness? *The Power of God.*

Paul said, “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power,” (Ephesians 3:7).

What causes an alcoholic to become a Spirit-filled giant? What turns an abusive father into a loving father? What causes an emaciated, impoverished widow, whose son is dying a few feet from her, into a powerful testimony of supernatural provision? (See 1 Kings 17.) *The Power of God.* What causes a blind man sitting by the side of the road…a beggar, a burden on society…to become a testimony…“I can see! I can see!” What causes a man to stop putting people in prison and become a Mentor instead of a “tor-mentor”? *The Power of God.*

What is the first thing God wanted us to know about Himself in Genesis 1? “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Nothing exists that was not created by God. The psalmist cried, It is God Who made the heavens and the earth. “Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there,” (Psalm 139:7-8). What caused a fascination with ignorant and unlearned disciples who went from being fishermen to powerful teachers? The Bible said others noted they had been with Jesus. *The Power of God.* What caused a man to move from denying the Lord three times to a young woman, to becoming a mighty preacher of the gospel on the day of Pentecost? It was *The Power of God* that turned Peter into a firebrand. *The Power of God!*

5 Facts About The Power of God

1. The Difference Between Common Men And Uncommon Men Is The Power Of God. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:5, that your faith should not stand in the Wisdom of men, but in the power of God. “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord,” (Zechariah 4:6).

Listen to this. In 2 Corinthians 4:7, Paul wrote, “But we have this treasure in

earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

My dear friend was with me a few days back for several days in my home. He and his twin sister are very close. They travel together to sing and minister. They have a great church in California. He was telling me about when he stuttered. He could not say three words in a row without stuttering. The only time he could say anything right was when he would sing, so his father just told him, "Sing the instructions then. *Pass the gravy to me."* He was telling me about the problems he had that actually happened many years ago when a man grabbed him one day to try to kidnap him in front of his father's business. When his father, who was a pastor also, saw the man and yelled out, then the man dropped him. From that day forward, he could not talk clearly. He stuttered and was traumatized by that experience. At the age of twelve, his father laid hands on him and commanded the gift of music to come, and the rest has electrified the world. Some of the greatest gospel songs that have ever been written are by him.

The power of God. Someone asked my friend, "What made you go from there to here?" He said, "I was true to my calling. It was the power of God in my life." He wrote a song one day and then was discouraged with it and just wadded it up and threw it in the trash. His twin sister, pulled it out of the trash and spread it out and said, "This is a good song." "The Blood Shall Never Lose Its Power."

Listen to this. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner," (2 Timothy 1:7-8). Paul writes, "But be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." Paul was in prison, scars all over his body. He had been shipwrecked. He had been lied about. He did not seem to have a great charisma. They said, "Your letters are powerful, but when you are present there is sort of no power. You seem like a weakling." Paul said the care of all the churches was on him. He believed in the power of God so much that he said, "I was a Pharisee, and I was trained. And I am articulate. I was trained in the matters of the law, but it's not that, but the cross is the power of God." It is all by His power.

I want to say today if your home is coming apart, do not expect the Wisdom of man to put it together. *It is going to take the power of God.* If you are on drugs and you are having a hard time kicking it. "Mike, I just can't kick it." Or, you have an alcohol problem, a drinking problem. You say, "I don't know what's wrong. I just can't seem to quit drinking." *It is going to take the power of God.*

2. God Does Not Want To Give Men Glory For What He Does. There is a Scripture here I was reading a while ago, a very interesting Scripture in the page

on the Anointing in our *Seeds of Wisdom Topical Bible*. This is what The Word says in Isaiah 10:27, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing." *The Power of God.*

3. God Wants You To Experience His Power. Sometimes in services when we lay hands on some people… sometimes they fall. We do not know why they fall. Sometimes they just fall flat on the floor. We know in Scripture that this sometimes happened when God's Spirit would move…when the Glory of God was present. Other times people cry. Other times people just weep. Sometimes they laugh. I know a great minister of the gospel who has a marvelous church in Tampa, Florida. Sometimes when he is preaching people begin to laugh; there is just an incredible joy of The Holy Ghost that occurs in peoples' lives. These are some of the expressions of *The Power of God.*

4. At Some Point, You Are Going To Need A Miracle. It may be in finances or healing needed in your body. The doctor may give you an evil report.

Let me tell you about an experience I had. I woke up one morning, and one half of my face had dropped…*completely dropped.* I had never heard of anything like that. My whole eye, my whole mouth, one half of my face had dropped. I thought, "Lord, did I sleep wrong? What is wrong?" I did not know what was happening. I said, "I guess it will be alright tomorrow,"… but it was *not* alright. Two or three days later …*it was not alright.* I could not go out publicly. I could not go to the office. I could not let anybody see me. I was horrified. I had never heard of anything like this. I was shocked.

So, I had my armor bearer go with me to the doctor. The doctor opened up a medical book, and pointed out to me what the condition was. It was too horrifying to phrase. The phrase paralyzed me because I had heard the phrase. He said, "There's no known cure for it. It could continue the rest of your life. It may never go back." I said, "Well I can't preach publicly. I could never be seen publicly again. My ministry would be over." So I said, "Let's go to another doctor." We went to another doctor, and he said the same thing. I went back home and I was horrified. *I needed a miracle.* I could never go on TV again. I could never be seen publicly again. I could never go out in public. I could not see my family again. *It was a horrifying thought.* There is no way to adequately express how I felt. The doctors told me, "There is nothing we can do."

I woke up that next morning…it was during the season of my life in which I had just fallen in love with The Holy Spirit in 1994. I laid my hand on my face and said, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, by whose stripes I am healed, I

decree the *healing* of Jesus." I said, "Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of life. You are the Spirit of life. I command life to enter this face again!" *I command energy and strength in my muscles to respond again.* Within 24 hours, that face was healed; in 82 days, it was completely restored.

When I was two-and-a-half years old, my mother counted over 600 worms that came out of my body. She said they crawled out of my mouth on my mother's neck and shoulder. I was eaten up with worms. The doctors had given me up to die. The one that she visited said, "The boy is going to die. We don't want to take his case because he's going to die."

My daddy went to pray. He pictured me and all he could continually say was, "Thou art a mighty God. Thou art a mighty God. Thou art a mighty God." And he had a picture of God walking over to satan who was holding me at two-and-a-half years old in his arms, and he just took me out of satan's arms. My dad is a few months shy of 92. Daddy said he knew in his heart I was going to be healed*…and I was.* The next day I said, "I want something to eat." I couldn't even walk…couldn't even talk. Two-and-a-half years old and eaten up with worms*…but The Power of God.*

5. The People Who Attack The Preachers Of The Gospel, Have A Hatred Of The Power Of God. I do not know why that is. I asked a reporter one time, "Don't you believe these people are being healed in these crusades?" He said, "I think *they think* they are healed…they *think* they are healed." The sneer, the snarl and the sarcasm is still vivid in my memory. I have noticed that people who hate preachers hate the miraculous. The miraculous is something they cannot understand. *It is something they cannot control.* You are reading the words of a preacher who believes in the Power of God. I believe in The Power of God to raise up the dead…The Power of God to rebuke cancer in our body.

I just feel an anointing right now, in the name of Jesus for your health and healing. I want you to lay your hand anywhere on your body where you need healing. Just lay your hand there. If it is your stomach, lay it there. Please pray this prayer. If it is your neck, lay it there. If it is your knee, lay your hand on your knee. Repeat this prayer with me. There is an incredible anointing of healing available for you today. There is an electrifying power of God…the *presence* of God. God wants to heal you. God wants to raise you up. You are going to become a trophy on display to your family of The Power of God today. Lay your hand on your body.



Our Prayer Together…

"In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, by Whose stripes I am healed, I take authority over all pain, all disease, all sickness. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, pain go…*pain go*…pain go! *Disease, go. Sickness, go.* I receive the healing of Jesus from my head to my feet…now…! I am healed.

Thank You, Jesus, for healing me. Eyes, be healed. Ears, unstop. Throat, be healed. Neck, be healed. I decree the healing of Jesus. Cancer, go. Tumor, go. Growth, go! Growth in your breast, go! Dissolve now. Hernia, dissolve…go! In the name of Jesus. Knees, receive the healing power and strength of Jesus. I release the healing of Jesus of Nazareth from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. Be healed. In the name of Jesus. Alcoholism, I command you to cease and stop inflicting desire. Nicotine, all desire to smoke is gone now. Receive the delivering power of Jesus of Nazareth. Spirits of suicide, I take authority over you. Go! Go! Receive the life and the energy of Jesus of Nazareth now. It is done. I release the power of God from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. In Jesus' name. Praise God. It is done. In Jesus' name. Amen."

34

Presence of God

Where God Is Not…Satan Is.

When Saul became depressed and evil spirits came against his mind he brought in the psalmist David. As David began to play his harp, the Bible says the evil spirit *left. What Enters Determines What Exits.* As he began to sing to The Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit entered and the evil spirits were displaced.

God is not a presence…He is a *Person* with a presence.

The quack is not the duck. The bark is not the dog. The Holy Spirit is a *Person.* He is not fire…He *purifies* like fire. He is not water…He *cleanses* like water.

The Bible has much to say about God…the Person, the Aura, the Presence of God. The Old Testament is different from the New Testament. In the Old Testament, The Holy Spirit *visited.* In the New Testament He *stayed.* In the Old Testament men would suddenly feel an anointing. Samson experienced it. At one time in Saul's life people asked, "Is this the same man?" He was so different when The Holy Spirit would come on him. But on the day of Pentecost, after the ascension of Jesus back to Heaven, Jesus said, "I will send another Comforter and He will guide you and He will stay with you."

There seems to be *two* distinct pictures of the presence of God.

The *universal presence* of God refers to the "everywhereness" of the God we serve. The Psalmist referred to that quality when he said, "Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there," (Psalm 139:7-8). If I descend to hell, He is there. If I ascend to Heaven, He is there. He said, "Whither shall I flee from Thy presence?" (Psalm 139:7). Job said, "He is before me. He is behind me. He is around me."

The manifest presence of God refers to when you sense Him…when you *feel* Him. It is distinct from the universality of The Holy Spirit. There is a Scripture that talks about God being so real and so present that God was present there to heal people. (See Luke 15:7.) This seems to indicate there is an anointing, a glory…*a presence* that is different. When you go into a restaurant, the atmosphere is different than when you go to a Sunday morning service where people are singing and worshipping God. *His manifest presence* is when you

sense God there. You feel a reaction in your heart to His presence. You want to weep and cry when His glory is there.

16 Facts About The Presence of God

1. Your Focus Is Corrected In The Presence Of God. When you get into the presence of God, you see the world differently. The Psalmist put it this way, he said, “I was angry, bitter, and discouraged. I was disheartened when I saw the wicked, the prosperity of ungodly men. Until I went into God's sanctuary, when I went into His presence I saw their end,” (see Psalms 73).

2. The Presence Of God Enables You To See The End Result Of Your Present Decisions To Serve God. There are two laws operating. The satanic law where satan offers you the fun things that lead to death. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die,” (Ezekiel 18:20). “The way of the transgressor is hard. The end thereof are the ways of death,” (see Proverbs 13:15; 14:12; 16:25). Then there is another *Divine Scriptural Law.* The law of the bittersweet where the first part is bitter, but the end is sweet. Jesus said if you are going to follow Me, you have to pick up your cross. (See Matthew 16:24.) He ends up in Revelation, telling of the end…those who follow Him will rule with Him. He shows you the end result of your present decision to follow Him. (See Revelation 3:21.)

3. The Presence Of God Is Critical To Your Spiritual Life. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching,” (Hebrews 10:25). David said, “For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness,” (Psalm 84:10).

4. The Presence Of God Will Bring Repentance. It did under Jonah's preaching. Anytime truth is spoken, God's presence emerges and becomes obvious. Jonah came to Nineveh and screamed out, “In 40 days, Nineveh will be destroyed!” The Bible says the people went on a fast and God spared the city. (See Jonah 3.)

5. The Presence Of God Always Has An Effect On The Ungodly. “As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God,” (Psalm 68:2). In the book of Acts, when Stephen began to preach, the people became angry. He was full of faith, full of the Holy Ghost, but when the people heard his message, they stoned him to death. (See Acts 7:54-60.)

6. The Presence Of God Creates A Different Reaction From Different People. What some people love, others hate. What excites some, infuriates others. One day in my office, a reporter was sneering at a healing crusade. I asked, "Brother, do you not believe people are being healed?" He said, "I think *they think* they are being healed." *The presence of God does not affect everyone the same.* The next time you are at church during praise and worship, note the people whose hands are raised. Note the ones who are looking around sarcastically and sneering at others.

7. It Is Possible To Be In The Presence Of God And Not Change. Lucifer was one of the chief angels. He was around God all the time. He heard conversations about God. He *had* conversations with God. *Access is always a test that produces a portrait of character.* As he stayed in the presence of God, seeds of evil began to grow in him. He envied God and wanted to take charge and be in a place of power. God kicked him and a third of the angels out. *It is possible to be in the presence of righteousness and not change.*

8. Heaven And Earth Respond To The Presence Of God. "The earth shook, the Heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel," (Psalm 68:8).

9. You Must Pursue The Presence Of God. "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Thy works," (Psalm 73:28). The Bible says to draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (See James 4:8.) Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," (Matthew 11:28). *God requires pursuit.*

10. The Presence Of God Will Not Happen Automatically In Your Life. Jesus would have walked right by the blind man if he had not cried out, "Jesus, Thou son of David have mercy on me." (See Mark 10:47.) The woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years would have never gotten into His presence had she not pressed through the crowd. (See Luke 8:43-48.) *The magnet for His presence will be your faith and pursuit.*

11. In The Presence Of God You Will Hear Conversation That You Will Not Hear Anywhere Else. God talks. He thought up the mouth. He created the tongue. He is a communicator. God is such a communicator that everything He created has ears. He said, "Talk to the mountain and it will move if you have faith." "And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings," (Luke 1:19). The eighth chapter of the book of Romans talks about The

Holy Spirit discussing us with the Father, interpreting our prayer language with groanings that cannot be uttered. Right now in the Heavens, Jesus is making intercession for us. He is talking to the Father for us.

12. Getting Into The Presence Of God Requires Overcoming Doubts, Fears And Busyness.

13. The Presence Of God Causes Admiration, Humility And Worship In The Heart That Is Toward Him. Angels worship and magnify Him. According to the book of Revelation, angels fall prostrate in Heaven when they come into His presence. (See Revelation 7:11.)

14. We Have Been Given The Right To Come Into His Presence. In the Old Testament when the high priest was going into the Holy of Holies to offer up sacrifices for the people, he would have a rope around his ankle. If God would not accept the sacrifice then He would kill the high priest and the people would have to pull him out by the rope because nobody was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies. When Jesus was crucified, the Bible says that the veil of the temple was rent from the top to the bottom. It is significant the writer tells us that when the veil was rent, that meant anyone could approach God, *anyone had access to God.* But it was not torn from the bottom to the top with man forcing his way to God. The veil of the temple was ripped from the top to the bottom. It meant that *God had literally created a way so man could come to Him.*

15. Humility Is Necessary In Entering His Presence. Never come cocky. In the book of Job he says, "If I could find God, I would argue with Him." My mother always told me as long as you have that attitude God will not be accessible.

16. Music And Singing Is Important For Entering His Presence. "Come into His presence singing. Come into His presence rejoicing. Come into His presence with thanksgiving," (Psalm 100:1-4). God will not dwell in a joyless environment. If you want His presence in your life, you must sing to Him. *When you magnify Him, He will manifest His presence.* Today in ministries where there is a great move of The Holy Spirit, there is always singing and worshiping.

Create a Secret Place at your home where you meet with The Holy Spirit. *Where You Are Matters As Much As What You Are* (Wisdom Key #300). Where you are determines the weakness that dies in you. Where you are determines what you see. Meet with Him at the same time every morning. *Pursue His presence…*do it for 30 days. Come into His presence singing to Him, loving on Him. Write down your impressions. Take *The Seeds of Wisdom Topical Bible* with you and read the Scripture for that day. Talk to Him. Nurture your

relationship with Him because in His presence is fullness of joy. “In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore,” (Psalm 16:11).

Men in the New Testament like Stephen, who were stoned to death, and Paul, who was put to death, did not receive their deliverance here …*they were delivered standing before the throne of God.* I do know that all will come before the judgment seat of God and when it is all said and done, God will get the glory.



Our Prayer Together…

“Father, You said You would deliver us according to our faith, so today, shut the mouths of the lions. Silence every gainsayer, every false accusation. In Jesus’ name, help us to rise above the circumstances. We will give You the praise and the glory for it. We trust You and Your Word. We thank You for access into Your presence, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Recommended Investments:

The Holy Spirit Handbook (Book/B-100/153 pages/$15)

The 3 Most Important Things in Your Life (Book/B-101/240 pages/$15)

The Greatest Day of My Life (Book/B-116/32 pages/$7)

35

Promotion

Promotion Comes From The Lord.

God Will Never Promote You Until You Become Over-Qualified For Your Present Position.

Your Assignment Can Change.

However, you must become qualified for your next season. Ruth wanted to live with Naomi. *She had to qualify.* Her tenacity and ability to give total focus to Naomi qualified her to move from Moab to Bethlehem. (See Ruth 1.)

One day, she wanted to marry Boaz. What qualified her to marry one of the wealthiest men in the city? She had carefully built a reputation of integrity and compassion. Everyone knew of her attitude toward Naomi. (See Ruth 2:11.)

She became qualified for Boaz. (See Ruth 3.)

The Secret Passage of Promotion for Daniel was the lion's den. It was the exit from Daniel's present, the gateway to his next season. (See Daniel 6.)

The Secret Passage of Promotion for the three Hebrew children was the fiery furnace. The three Hebrew children embraced the fiery furnace as an exit from their present and a gate into their next season. (See Daniel 3.)

The Secret Passage of Promotion for Joseph was false accusation. Joseph excelled in the prison after it. It was really his gate to significance. (See Genesis 41.)

5 Qualities That Affect Your Promotion

1. Excellence. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

2. Problem-Solving. You must solve the problems that matter the most to your employer. “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it,” (Proverbs 3:27).

3. Diligence. *Diligence Is Immediate Attention To An Assigned Task* (Wisdom Key #142). “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich,” (Proverbs 10:4).

“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat,” (Proverbs 13:4).

4. Favor. Especially with those in authority. Favor occurs when an instruction has been followed accurately and quickly. “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men,” (Proverbs 22:29). Remember Wisdom Key #115: *Currents Of Favor Begin To Flow The Moment That You Solve A Problem For Someone.*

5. Cooperation. Cooperation is getting along with others. The cause of strife is always known by others in an office. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord,” (Hebrews 12:14). “But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,” (2 Timothy 2:23-24).

One of the wealthiest men in America wrote an interesting article. When he sees a resume of someone who has difficulty in getting along with those around him, he refuses to hire that person. Their *knowledge* does not help. Their *genius* does not solve their lack of cooperation.

- Survival involves solving *your own problems.*
- Promotion involves solving *the problems of others.*

Promotion depends on the problems you are willing to solve for those around you. After Jesus addressed Peter regarding satan's desire to sift him as wheat, He gave him a fascinating instruction. “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren,” (Luke 22:32). Oh, my precious friend, please see this powerful principle! *Promotion depends on the problems you are willing to solve for others.*

An interesting experience occurred several years ago. I walked into my office after a 2,000 mile flight. I was weary and tired. A young lady who worked for me said, “May I talk to you?”

“How can I help you?”

“I need a raise,” she declared emphatically.

“What do you want your raise to be?”

“I want you to pay me $1,000 a month more than what you have been paying me.”

“Why?” was my puzzled and surprised reply.

“My husband and I are buying a new house and I need the money to make

the payments," was her explanation.

I carefully explained to her that her salary was based on the kind of problems she solved. I asked her to bring me a list of the problems that she was currently solving linked to her present salary.

"When you want *increased rewards,* you must define your *increased responsibilities,"* I explained. "You are paid relative to the problems you solve for someone. The janitor may receive $12 an hour while the attorney receives $150 an hour. Their salary is not based on their personal worth, but rather on the worth of the problem they have selected to solve with their time, energy and knowledge. If you want me to increase your salary, you must bring me a list of new problems you will begin to solve for me."

Obviously, this had never crossed her mind. In fact, she was not completing her present tasks in a timely fashion each week. She required continuous motivation from me. I had become her memo pad. She continuously forgot instructions. She required *constant* reminding. Her departure was not a painful experience for me whatsoever.

Even God will not promote the unqualified.

Do you want your boss to promote you?

Your responsibilities will increase.

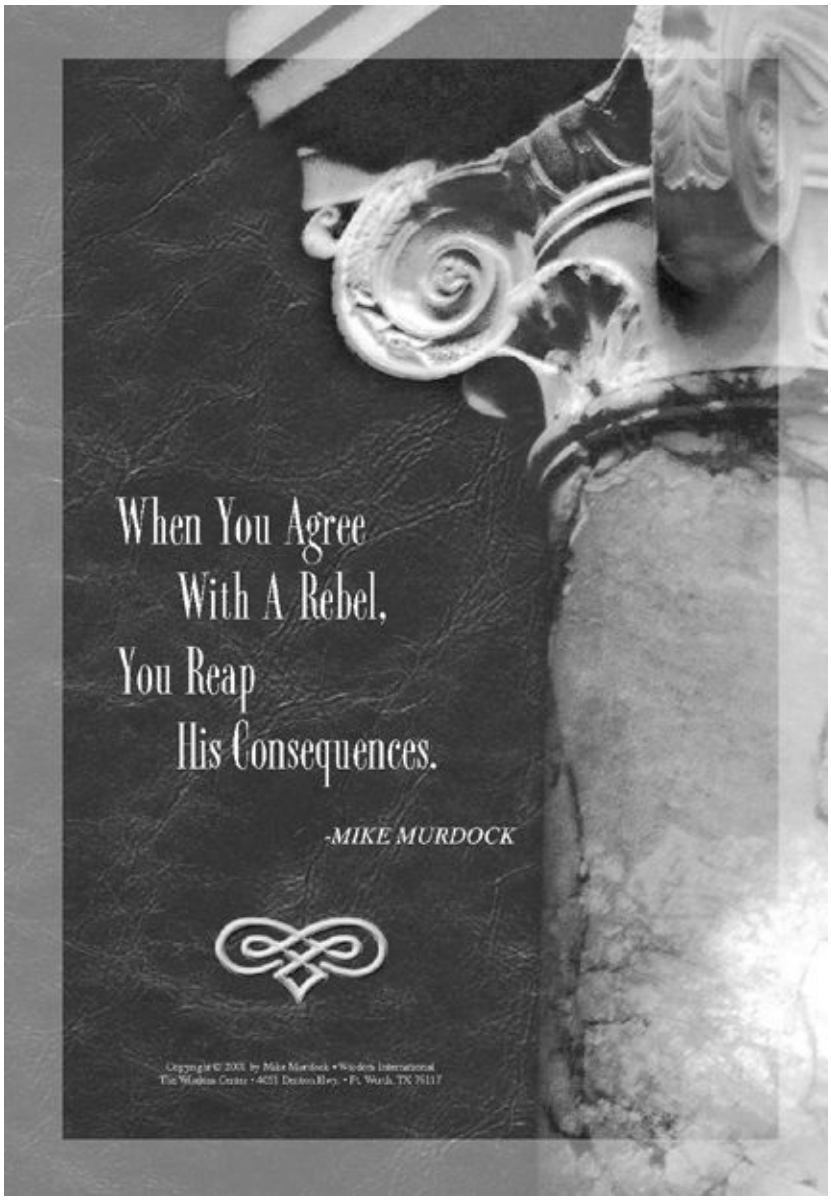
Your mistakes become more costly.

Your work will be analyzed and scrutinized.

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more," (Luke 12:48).

Many employees desire equal pay with their boss. Yet, they rush out of the office the moment the clock turns 5:01 every afternoon. Their boss puts in 18 hour days. Their boss studies, reads and carefully builds his future. You must qualify for the future that you are desiring.

God Will Never Promote You Until You Become Over-Qualified For Your Present Position.


When You Agree
With A Rebel,
You Reap
His Consequences.
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Rebellion

Rebellion Infuriates The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit can become an enemy to those who persist in rebellion. You see, The Holy Spirit is an example of agreement and cooperation. He stays in agreement with the Son and the Father. Unity is His trademark. Conflict angers Him. He is the Spirit of Peace. He is the Spirit of Love. He is the Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Spirit always responds to rebellion. “But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them,” (Isaiah 63:10).

The Holy Spirit woos. He draws us toward Him. He is merciful, gentle and kind. He is patient and long-suffering. He labors over us as a mother would labor over a child in its tiny crib. (See Zephaniah 3:17.)

Oh, it is a fatal and deadly day when The Holy Spirit is finally vexed. First, He is *quenched*, then *offended*, *grieved* and finally *vexed*. It seems that the season of vexation is the season before *devastation*. He turns on you. He decides to postpone His promotion for you.

That is a devastating day in any life.

His ministers are gifts that thousands refuse to honor. They sneer, criticize and ignore. This is grievous to The Holy Spirit.

His miracles and continued protection are signs of mercy from Him. Yet, millions remain unthankful, ungrateful and continuously complain as if nothing good has ever occurred in their lives. *The Quickest Cure For Ingratitude Is Loss* (Wisdom Key #167).

Thousands refuse to permit conviction that would do a deep work of change within them. Over a period of time, The Holy Spirit can become vexed. It is almost too late for a turnaround at this point.

Oh, I *beg* of you today! *Listen to The Holy Spirit!* Do not turn Him away! He is gentle as a dove, but He can become the Terror of Eternity! “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him,” (Hebrews 2:3). The beginning of Wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Respond to His inner conviction and drawing. “Behold, now is the accepted

time; behold, now is the day of salvation," (2 Corinthians 6:2).

8 Facts About Offending The Holy Spirit

1. Ignoring His Word Each Day Offends Him. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. Careless And Useless Conversation Grieves Him. "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness," (2 Timothy 2:16).

3. Continuous Resistance To The Holy Spirit Can Turn Him Into An Enemy. "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist The Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye," (Acts 7:51).

4. When You Ignore The Warnings Of The Holy Spirit, There Is No Other Source For Help. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries," (Hebrews 10:26-27).

5. Disdain And Contempt In Attending The House Of God Offends The Holy Spirit. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching," (Hebrews 10:25).

6. Developing Companionship And Relationships With Those Who Are Ungodly And Rebellious Toward Truth Offends The Holy Spirit. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," (Ephesians 5:11).

7. Any Word That Does Not Edify And Strengthen Others Can Become Grievous To The Holy Spirit. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you," (Ephesians 4:29-32).

8. Permitting Others To Deceive You With Error And Falsehood Infuriates The Holy Spirit. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for

because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them," (Ephesians 5:6-7).

The anger of The Holy Spirit is seen within days of the first outpouring on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit killed a man and his wife…right in the church services. Read Acts 5. It is a shocking, important and revealing story. The Holy Spirit despises lying. He hates deception. He can react in a moment in a fierce way. Peter asked, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to The Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God," (Acts 5:3-4).

Ananias fell down…dead.

Then, great fear "came on all of them that heard these things." After his burial, his wife came in. She lied also. "Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband," (Acts 5:10).

Why does The Holy Spirit deal so strongly with rebellion? To bring us into the fear of God. "And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things," (Acts 5:11).

On the wall of my Secret Place is one of the most important truths in the Bible. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil," (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Oh, hear me today, precious friend! You may be disappointed in yourself. Ministers may have failed to live the high standard you anticipated or expected. Your parents may have disappointed you. But, when you turn your anger and contempt toward The Holy Spirit, you will schedule the most desolate and destructive seasons of your lifetime.

You cannot afford for The Holy Spirit to become your enemy.

You may sneer at the standards of holiness established by some.

You may laugh with glee at the various teachings of religion.

You may find flaws in the most perfect church you have ever attended.

You will stand before God though and give an account for every response you have made to the inner voice of The Holy Spirit. "So then every one of us

shall give account of himself to God," (Romans 14:12).

Your conscience could become one of the best friends you have ever had. ***Listen to The Holy Spirit.***

He talks to you through your conscience.

He will talk to you through your pastor.

He will communicate through your parents.

He will Mentor you through His principles.

Whatever you do, *honor* and *treasure* the voice of the precious Holy Spirit in your life today!

Many years ago, Kathryn Kuhlman wept and sobbed as she looked across the congregation. She would beg and plead, "Please do not grieve The Holy Spirit! Please do not grieve The Holy Spirit!" The crowd was stunned. Many did not understand what she was talking about. Those who know His presence, admit there is nothing any more wonderful than the pleasure of His presence.

Obey Him.

Obey Him *swiftly.*

Obey Him *completely.*

Have you made any vows to your church or a man of God? Oh, swiftly run… swiftly run…swiftly run…to complete those vows today. Always remember, The Holy Spirit is an enemy to any rebel.



Our Prayer Together…

"Holy Spirit, forgive me for anything that I have done to offend You and for ignoring Your inner voice. Forgive me of any rebellion. Cleanse, purge and remove anything in me that is unlike You. Reveal Yourself again to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Recommended Investments:

The Holy Spirit Handbook (Book/B-100/153 pages/$15)

The 3 Most Important Things In Your Life (Book/B-101/240 pages/$15)

The Greatest Day of My Life (Book/B-116/32 pages/$7)

37

Rest

Tired Eyes Rarely See A Great Future.

When you are weary, you *change*.

You do not have the same kind of faith, the same kind of enthusiasm and the same kind of patience.

When you are *rested*, you are *strengthened*.

6 Undesirable Results Produced By Fatigue

1. When You Are Tired, Mountains Look Bigger. When you are tired at night, things that normally would appear simple, suddenly seem burdensome and very complex to you. Tasks that really require a minimal effort, suddenly seem too much to take on.

2. When You Are Tired, Valleys Seem Deeper. Discouraging factors seem to enlarge. Disappointment seems keener and stronger when your body is fatigued.

3. When You Are Tired, Offenses Come Easier. It has happened in my own life…when I am tired, I seem to be susceptible to offense more than I normally would be. Little things become big in my mind.

When I am tired, I often replay in my mind wrongs that people have done to me.

When I am *rested*, my mind moves to positive, wonderful and glorious dreams…things I want to accomplish and do. Fatigue affects me in the opposite manner. I begin to meditate on my own mistakes and the mistakes of others. There is a Scripture that indicates that satan wants to wear out the saints. *I believe it*. "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time," (Daniel 7:25).

Fatigue can be costly.

One notable President of the United States knew this. He absolutely refused to make any major decision after 4:00 in the afternoon. He knew that a tired

mind rarely makes good decisions.

One bad decision can create countless tragedies.

4. Continuous Praise And Worship Leaving Your Lips Demoralizes Satan And Attracts The Presence Of God. "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth," (Psalm 34:1).

5. Your Faith Is Working For You Every Moment Of Your Life. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: 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).

6. The Weapon Of Wisdom Assures Your Promotion Will Follow Every Crisis. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us," (2 Timothy 2:12). "For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it," (Ecclesiastes 7:12).

Attack Is Merely Proof That Your Enemy Considers Your Assignment Achievable.

Rest and recreation are not a sin. Rest time is *repair time*. It is not a loss of productivity. It is time for renewing. It is receiving time. *It helps release your potential.*

Jesus was an action man…a people person. He produced. He healed. He preached and taught. He walked among the people. He also knew the *necessity* of rest and relaxation. "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while," (Mark 6:31).

Think about this. Daily, He faced hundreds of the sick and afflicted who screamed for His attention. Many were demon possessed. Mothers reached for Him. Fathers asked Him to pray for their children. Children did not want to leave His presence.

Still, He separated Himself…to receive.

He knew that He could only give away that which He possessed. Work time is *giving.* Rest time is *receiving. You must have both.*

God created the earth in six days. He took the time to rest on the seventh day. *He set an example for us*. Jesus did the same thing.

38

Seasons

God Never Changes.

The Seasons Do Change.

Moses experienced his season in the palace of Egypt. When he became a deliverer, his heart began to change as he observed the slavery of his brethren. His seasons had changed, and he discerned it.

Ruth had tasted the joys of intimacy and the disappointments of normal marriage. She was raised in the comfort of her home country. Yet, when her greatest source of Mentorship chose to make a change, *she cooperated*.

Elijah was sent to the brook. The ravens fed him. But one day the brook dried up and the ravens did not show up. Lack was a signal. The season of change had arrived. It was time to make traveling plans down to Zarephath.

Changes are often uncomfortable.

When God gives you an Assignment, seasons of discomfort are merely bridges to the greatest visitations of your lifetime—even if you have never been there before. Remember Wisdom Key #175: *The Difference Between Seasons Is Simply An Instruction.*

Joseph went where he had never been before. Joseph was sold by his brothers to a caravan of Ishmaelites. They sold him into Egypt…a new location, a new country for him. Yet, it was there that he became second in command of the entire country.

Sometimes those around you are unqualified to celebrate your uniqueness. So, God changes the seasons and takes you to another place where your value will be embraced and pursued.

Joseph did not know how God was going to direct his life. He simply knew God. He trusted Him. The will of God mattered, as much as the place where He led him mattered. Remember Wisdom Key #56: *The Seasons Of Your Life Will Change Every Time You Use Your Faith.*

Embrace this truth. God may take you places you never thought you would see…uncomfortable places…unique places…difficult places. *I love comfort.* In fact, I do not like leaving the United States at all. For several years now, I have turned down many speaking invitations I have received from all over the world

because I love the comfort of predictable climates and circumstances.

A Season Of Discomfort Often Produces Rewards For A Lifetime.

Many years ago, one of my dear friends, a great missionary in East Africa, wrote me a letter. “Mike, please pray about going with me to Nairobi, Kenya. We are opening up a great Christian Center. I want you to hold the first major crusade with me there.”

I cannot describe for you the immense discomfort I had my first days in East Africa. I did not like the taste of the food. I did not like driving on the “wrong” side of the highway! It was almost impossible for me to use any of my American illustrations in my messages because the people would not have understood anything I said. I had to speak slowly so the interpreter could understand me. Occasionally, he misinterpreted my message entirely and the people did not get the message that I was delivering.

Yet, today some of the greatest memories of my life are linked to five outstanding trips to East Africa. Almost one year of my life was spent in those great countries preaching the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, in honor to me, a number of children there were named after me because I was responsible for the *spiritual* birth of their parents.

Carefully note your present circumstances. Is it possible that you have exhausted the benefits of your present season? Could God possibly be giving you pieces of a new puzzle to put together? Do you find thoughts consuming you of another place and another season, instead of focusing on your present?

Be good to yourself. Take note when God schedules a transition in your life. It might not happen suddenly. It might be a slow change, but change is absolutely guaranteed when God works His schedule of promotion. Remember Wisdom Key #118: *God Creates Seasons; Discoveries Schedule Them.*

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert,” (Isaiah 43:18-19).

11 Things To Do During Seasons of Change

1. Sing New Songs. “Sing unto Him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise,” (Psalm 33:3).

“And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many

shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord," (Psalm 40:3).

2. Ask For The New Wine. "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine," (Proverbs 3:10).

3. Be Thankful For Your New Name. "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name," (Isaiah 62:2).

4. Receive A New Spirit. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh," (Ezekiel 36:26).

5. Speak With New Tongues. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues," is the promise of Mark 16:17.

6. Listen For New Instructions. "A new command-ment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another," commanded Jesus in John 13:34.

7. Remember You Are A New Creature. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," (2 Corinthians 5:17).

8. Put On The New Man. Paul encouraged us to "Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness," (Ephesians 4:24).

9. Embrace The New Covenant. "In that He saith, A new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away," (Hebrews 8:13).

10. Remember His Promise Of A New Name. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name," (Revelation 3:12).

11. Let Him Make All Things New. "And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful," (Revelation 21:5).

Never doubt it… *God will change the seasons of your life.*

Appetites *change.*

Needs *change.*

Friendships *change.*

Goals *change.*

Your dreams *change.*

The location of your home *changes*.

- You have not yet been everywhere God is going to take you.
- You may not have even been to the place where you are going to spend the rest of your life.
- Be ready for Seasons to change… *dramatic* changes… *bold* changes… *radical* changes… *unexpected* changes… *miracle* changes… *healing* changes… *promotional* changes.
- Your greatest friends *may* still be in your future.
- God is connecting you with new people, new truth and new provision.

You will not stay where you are.

Today is a temporary station where He has you changing planes.

Cooperate with the changing of the seasons. *Allow God to do a new thing.*

Remember Wisdom Key #56: *The Seasons Of Your Life Will Change Every Time You Use Your Faith.*

39

Sex



“She is the finest girl in our church,” said the pastor to me with pride. “Her consecration and Christian testimony are both tremendous. I just wish all our youth were like her.”

After my sermon on the closing night of the crusade, I was a bit surprised when this teenager asked for a few minutes of counseling about a personal problem. Within moments she was sobbing. “Please help me. I'm so confused. I am about to lose my mind. My parents, my pastor and church friends think I am a fantastic Christian. The truth is, *I live a double life*. I am so messed up morally with some boys at school that I am miserable and want to die.”

With tears streaming down her face, she told me her sad, sordid, but *familiar* story. Then came her question: “If I love God and the Bible… *and I do*…then *why* do I fight such tremendous problems with sex? I feel trapped. I do not know how to escape. *Is there any hope for me?”*

Of course, this young woman is far from the only one in this condition. Thousands of people who sincerely want to live pleasing to God are fighting this same battle. They too, have fallen into what I call the “Sex Trap.” They are caught up in an unending struggle between sexual excitement and sensual pleasure on the one hand and the grip of guilt, remorse and fear on the other. They feel trapped between their desire for moral and spiritual purity and the physical appetites of the body.

As powerful and inescapable as the Sex Trap seems to be, *there is a way out for you.* You have the power to be free. The following pages can completely change your outlook on life. I want to share some encouragement and insights to help you.

I am not writing to the rebel who is determined to have his own way, no matter the consequences. It is not for the know-it-all, the arrogant, the hypocrite or the weakling looking for justification for his failure. These pages are for the sincere person aware of the opposing pulls within—the pull toward God and truth and the opposing pull toward immoral thoughts and actions. This is for YOU…if you *want* help and are *willing* to accept it.

The key to escaping the Sex Trap is *understanding*. You must come to a clear understanding of yourself and how you are made. You must understand the

drives and desires God put within you and why He put them there. You must be aware that the enemy tries to turn these normal, healthy drives into something dirty and destructive.

In Proverbs 7, the wise man, Solomon, writes a graphic description of the Sex Trap in operation. I urge you to take a few moments to read it. This passage is about a girl and a boy and their physical desires for sexual gratification. It is a story of a seduction, sin and shame. In this case, a prostitute lures a young man to her bedroom for a night of pleasure. Solomon tells us the boy walked into a trap. “Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death,” (Proverbs 7:27).

Let us seek to understand some key words that will lead to freedom and release from the Sex Trap.

There is an attraction—a pull between men and women. Call it *chemistry*—sex appeal—physical and emotional attraction—or whatever you want… *it is there*. It was put there by God.

It started in the Garden of Eden. Why do you suppose God placed Adam and Eve there instead of Adam and Edward? Because God knew it was good for a man and a *woman* to dwell together. He placed within them a basic instinct to desire and enjoy the company of the opposite sex. It is a desire to share… *to give*. God placed it there for a divine purpose—to benefit not only one man and one woman, but the entire human race.

Some people seem to have the mistaken belief that this desire in and of itself is evil…that it comes from satan. They say if a person is really a Christian he “won't be bothered” by sexual desire. If a person prays, reads the Bible and goes to church, the opposite sex just won't appeal to him, they say. *Do not believe that*. Desire is *normal.* Desire does not become evil until it becomes twisted into a lustful obsession for sheer physical self-gratification.

The key to whether desire is good or bad is the direction it takes. Desire can be the motivating force that causes two young people to grow and mature. It is a drive that ultimately leads them to leave their parents and form a new household. “And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh,” (Mark 10:8).

Channeled in the *right* direction, desire leads to a happy, Christian home that will obey God's command to multiply and replenish the earth. This direction is pleasing to God and results in a man-woman relationship that is healthy, filled with love and mutual respect.

Tragically, your desires can also take the *opposite* direction. It can cause you to withdraw from God and the way of righteousness. Some people let their desire steer them into areas of temptation that sooner or later overpower them.

In the Bible, Samson ran *toward* the wrong woman. Joseph, tempted by Potiphar's wife, ran *away* from her. One enjoyed the company of immorality—the other delighted in God. One was a loser…the other a winner. *It was all a matter of direction.*

In almost every case of sexual sin, there is deception involved. It can take many forms: “If you really love me, you'll prove it. Everybody else is doing it. It's all right because we love each other. No one will get hurt. Just this one time, then never again.”

Sexual deception presents only one side of the picture. Like all traps, it is made to *entice* …not repel. What is the bait in the Sex Trap? “It will be so exciting and satisfying. It will give us so much pleasure. It will make us happy.” *Anything forbidden usually excites.*

Like all traps, when the bait is stripped away, there are strong, powerful jaws lined with sharp, cutting teeth ready to crush you and tear your life to shreds. Instead of the pleasure it promises, the Sex Trap delivers pain and heartbreak.

Satan uses deception to make people believe they can sin and not pay the consequences…that they can steal the honey and not get stung. Only after they have gone beyond the point of no return…past the bright lights, attractive setting and flattering words…do they find they have been deceived. Then they are trapped by the agonizing reality of the lonely heart, the tortured conscience…the tattered, ragged remnants of self-respect.

In every deception, there is the deceiver and the deceived. There is the one who will say or do whatever is necessary to get their own way, and there is the one who ends up with the heartache, the guilt, the pain. There is *the hunter*…and *the hunted*. There is the fooler…and the fool.

In Solomon's story (Proverbs 7), the woman was the deceiver. Often though, it is a man who deceives a woman. The woman in the proverb flattered the young man with *words*. She made herself, her body, the bait in the Sex Trap, putting on appealing and alluring clothing. Never mind that her actions were disloyal to her own friends and family…she thought only of *her own desire.* She was lonely… *restless.* She wanted an immediate response…a physical gratification. She was interested only in *temporary* pleasure; she wanted the young man only until the morning (verse 18). She was the deceiver, and *she kept*

talking until she got her way: "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him," (verse 21).

- Sin looks good, but feels bad in the heart.
- Sowing may be fun, but the reaping is devastating.
- The physical may be satisfying temporarily, but the heart still cries.
- What you thought would bring happiness brought misery instead.

There is deliverance from the Sex Trap through the power of God.

God's forgiveness brings real, genuine peace into your life. You will never be the same again.

I want you to discover truths that will help you remain strong and free. They are part of God's plan for you. These new discoveries will help you change your thought-life…perhaps even your lifestyle. When that happens, you will discover the *good life* is possible right now. This powerful discovery comes through discipline.

The key to victory, power and reward in every part of your life is *personal discipline.* Every athletic champion and Olympic winner practices discipline. In fact, almost without exception, winners are successful because of *discipline*, which gives birth to *success-habits.*

Not only does discipline hone the mind and condition the body, it produces an important side effect… *security.* Just as a child who receives discipline from its parents feels secure in their love, so the person who practices self-discipline is confident that good things will happen to them instead of bad. Paul said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection," (1 Corinthians 9:27).

The athlete *knows* what his body will do when he calls on it to perform in the contest. The scholar *knows* his mind will produce the answers he needs because he has *disciplined* it to be alert and prepared. The Christian *knows* how he will react in the face of temptation because he has disciplined his moral and spiritual nature to overcome evil. Remember Wisdom Key #11: *Your Self-Portrait Determines Your Self-Conduct.*

6 Areas of Your Life That Must Be Disciplined

1. Discipline Your Conversation. Speak always in positive terms, from a position of faith and awareness of what God wants from you. Avoid negative words, such as "I can't…I'm weak…I always fail." Instead, say, "I can overcome all sin. I am getting stronger in the Lord. I can do all things through Christ,

which strengtheneth me."

2. Discipline Your Reading Habits. Be sure you spend at least ten minutes each morning reading The Word of God. There is *no possibility* of living the true victorious, happy life apart from a daily intake of the Scriptures. They will make you strong and keep you free. "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide," (Psalm 37:31). Be sure everything else you read *contributes* to your well-being.

3. Discipline Your Prayer Life. *Stay in constant, personal contact with God.* Be sure you are on speaking terms with Him. Develop and cultivate an up-to-date prayer list.

4. Discipline Your Friendships. Refuse to associate with losers who pull you down. Choose friends who will be the kind of associates you would like to spend your whole life with.

5. Discipline Yourself With Regard To The Music You Listen To, The Television Programs You Watch And The Entertainment You Choose. Control the circumstances that are within your power. One teenage girl finally admitted to me that she had schemed to find ways to be alone with her boyfriend when she knew she was too weak to say no to wrong. If you cannot refuse temptation…at least *avoid it. It requires discipline.*

6. Discipline Your Church Attendance. Develop inner strength by exposing yourself often to the atmosphere of a spiritual church service. Honor the spiritual Mentors God places in your life.

There you have it…a formula for success that will work for you. It is a way to overcome and be free of the tragic snare of the Sex Trap. God wants you to be free. *I want you to be free, too.*

Remember Wisdom Key #309: *You Cannot Have A Great Life Unless You Have A Pure Life; You Cannot Have A Pure Life Unless You Have A Pure Mind; You Cannot Have A Pure Mind Unless You Wash It Daily With The Word Of God.*

Recommended Investments:

The Sex Trap (Book/B-03/32 pages/$3)

Seeds of Wisdom on Prayer, Vol. 11 (Book/B-23/32 pages/$3)

The Seeds of Wisdom Topical Bible (Book/B-31/368 pages/$15)

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Solitude

Solitude Is Often Necessary For Impartation.

It is normal to love the atmosphere of friends. Connection is essential for multiplication. It takes two to become more. “Two are better than one,” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). However, your Assignment will require many moments of withdrawing from others.

Jesus withdrew Himself from the multitudes. “But so much the more went there a fame abroad of Him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed,” (Luke 5:15-16).

“Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave commandment to depart unto the other side,” (Matthew 8:18).

Jesus taught His followers to *come apart* from others for times of restoration. “And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately,” (Mark 6:31-32).

Jesus withdrew from the pressure of people, knowing that ministry is emptying. Restoring others requires *emptying yourself.* When others reach, they draw something out of you. Jesus experienced this with the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. “For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole,” (Mark 5:28). She *did* touch Him…Jesus felt something *leave* Him. “And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched My clothes?” (Mark 5:30).

- Sometimes, you must withdraw from the *pressure* of people.
- Sometimes, you must withdraw from the *pleasure* of people.

God will often speak to you to have moments away from those you love. Time away with Him will restore you and strengthen you. It will also enable you to hear His voice without the stain and distortion of human logic and opinions.

Sometimes, your Assignment will cost you wonderful moments of conversation and relaxation. It is the opposite of rest times. It will demand all of you. It will require your total absorption and concentration.

I am sitting in my Wisdom Room dictating this to you. There are books wall-to-wall and ceiling-to-floor. I absolutely love books. I love biographies and success books. I love collecting new ones monthly.

Next to this room is the most important room in my home, The Secret Place. It is a small but power-filled room dedicated to The Holy Spirit. He dramatically affected my life on July 13, 1994, and I have been a different man since that day. My yard is large, but it has speakers on the trees that play Holy Spirit music continuously.

Yet, I spend my life traveling thousands of miles every month away from here. I spend most of my life sleeping in strange little bedrooms in strange hotels in strange cities. I sit in a tiny cramped airplane seat for hours, with thoughts of being in my recliner in my Wisdom Room, reading!

I *long* to stay home. Traveling is not exciting to me anymore. I have done it for more than forty years. Then, why do I stay in cramped little hotel quarters, rushing from airport to airport just to speak for a few minutes to an audience across this globe?

It is The Assignment.

Occasionally, I feel sorry for myself. Sometimes, I envy those who wake up in the same bed every morning, eating breakfast at the same table, and seeing faithful and loyal friends every day of their lives. Sometimes, I have to remind myself that, "This world is not my home, I am just passing through. I am a pilgrim. I am a wayfarer." It is not always easy to walk away from pleasurable surroundings.

I *love* my staff. It has taken me forty years to have the team of champions that surround me daily. I admire them. I respect them. They are my family. Yet, I rarely get to spend long hours and days with them. The Assignment is my obsession.

Last night, I had an intense desire to lean back and watch some videos. I was tired. I just had an incredible week of meetings. God had moved. People were radically touched and restored. I really did not want to work late last night at all. But, I looked at the letters of partners and those who had written me.

They deserved an answer. Like Jesus, "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd," (Matthew 9:36).

Compassion is a force…a *powerful* force. It is something I cannot explain. When I turned fifty years old I spoke on the subject, "Fifty Years: My Memories,

Mistakes and Miracles.” I told my family of partners and friends that I could not explain compassion. When you care about people, you are driven to minister to them; it is something overpowering, unexplainable and unavoidable when you get in God's presence.

Satan often exploits this compassion to drive us into achievements that God never instructed. I am very aware that some of our drive and energy can become ambition, uncontrolled and undirected by The Holy Spirit. This has happened in thousands of lives. However, it cannot be denied either that His calling can so dominate your life that you forfeit moments of pleasure and things that you would love to be doing.

Why do we withdraw from pleasurable moments from those we love? *The Harvest beckons.* “Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest,” (Matthew 9:37-38).

One of the greatest evangelists in history told me of his deep love for the game of golf.

“How often do you go golfing?” I asked him.

“Every chance I get,” he answered.

“Do you go daily?” I asked.

“I would if I had the time,” was his strong reply. *He has an Assignment.* He trains thousands of people for the ministry every year.

Something matters *far more* than our pleasure.

Tomorrow will last longer than today.

- *Champions Are Willing To Do Things They Hate To Create Something They Love.*
- *Champions Make Decisions That Create Their Desired Future While Losers Make The Decisions That Create Their Desired Present.*

There is a costly season for sowing your life into others. “And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head,” (Matthew 8:20).

There is a compensation season for reaping from the One who gave you your Assignment. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not,” (Galatians 6:9).

Peter experienced aloneness. He must have felt the loneliness of withdrawing from those he loved. He missed the vibrant and exciting atmosphere of the fishing boats at times. “Then Peter began to say unto Him, Lo, we have left all,

and have followed Thee," (Mark 10:28).

Jesus guaranteed *reward* on the other side of separation. He made a powerful, incredible and marvelous response. I cannot say it any better than our precious Lord said it that day: "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life," (Mark 10:29-30).

You will never regret pursuing your Assignment.

But, it is true . *Your Assignment May Require Periods Of Solitude From Those You Love.*

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Studying Your Bible

The Word Of God Is The Wisdom Of God.

5 Facts About The Word of God

1. The Wisdom Of God Is The Scriptural Solution To Any Human Dilemma. I want to explain to you about how I study the Bible…how I take notes. I asked the Lord years ago, *"What is the most important thing that I could do for another human?"* You know you may buy clothes for some people. You may buy food for them…you may give others a job. You may do *many* things. What is the most important thing you could do for your family? What is the most important thing you could do for a human? And His reply to me was *fascinating*. *"The most important thing that you could ever do for another human is to birth a passion for The Word of God."*

If you can get your son to love the Bible, you will solve all his doubt problems. *The Bible is the factory for your faith*. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by The Word of God," (Romans 10:17). Faith is *confidence* in God. Faith comes when you hear God talk. Faith comes, when you say something God would say.

If you can birth a passion for the Scriptures in your son, you will solve all his suicidal thoughts. The Bible says, "Great peace have they that love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them," (Psalm 119:165).

If you can get your son to have a passion for The Word of God, you will solve all his financial problems. A man that loves the law of God, "…Wealth and riches will be in his house," (Psalm 112:1-3).

If you can get your son to fall in love with The Word of God, you will solve every battle and conflict he will have with adversaries and enemies. David said, "Thou through Thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies," (Psalm 119:98).

If you can birth passion for the Scriptures in your son, you will solve every season of depression he experiences. Jesus put it this way, "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full," (John 15:11).

If you can birth a passion for The Word in your son, you have imparted supernatural strength into his moral life. Daniel phrased it this way, “When He had spoken unto me, I was strengthened,” (Daniel 10:19).

Wow! *Consider this.* Jesus viewed The Word as His source of supernatural strength. “But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,” (Matthew 4:4).

The Word of God is the Wisdom of God according to Deuteronomy 4:6. The Word of God births hope for necessary changes and desired miracles. “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope,” (Romans 15:4).

2. Your Reaction To The Word Of God Is A Portrait Of Your Character And Your Obedience. Jesus said, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments,” (John 14:15).

3. The Word Of God Within You Births Expectation Of The Miracles God Promised You.

4. The Word Of God Will Require Scrutiny, Analysis And The Investment Of Time For It To Take Root Inside Your Spirit Man. When you do not eat, you become weak. You cannot react appropriately to the demands and the stresses of life. The same thing is true of His Word. *It gives you strength.* Paul writes to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing The Word of Truth,” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Again, Paul writing Timothy says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works,” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Successful Men Do Daily What Unsuccessful Men Do Occasionally.

D. L. Moody once said, “This Bible will keep you from sinning or sin will keep you out of this Bible.” Some call it the love letter to us from God. Some call it a warrior's handbook. Some call it the success system of the universe. It *is* a factory for your faith.

Why is the Bible important for your faith? Faith is confidence in God. God does not react to your pain. He reacts to your faith. God does not react to your tears. He *sees* them. He *observes* them, but He reacts to your *faith.* God does not

give miracles to those who *need* them. He gives miracles to those who *believe* for them. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Until I have confidence in God, I cannot even be a pleasure to God. “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).

I consider the essence of the entire Bible…there are 66 books in the Bible, 1,189 chapters…approximately 800,000 words. It takes an average reader, 56 hours to read the Bible through. Why is the Bible so important to the believer? First, it is the meat for the spirit man within him; it imparts the strength of God. It is like a time-released capsule. When you take vitamins, they do not work for a little while, but after a while the time-release works. That is the way His words are. The words of God contain the *energy* of God…the *power* of God…the *strength* of God.

Your strength is not the product of focus; it is not even the product of determination. Strength is not the product of your environment. *Your strength is completely the product of The Word of God hidden inside your heart.* That is why the Psalmist said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee,” (Psalm 19:11). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,” (Psalm 119:105). It *illuminates.* It *reveals.* The purpose of God's Word is to impart discernment…discerning of the hearts and intents of other men…to show us the hidden agendas of others. It *is* The Word of God. God's Word is His Wisdom… *His Wisdom in us.* Remember Wisdom Key #85: *The True Function Of Wisdom Is Order.*

“Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people,” (Deuteronomy 4:5-6). These statutes that are referred to are contained in the first five books of the Bible. These were written by Moses and are called the Pentateuch.

5. The Word Of God Is Required For Faith. You cannot have confidence in God without His Word. That is why when you hear The Word, your confidence toward God increases. People experience miracles *after* The Word is preached. Notice they do not pray for the sick before the service. They pray at the end of the service. Why? Because faith is *now* operating. We do not just say, “Is anybody sick? Let's pray for them.” We want people to hear The Word because The Word of God is like a Seed. The Bible compares The Word of God

to Seed planted in soil.

I made a statement in a conference about God's people that upset some ministers. The Gospel has two sides: You have the *Person* of Jesus, and the *principles* of Jesus. One is the *life* of God and one is the *law* of God. One is the *King* and one is the *kingdom*. The Person of Jesus prepares you for eternity. The principles of Jesus prepare you for earth. In other words, you can be ready for Heaven and not have the ability to pay your bills. I was explaining that one is the *expertise* of God and one is the *experience* with God. I was explaining that the Person of Jesus creates your peace, but His principles create your prosperity.

I said, "God's people, the family of God, have become ignorant." God said that, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," (Hosea 4:6). There exists a lack of knowledge and understanding. The Bible says the knowledge of the holy is understanding. That is what understanding is. *Knowledge of the holy.* Some of the ministers got a little upset. They said, "Wait, wait, wait…don't call God's people ignorant." I said, "*God did."* I said, "We'll do a little test." So, the next night I gave a little ten-point test.

1. How many books are in the Bible? Ninety-five percent of the entire conference did not get the question right. (There are sixty-six.)

2. How many chapters are in the Bible? Not one human, not one preacher in the entire congregation knew how many chapters were in the Bible. (There are 1,189 chapters.)

We are ignorant of The Word. We were all upset over the Ten Commandments being taken off the wall of the courtroom. I consider Judge Roy Moore to be a great man of God. I am thrilled about the stand he took in Alabama. Many are upset over the Ten Commandments being taken off some kind of concrete, yet we do not even have them in our heart.

I was in a conference some time ago and I said, "What is commandment number seven?" Nobody could tell me. "What is commandment number four?" Nobody could tell me. "What is commandment number ten?" Nobody could tell me. Nobody even knew the sequence of the Ten Commandments. So, we are not studying The Word, and it is important that we do.

Jerry Lucas, a former professional basketball player who memorized the New Testament, had a school in the San Jose area some years ago. I attended that school. For 12 hours a day, I memorized two-and-a-half chapters daily in the Bible. I believe I attended for four or five months. They later dissolved the school. Jerry is a tremendous man of God who loves the Lord…a phenomenal,

brilliant, intellectual man. He made a statement one morning when we were in class. He said, “The day will come when you will have so much Bible in you, so much truth as you are memorizing The Word, that when you hear error, anger will erupt in you.”

I have been told that when bank tellers are trained to discern counterfeit money, they are placed in a room with stacks of genuine money. No counterfeit money is permitted in their hand or touch. They are instructed to handle money…real money, genuine money. After they have handled so much of the genuine money, when something counterfeit comes through, they immediately discern it, because they *know what is genuine.*

I do not think you know error by studying error. *I think you know error by studying truth.* When you get The Word of God so heavily in you, so deeply in you, when you hear something that is incorrect, your spirit leaps, your heart is on alert.

10 Suggestions To Exploring Your Daily Bible Study

1. Forty Chapters A Day Will Take You Through The Bible Once A Month. When I was fifteen years old, a preacher I greatly admired was an evangelist from my father's church. One day talking to me, he said, “Son, no man should call himself a man of God, unless he reads twenty chapters a day in the Bible.” So at fifteen years old, I started reading twenty chapters a day. When I was about twenty-three years old, I found out that you can read the Bible through in about fifty-six hours.

I put that little schedule inside my Bible so that I can know on the fourth day of the month or the twenty-third day of the month, exactly what chapters I will be reading.

Now, I use a pulpit Bible, but I also have a study Bible. Buy a Bible with big print easy for you to read. Go to a bookstore and just look through all different versions, all different kinds. I like the King James because of the dignity and the beauty of the language. I use other versions in the rare case when I find a Scripture which is difficult to understand.

What you do *not* understand in the Bible is not what will bother you. *It is what you do understand that will bother you.* A man approached me and said, “I just do not understand the Bible.” I said, “Well, let me open the Bible at random.” I then said, “Read this Scripture.” He read it. I said, “Do you understand that?” He said, “Well, yeah, I understand that.” I said, “Okay, let me

try again." I kept doing that about five or six times, and I said, "You can hardly find a Scripture you do not understand, can you?" Satan has lied to the Body of Christ telling us that the Bible is too hard. "I do not understand this word. I do not understand this verse." It is not the part you do not understand that is going to get you into trouble. It is the part you do understand.

2. Reading Three Chapters A Day And Five On Sunday Will Take You Through The Entire Bible Once A Year. Nine chapters a day will take you through the entire New Testament in a month.

3. You May Use A Color Coding System. I have varied my system at various times. I like to use green for prosperity. Our money is green, so anything that has to do with the blessing of God is highlighted in green. For instance, the first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28, I am going to mark prosperity. Malachi 3, Proverbs 3, 2 Corinthians 9:6…anything having to do with God's blessing. Anything that has prosperity, increase, money, provision, blessing will be easily detected by the green highlight.

I chose red for anything that I had memorized…anything that I had in my heart already. Later I chose red to indicate The Holy Spirit; I fell in love with The Holy Spirit. I began using red for everything He had to say.

There are four basic colors…you can use blue and yellow, too. If you get too much more than that, you may loose the effectiveness of color coding. It is good to mark your Bible.

One of my dear friends, a phenomenal pastor and wonderful man of God in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been a preacher for many years. He tapes all kinds of articles and facts about Scripture inside his Bible. If you ever look inside his Bible, it is one of the most exciting Bibles you will ever read. It looks like a museum of knowledge and understanding. He works with his Bible.

For many years, I changed Bibles each year. I had a 1970 Bible, a 1971 Bible, a 1972 Bible…etc. I could then look back and see patterns of the Scriptures that really leapt out to me in the changing seasons of life. You can choose any method you want to, but I would urge you to *develop affection for the Bible.*

If you do not have a Bible habit, routine is important. I would start off with five minutes daily. I would not set a goal too high. I would start off with just five minutes. I would probably take one of two books. For many people I recommend Proverbs. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs. One for every day of the month. So, the first day of the month, read Proverbs 1. Read it aloud. Read aloud slowly.

Mark the Scriptures having to do with your system.

There are all kinds of systems. Since red is the color of the heart, anything having to do with relationships you might do in red. I use blue for anything pertaining to Wisdom and The Word of God. “Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them,” (Psalm 119:165). I will highlight that in blue because blue seems to be God's favorite color. In the fifteenth chapter of Numbers He instructed them, “When you see the blue of the fringe, that is to remind you of My Word and My covenant with you,” (Author's paraphrase). I think that is why the sky is blue. It could have easily been yellow or green or purple… *but He used blue.*

I authored a book that you might want to order called, *The God Book*. It is over 100 pages. It directs you to Scriptures regarding details about God… favorite colors and those kinds of things. Everything you have wanted to know about God, but were afraid to ask.

Now *I* suggest that you do not try to understand *everything* about the Bible to begin with. Start with one thing…start with a topic. Now there are various systems for studying the Bible. The most important thing is to develop *the habit* of reading The Word. I have already suggested reading a chapter a day aloud of Proverbs to correspond with the day of the week. You can do the same thing with the 28 chapters of the book of Acts. It is a book about the acts of The Holy Spirit. By the way, there are only two books in the entire New Testament that do not end with amen, and one of them is Acts. *The Holy Spirit is still working.* I would urge you to read a chapter a day…a chapter a day in the book of Acts. Read it aloud…especially about the power of The Holy Spirit in your life.

4. Topical Study Is When You Take A Topic And Explore Passages Regarding That Chosen Topic. In the back of many Bibles is a concordance. There are some basic Scriptures which are commonly used that will pertain to that topic. For instance, if I wanted to look up the word “prosper,” it can be found with a whole list of Scriptures. If you want to read topically, it means you would master one topic. The topic I have wanted to master is The Word of God. Everything that He said about His Word. Everything that He said about His word which is His Wisdom. So, Wisdom in The Word of God is my focus. Yours might be *faith*. Yours might be *children.* It might be The Holy Spirit or *the coming of Christ* or *patience* or *love.* Whatever you choose…I would try to master one topic in the Bible at a time.

There is another large book called, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Every word that is in the Bible can be referenced in this book. I also have

a little tablet PC that I keep with me and write my notes on. This tablet has a PC Study Bible. There is also one for Mac users. This would be an important tool for you. In ten seconds I can find almost any Scripture I want to by either a word or reference search. It is really better than trying to negotiate the big, thick Strong's Concordance. You can look up anything related to your topic…a very powerful tool. With practice you can become quickly accustomed to this tool.

5. Keep A Wisdom Journal With Your Bible. I keep notes every day of my life. You can utilize colors…you can highlight in it. You can file your information for easy retrieval through your PC or your laptop. *Truth that is not retrievable is not useable.* I would urge you to invest in the latest technology. If you are going to read from a physical book, get big print. I prefer to read out of the other Bibles rather than read my Bible on my laptop. It may be the easiest and quickest way for retrieving Scriptures though.

6. Spend Your "Five Minutes A Day" In The Bible Alone. Write down your discoveries. I write my notes down in my Tablet PC. If you choose to use a pen, use one that you love to write with, one that is easy to write with. Keep all your notes in one place, so you can retrieve them. It becomes your Wisdom Journal. Your discoveries documented will become your legacy for your children.

When I read the Bible, I look for who said this? Whom did they say it to? When did they say it? What does it apply to? How does it apply to my life? Is it something about God? Is this something about the devil? Is it something about people? I read and I will meditate on that. I will think on that, and I will look at that.

For instance, when I read the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis, I saw where Joseph noticed the disheartened faces and the downcast countenance of the butler and the baker. He asked them, "What troubles you? What is wrong?" I meditate on that. I did not just read through the story. Why was he so compassionate toward these men? He was the prison warden. They were prisoners. I saw the *compassion* of Joseph. I saw him reach out and try to help them. I saw that one of them was his Golden Key to meeting Pharaoh.

7. Discoveries Occur When You Meditate On Scripture And Think. When I am driving, sometimes I will think about a story in the Bible. I will meditate on it. I will think on it, and I will think on it, and I will take one Scripture, and process through my heart and mind repeatedly. When I read, "Thou through commandments hath made me wiser than my enemies," I will ask the question, "How in the world does the Bible make me smarter than my

adversaries?" God has given me great information through meditating the Scriptures.

To meditate does not mean just to think. It means to mutter aloud. I have been told that the original word actually means like a cow chewing its cud. Just chewing…just meditating…muttering …muttering *aloud*. *Talk to yourself.* Meditation is not just all silence. It is also speaking to yourself. "I love Your law Lord. Great peace have they that love Thy law. That is what Your Word says. You said that I would have peace." You start speaking His Word and declaring His Word.

8. If You Will Start Teaching Other People…What You Teach, You Will Remember. Remember Wisdom Key #262: *You Will Only Remember Something You Teach.*

Preachers are not necessarily smarter than their people. They just remember what they learn. They remember it because they are teaching everybody. I am teaching all the time, so everybody thinks I have this phenomenal memory. I am asked, "Wow, how do you remember all this stuff?" Well, I am teaching it. You do not really have to remember what you know. What you are teaching others, you tend to remember. *Teach* your family. *Teach* your children. Daddy, teach a Bible story on video and DVD for your little girl so when she gets five years old and ten years old, she will have a hundred different DVD's of daddy talking The Word. I would urge you to tell what you believe about the Bible on DVD, or cassette. Preferably on DVD and video so they can see and feel your spirit. It will get into their heart. *What is in your heart, you tend to protect.*

9. Explore The Different Kinds Of Translations And Versions Of The Bible. There is the *Amplified Bible*, there is the *Living Bible*, there is the *Message Bible*, there is the *Discovery Bible*, and there are all kinds of wonderful, wonderful helps.

Go to a Christian bookstore. I heard a statistic…that eighty percent of Americans have never bought a book after they turned eighteen. I also heard that ninety-three percent of Christians have never been inside of a Christian bookstore. I can hardly believe that. Go to a bookstore, go to a Christian bookstore…give them your business. Honor them and honor God's Word. Look at all the different Bibles. Invest your time. I think it will make a big, big difference in your life.

10. I Measure Warfare In My Life By How Hard It Is For Me To Get Into The Bible. If I cannot get in the Bible that day, if something just seems to stop me and stop me, I realize that there is a lot of demonic power working

against my life. If I go three days, four days, five days, seven days, and it seems like I cannot…I am doing everything but getting in His Word…I realize there is incredible demonic activity. *I believe that satan feels like he has won that day if he has kept you out of the Book, because the strength of God has failed to enter you.* You know I can go a day without eating and nobody knows it. I can go three days without eating, and I am still operating. Something begins weakening in me with time. The same is true with neglecting The Word of God. You may be unaware of your weakened condition until a demand is made on you, and you do not have the strength for it.

My daddy fasted one time seven days and seven nights without food or water. On the seventh day, he was driving back with a carload of kids from his church, teenagers. *He almost died* …literally, almost died. He had had no water…no water, no food for seven days. He literally almost died because his body was built to require water and require food.

I do not care how much you love God, you cannot live without food and water. Well, your spirit man is like that. I do not care how much money you have. I do not care how prosperous you say you are. I do not care how much God has blessed you. His Word is His energy and His strength and when you take it into your spirit man, your spirit man becomes capable of handling the warfare. Do not try to go into battle without your sword. The Bible is your sword.

Remember Wisdom Key #218: *What Enters You Determines What Exits You.*

42

Strength

The Holy Spirit Imparts Power.

When your battle has left you drained and empty and you cannot rise, *The Holy Spirit enters*.

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength,” (Isaiah 40:29).

People drain you. *Battles* drain you. You must go back to The Holy Spirit for rejuvenation. Stop looking for people to encourage you. *Encourage yourself* in the Lord.

5 Keys To Strength

1. You Have An Encourager Inside You. Stop waiting for others to speak good things about you. “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart,” (Psalm 37:4).

2. Jesus Promised That Power Would Come To Us Through The Holy Spirit. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,” (Acts 1:8).

3. You Will See Your Deliverance From The Battle. “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen,” (2 Timothy 4:17-18).

4. The Holy Spirit Becomes An Enemy To Your Enemies. “But if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries,” (Exodus 23:22).

5. You Will Experience A Supernatural Rest From Your Warfare. “For so He giveth His beloved sleep,” (Psalm 127:2).

Always remember, The Holy Spirit shall give you strength when a battle has left you weak.



Our Prayer Together…

"Father, You have observed the warfare around me. You are aware of my enemies. Jesus promised The Holy Spirit would impart power to my life. I receive that promise today. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Recommended Investments:

The Holy Spirit Handbook (Book/B-100/153 pages/$15)

The 3 Most Important Things In Your Life (Book/B-101/240 pages/$15)

The Greatest Day of My Life (Book/B-116/32 pages/$7)

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Time

Time Is The Currency Of The Earth.

The *peso* is the currency of Mexico. The *dollar* is the currency of the United States. The *franc* is the currency of France. *The currency of the earth is Time.*

God did not give you friends. He gave you Time, and you invested Time into people and created friendships. He did not give you money. He gave you Time. You exchanged it for paper money from your boss and employer.

God uses Time to achieve His own goals on earth. He uses time to develop the Seeds of greatness He plants in the soil of people.

Your Assignment will require Time…*more* than you realize. It will require *preparation* time; seasons of *negotiation*; seasons of *insignificance*; seasons of *meditation*; seasons of *agitation*. Yes, even seasons of *warfare*.

Moses was trained by God for eighty years before becoming a great deliverer. Jesus invested thirty years of time before beginning His earthly ministry of three-and-one-half years.

> "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
>
> A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
>
> A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
>
> A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
>
> A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
>
> A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
>
> A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
>
> A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace," (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

"He hath made every thing beautiful in His time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the

beginning to the end," (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Greatness will cost you the currency of Time.

It takes Time to *develop* a relationship with your Mentor.

It takes Time to *establish* a proven reputation of integrity.

It takes Time to carefully *build* a financial foundation for a great future.

It takes Time to be *restored* when you have made a major mistake.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not," (Galatians 6:9).

Someone has well said that it is impossible to save Time; you must simply learn to invest it wisely. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," (Ephesians 5:16).

Focus on creating a perfect day. You see, in a sense, you will never really see your future. When you arrive at your future, you will call it, "Today." Yesterday is over. Tomorrow is not yet here.

Yesterday Is In The Tomb.

Tomorrow Is In The Womb.

Today Is Really Your Life.

9 Keys To Make Your Time Count

1. Focus On Carefully Planning The Next 24 Hours.

2. Concentrate On Making Each Hour A Productive Hour.

3. Schedule One Hour Of Movement Toward Wisdom (Reading The Word Of God).

4. Schedule One Hour Of Movement Toward The Holy Spirit And Receiving Counsel (Prayer Time In The Secret Place).

5. Schedule One Hour Of Movement Toward Health. Exercise Daily.

6. Schedule One Hour To Monitor, Mentor And Motivate Your Love Circle. These are those you love who are linked to your Assignment.

7. Schedule One Hour For Restoration. It may be a nap or simply relaxing and watching the news.

8. Guard Access To Yourself. Qualify those who enter your arenas of life.

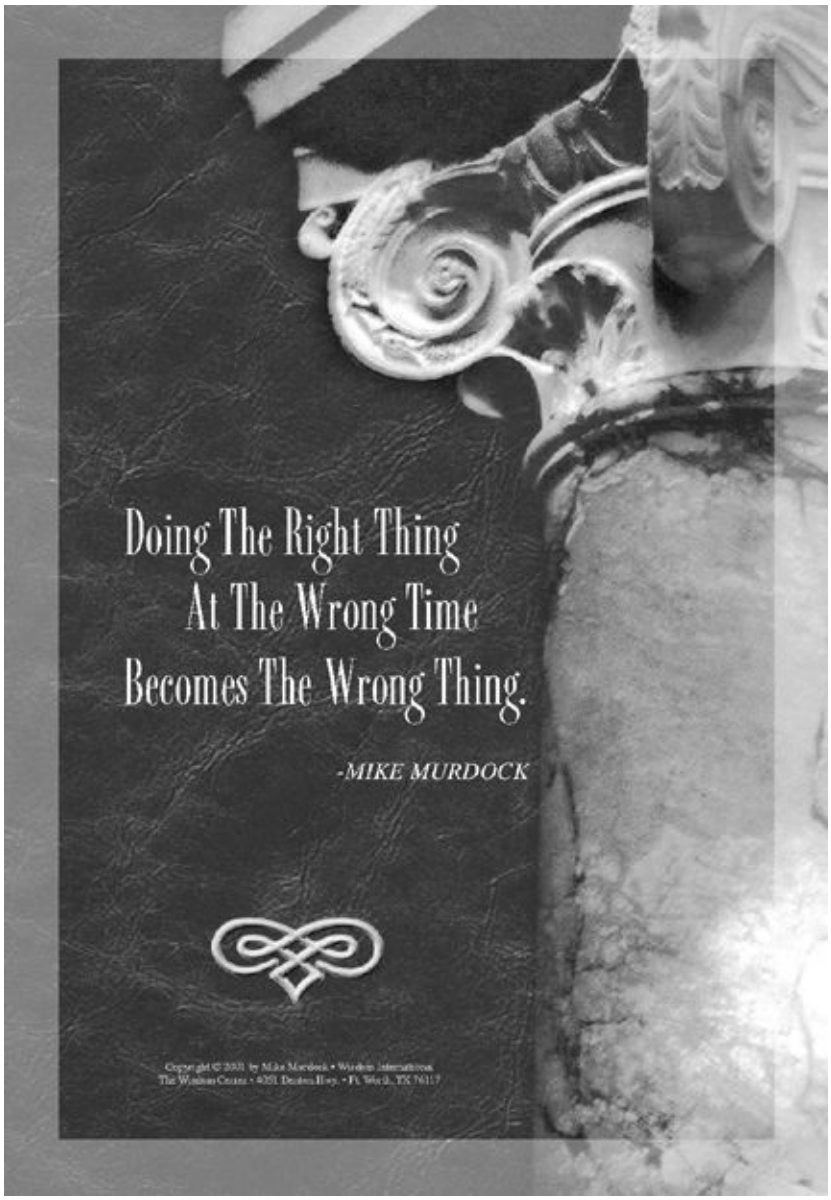
They must desire what you possess or must possess something you desire.

9. Unclutter Your Life By Uncluttering Your Day. Eliminate the things that God did not specifically tell you to do.

When you learn to create a perfect day, you can make it happen *every* day of your life. When you learn to take control of your time, the fruit of patience will become a powerful virtue in your life.

Patience is the force that makes faith productive. The patience of God has produced millions of saved lives. He was willing to patiently build a road into your life until you found Him believable, and accepted His authority in your life. He has been patiently waiting for your acceptance of His life Assignment. *An Uncommon Dream Requires Uncommon Patience* (Wisdom Key #101).

- Take the TIME to discover your Assignment.
- Then invest the TIME necessary to do it right.


Doing The Right Thing
At The Wrong Time
Becomes The Wrong Thing.
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Timing

Doing The Right Thing At The Wrong Time Becomes The Wrong Thing.

Esther was the most beautiful woman in 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. She was not only beautiful, but she understood timing. When Haman, the closest confidant of her husband, the king, secretly planned the assassination of every Jew, she sought for an audience and an appointment with her husband. She was one of the *few* women of her time who refused to use her beauty as an instrument for control and persuasion.

The Bible said she called a fast. She met with the king, and she did not discuss with him and Haman what her problem was. She said, "Could we have another meal?" *She understood timing*. She understood *environment* …she understood *atmosphere.* (See Esther 5.)

Abigail was a master communicator. She was married to a fool, Nabal, and when he refused to feed David's ten men, David went crazy and said, "I'm going to kill him and everything he has." She heard about it, but she did not discuss it with her husband. She grabbed the servants, rushed down the trail, fell at David's feet and started talking to the *king* in his heart. Later, *at the right time,* she told her husband. (See 1 Samuel 25.)

If you read Proverbs 31, you will read about what I call the *Uncommon Woman.* Some call her the Proverbs 31 Woman. The Bible said she rose up early, and the Bible talks about her sense of timing.

5 Keys To Timing

1. Doing The Right Thing At The Wrong Time Becomes The Wrong Thing. Truth before its time appears as heresy.

2. Always Assess An Environment Before You Attempt To Alter It Or Change It. Bishop David Oyedepo in Lagos, Nigeria, spoke something to me sometime ago when we were at supper together. It is one of the greatest Wisdom Keys and critical to your life. He did not say it in these words. I guess this is *my wording*, but it came out of *his heart. Always Assess An Environment Before You Attempt To Influence It, Change It Or Alter It.*

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the

heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace," (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). There is a time for things.

3. The Difference In People Is Their Capability For Timing. "For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work," (Ecclesiastes 3:17).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," (Matthew 6:33).

"Let all things be done decently and in order," (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Donald Trump, the remarkable billionaire from New York, a brilliant man, a come-back man, a man who has overcome so many obstacles…was asked why he only gave his son five dollars when he was a billionaire. "Why do you give your son five dollars a week?" He said, "I want to teach him the importance of money, and now is the time to do it."

Timing. I gave my son, in his teenage years, a brand new car, and my mother said, "Oh, son, you made a mistake. Oh, son!" I was just sick that she said that because she was right ninety-nine percent of the time, and I hated that. Sure enough it was too soon. He did not know how to *appreciate* it. He did not even know how to take care of it or wash it. It was the wrong timing.

4. Your Gifts Should Have The Right Timing. Conversation should be at the right time. You know people by their sense of protocol and their sense of timing. A young man was waiting outside my office a number of years ago and my secretary said, "He wants to see you. He is desperate to see you." I said, "Tell him I will see him tomorrow at 10:00. I am busy. I am finishing up projects." She came back and said, "He is desperate. He wants to see you. He said he will not leave. You are his Mentor. He wants to be your protégé. He wants to work for you and wants to travel with you."

I misunderstood his passion. I did not realize he ignored protocol. Finally, I said, "Well bring him in." He cried and said, "I want to be your protégé." I went ahead and hired him. I had to fire him in twelve weeks. He disrupted my staff. He was a torment. He was tortuous. He was deadly and a liar. I look back and

realize that he did not accept my assessment of timing. I had told him to wait until tomorrow at 10:00. *He ignored the first instruction I ever gave him.* I would never hire anybody again who ignores my first instruction I give them. *Never.* You do not qualify for the second instruction if you cannot do the first. Remember Wisdom Key #345: *God Will Never Advance Your Instructions Beyond Your Last Act Of Disobedience.*

5. Look At The People Around Your Life And Educate Them About Timing. Talk to your staff, talk to your family about timing. There is a time to do things, and there is a time not to. Wrong timing always produces wrong results. Wrong timing produces *tragedies. God is a God of meticulous timing.*

I just want to wrap a little prayer around you today that God will give you a sense of timing. Timing is critical even in the prosperity message; I am a firm believer in prosperity. I do not apologize for God's blessings on my life. I have fought too many battles. I thank God. I am thankful. I am thrilled when my enemies want to show pictures of God's goodness in my life. There is however an appropriate time for it. There is a lot of prosperity teaching that falls on ears that are not ready for it. *There has to be a foundation for it.*

Timing is everything. Naomi mentored Ruth. “Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her,” (Ruth 3:1-6).

She said, “It is time for a man in your life. Go down there, but don't talk to him while he's eating and don't talk to him while he's working. Wait until he *wants* to talk to you, and *then* open your heart.” *Wrong timing aborts great blessings.*



Our Prayer Together…

“Father, forgive us for wrong timing. Create within us *sensitivity*. Give us *caring.* Give us *awareness.* Oh Jesus, give us an awareness of timing…timing to talk to our children…timing to talk to a friend…*timing.* Father, You are a God of *perfect* timing. Joseph did not even share his experience with his brothers with Pharaoh. He understood timing. When his brothers came, he waited to reveal who he was, because he knew the *Law of Timing.* Thank You for teaching us Your laws. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

45

The Cross

Satan's Greatest Failure Was The Crucifixion Of Christ.

Perhaps the greatest movie ever made was Mel Gibson's movie, *"The Passion of the Christ."*

Every believer ought to see it. It was astounding to me that the critics came out against this movie, and yet they think nothing of movies with horrific murders and other crime scenes on the screen. Literally, there is hardly any standard of morality in movies today whatsoever, yet, they were angry over this movie. *The cross that excites the believer infuriates evil men.* By the way, there is a difference between the unbeliever and evil men. Evil men attempt with militancy to destroy that which is good. An unbeliever is someone who has not yet found his faith.

In Hosea 4:17, the Bible says, "Let Ephraim alone." God knew who would receive and who would not. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God," (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Is it any wonder that a little cross can intimidate an entire school board? Is it any wonder that two pieces of wood can anger an entire Congress or House of Representatives or a Senate? How is it that just a simple sign of a pure man, a holy man, the most righteous man who ever walked the earth angers? "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," (Philippians 2:8). The cross documented the character of Jesus… *His obedience.*

The blood of Jesus paid once and for all what the priests had done with animal sacrifices once a year. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us," (Hebrews 9:12).

The cross is the price that reveals how much *value* God placed on us. He simply *spoke* and there were stars. He *spoke* and there was a moon. He *spoke* and there was a sun. When it came to the purchasing of the human soul, *He gave His Son.*

Jesus fought His way through Calvary to the resurrection. He was not focused on the cross. He went through the cross to the resurrection. "Looking

unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God," (Hebrews 12:2).

The cross purchased the healing for the human mind, the human heart and the human body. "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed," (1 Peter 2:24).

This is so strong. Jesus says in Mark 8:34-36, "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me…."

Satan's Greatest Failure Was The Crucifixion Of Christ. "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory," (1 Corinthians 2:7-8).

When I was a little boy, I used to think that the devil put Jesus on the cross, but the more you read the Bible, the more you see that Jesus fought His way to Calvary. Satan tried to kill Him when He was about two years old through Herod. We see this again in Luke 4, where He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and satan tried to get Him to throw Himself off a mountain… anything to intercept His focus of going through Calvary. Through the blood of Jesus, you and I can be redeemed forever.



Our Prayer Together…

"Father, thank You today. Thank You today for the cross. Thank You for the blood. Thank You for the purging, the purifying of our life. Oh God, the cross reminds us anything we do can never compare with the price You paid. In Jesus' name. Amen."

46

The Tongue

Life And Death Are In The Power Of The Tongue.

The tongue decides what lives or dies … pain or pleasure… an offence, an injustice.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,” (Proverbs 18:21). When you control your tongue, you can control *your entire life.*

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles,” (Proverbs 21:23). God gave us the tongue to generate pleasure. Words are the Seeds for feelings. Recall for a moment how you feel when someone walks up and says, “Wow, you look great today!” Something goes all through you. “Oh, I've never seen you look this good.” *Their words were the Seeds that created your feelings.*

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice,” (Ephesians 4:29, 31).

No man can tame his tongue. The role of The Holy Spirit is to control your tongue, the rudder for the ship of your life. “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison,” (James 3:8).

The other day God gave me a real picture of my calling, “*The battle of the pen.”* Several years ago I woke up one day and I went to The Secret Place, and I began to cry. I felt like The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, “*I am looking for a pen on the earth*.” I cried the entire day. I called my office and said, “I know the center of my Assignment. God wants me to listen to what He tells me, write it and sow it…sow the books all around the world.” Sometimes when you listen to the news or when you read poisonous words in a newspaper, you say, “God, use my mouth and use my pen and use my tongue to glorify You, to magnify You.”

“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison,” (James 3:8). “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile,” (1 Peter 3:10).

The other day I heard a devastating phrase on television. The phrase was

something like this. “How far do you think the president will go to in advancing the agenda of the religious right?” It was one of those questions like, “Have you quit beating your wife?” There is no way to win with a yes or no. It is like, “Have you quit lying?” “Have you stopped stealing yet?” There are some questions that are to entrap people, and this is what The Word says. If you are going to see good life and good days, refrain your tongue from evil and the lips that they speak no guile. This is a real temptation in your life…it is the same for mine…to get on *their* level when they come against you with words. We all have that ability to destroy; it is very difficult to refrain from speaking words that do not hurt.

I wrote a song one time.

“The kindest word is an unkind word unsaid.
The kindest letter is an unkind letter unread.
Words unspoken leave hearts unbroken.
The kindest word is an unkind word just left unsaid.”

My father taught me for years that it is not what others say to you that is going to hurt you; it is what *you say to them,* that will hurt you.

You Will Never Reach The Palace Talking Like A Peasant.

Today God has given you a tongue. The tongue…God has given you is to create life, not death. Speak words of cheer. Whatever you do, speak words of encouragement, *words of love.* You measure everybody's character by what comes out of their mouth. That is how we measure character. Someone said, “Well, words are cheap.” No, they are not. Words launch *wars.* Words create *broken homes.* Words *crush hope.* Words *crush dreams.* Words *destroy credibility. Do not tell me words are cheap.* It is very, very important that you let God use your tongue to bless people today.

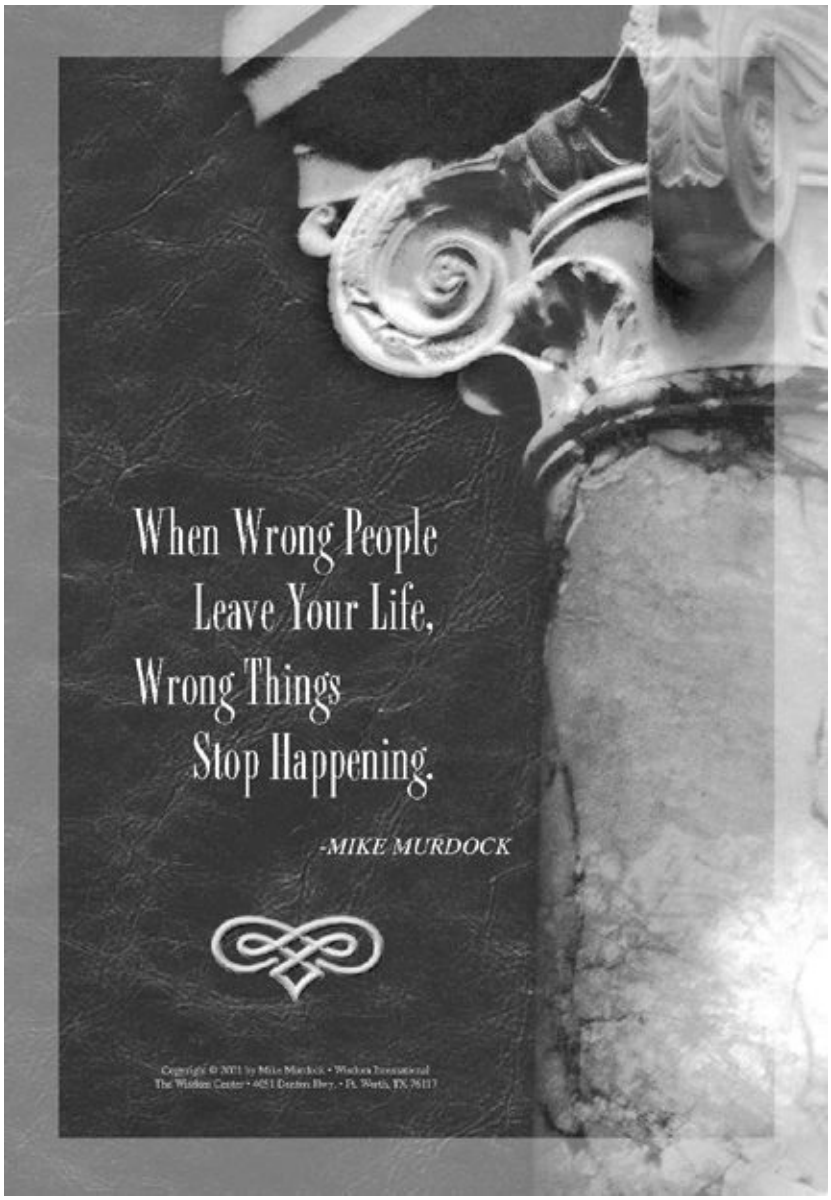


Our Prayer Together…

“Father, forgive us of every wrong word. Oh, God, correct our mouth. Lord, correct our mouth. Show us what to say. Words are the Seeds for feelings. Help us to talk faith and not doubt. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Recommended Investments:

Seeds of Wisdom on Faith-Talk (Book/B-24/32 pages/$3)
The Mentor's Manna on Attitude (Book/B-58/32 pages/$3)
Seeds of Wisdom on The Power of Words, Vol. 26 (Book/B-128/32 pages/$5)


When Wrong People
Leave Your Life,
Wrong Things
Stop Happening.
-MIKE MURDOCK
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Trouble

My father says, "If sin is not your problem, you do not have a problem."

The Bible says the world is full of trouble. Great men have experienced trouble. (See Job 5:7.) Solomon said, "Therefore I hated life." Elijah, the great prophet wanted to die. Jonah begged for God to kill him. Referring to men around him, Micah said, "The best of them is as a brier." (See Micah 7:4.)

We all understand trouble. The Bible says in days of prosperity, be happy, be thankful; but in days of adversity, *consider.* (See Ecclesiastes 7:14.) *Stop. Evaluate. Interrogate* your environment. *Analyze* your dilemma. It is important that you *study the disappointment* that you have entered; that you do not *bond* with it. You do not make it your destination. It is not your lifestyle. When trouble comes…if it is physical trouble, if it is financial setback, if it is pain from someone who has lied about you, if there is bitterness in your heart…you want to evaluate, interrogate that environment. Extract the information you will need for your future.

5 Facts About Trouble

1. Trouble Is Not A Tragedy To Escape, But Rather, A School To Learn. When pain comes, you do not want something to disguise or camouflage your pain. You want to find the source of your pain and remove it. God discerns and feels your time of trouble. "I will be glad and rejoice in Thy mercy: for Thou hast considered my trouble; Thou hast known my soul in adversities," (Psalm 31:7). Trouble is for a season; it is not permanent.

"For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock," (Psalm 27:5).

2. We Know That All Trouble Has A Reason, A Cause…A Source. "The curse causeless shall not come," (Proverbs 26:2). Sin *always* causes trouble. "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it," (Joshua 6:18).

Achan disobeyed a Divine instruction. Disobedience is a magnet for turbulence…for trouble. It is very important to understand that disobedience

causes trouble with others. Those on the run from God stir up trouble in their environment. When Jonah was thrown overboard, the storm ceased for the sailors. (See Jonah 1.) I have a little saying, *"When Wrong People Leave Your Life, Wrong Things Stop Happening."*

3. The Bible Says That The Just Shall Come Out Of Trouble; So Believers Can Expect An Exit From A Season Of Turbulence And Chaos In Their Life. "But the just shall come out of trouble," (Proverbs 12:13). Your reaction to trouble determines its longevity and its impact on your life. *Your reactions control how deeply satan affects your life.*

"In the day of my trouble I will call upon Thee: for Thou wilt answer me," (Psalm 86:7).

"But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them," (2 Chronicles 15:4).

4. One Of The Blessings Of Trouble Is That It Makes You Re-evaluate Your Circumstances…Re-examine Your Life. Several years ago, I heard some things were going on in my office…a little stirring. I called my CPA's and I said, "I want to see some details here. I want to see some facts." They laughed my request off. Two weeks later, three phone calls later, they *never* responded to my request. I called an outside firm and said, "I want you to come audit our books." I said, "I am traveling. I am going around the world. I am preaching the gospel, praying hours and studying The Word of God every day. I have got a staff…I have got a team. I have got CPA's. I have got attorneys. However, I cannot watch what everybody does. Would you come in?" It cost me over $100,000 to audit my books and make sure that every "i" was dotted and every "t" was crossed. Accuracy desperately matters to me because that is part of credibility. If I was a sinner, I would *still* want things right. They found some things that were done wrong…listed wrong on an income tax statement. I said, "Make it right. *Make it right.* "

5. Trouble Causes Good People To Come Into Your Life. When David got into trouble with Saul, it linked him with Jonathan. Remember Wisdom Key #124: *Bad Times Bring Good People Together.*

"Mike, should I fight back when I get in trouble in situations?" I think you should fight back, but not with the weapons of the world. The world can use false accusation. I remember talking to Benny Hinn one time when a derogatory article in a newspaper had been released about him; they had left one sentence out that would have explained everything. He explained to me, "Mike, that's their way. When they want to destroy your ministry…destroy your credibility,

they will present certain facts that you cannot deny. They omit other important facts though; you cannot sue them for not using all of the facts." For instance, there are two Scriptures in the Bible and both of them are biblical. One of them says, "Judas went and hanged himself." (See Matthew 27:5.) Another Scripture says, "Go and do thou likewise." (See Luke 10:37.) If you put those two Scriptures together it is a misrepresentation of truth.

I remember being devastated emotionally; I was in such pain. I watched as they blasted my name on the front page of a major newspaper. I sat there reading it. "Well, he says this." Well, that is true. I did say that. Yeah, I did say that, but it does not go here. It goes over here instead. They want to interview me, but they refuse to print my answers with their questions, so I do not feel like they *qualify* for a conversation really. My lawyers called me and said, "There are 36 false statements in the first page alone. Do you want to sue them?" I said, "My Lord, no! If God cannot protect my life, I have no life anyway." Billy Graham has said, "My friends don't require my explanation, and my enemies wouldn't believe it anyway."



Our Prayer Together…

"Father, trouble is part of the Christian's life…attacks, pain. Lord, sometimes there is sickness that we cannot even seem to shake. Sometimes there is trouble in our marriage. Sometimes there is trouble on our job. We believe that You will comfort us in those times. Holy Spirit, You are our Comforter, and in the name of Jesus, I come into a covenant with You today that every Seed that You have ever planted will come back up as a Harvest of protection during this season of trouble. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Recommended Investments:

The Survival Bible (Book/B-29/248 pages/$10)

The Mentor's Manna on Adversity (Book/B-81/32 pages/$3)

The Assignment: The Trials & The Triumphs, Vol. 3 (Book/B-97/160 pages/$12)

48

Trust

You Will Have To Trust Somebody.

It is true that you cannot trust *everyone.* You certainly cannot trust everyone every day of your life. When God determines to bless you, He will place someone close to you with an instruction, an encouragement, or a warning that will greatly influence your life. Your ability to trust their word from God for you can be the difference between remarkable success and total failure. Remember Wisdom Key #64: *Your Unwillingness To Trust The Right Person Will Create More Losses Than Your Mistake Of Trusting The Wrong Person.*

The Person You Are Trusting Is Deciding Your Future.

Let me explain. God uses the chain of authority continually in your life. That is why the apostle Paul encouraged children to obey their parents, employees to honor their bosses and Christians to honor the man of God in their lives.

One of the most powerful principles, like a nugget of gold, hidden in The Word of God is, "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper," (2 Chronicles 20:20).

Doubt is costly. Skepticism creates the greatest losses on earth. *Unbelief Creates Disasters As Quickly As Faith Produces Miracles.* Millions of sinners have forfeited an incredible life in Christ because they refused to trust in the words of a man of God. To many, the preaching of the Gospel is foolishness. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God…it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe," (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21).

4 Facts To Consider About Trust

1. God Often Packages His Gold In Burlap Bags. You see, the man that God chooses to use may not be intellectual, articulate or skilled. He may be naïve, uneducated and even uncouth. John the Baptist was certainly not pleasing in appearance by modern standards. Those who embraced his word from God though, were ushered into new levels of power and changed *forever.*

The apostle Paul did not impress everyone. He wrote to the church at Corinth, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of

speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the Wisdom of men, but in the power of God," (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5).

2. Your Financial Breakthrough May Depend On Your Willingness To Believe A Man Of God. Your financial provision may require total obedience to an instruction from a man of God. It happened to the widow of Zarephath. (See 1 Kings 17.) She was *emaciated* and *broken.* Her son was *starving.* She was down to her last meal. Elijah, the prophet, knocked on the door of her home with a bold and almost incredulous instruction. The instruction? Give him a meal before even her son ate.

You see, the instruction of a man of God will rarely be logical. You can do the logical thing without a man of God in your life. *You will rarely do an illogical act unless a man of God stirs your faith.* Somewhere, at some time, you will need a man of God to move you from the pit of logic to the palace of faith. *Elijah did it.* "And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth," (1 Kings 17:13-14).

Your Reaction To A Man Of God Determines God's Reaction To You.

This is so important: When a man of God gives you an instruction, there is a judgment or a reward that your obedience *or disobedience* will produce.

He is not giving an instruction to you to demonstrate His authority.

He is not giving you an instruction to finance his own life.

His instruction is an *exit* from your present crisis.

His instruction is an *entry* to a miracle Harvest.

Your obedience will determine your own reward.

The widow *trusted.* The Golden Key to success is always obedience to an instruction from God. "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah," (1 Kings 17:15-16).

Read First Kings, chapter seventeen carefully. You will not find a single

reference proving the widow recognized or heard the voice of God *directly.* The prophet heard *God*. She heard *the prophet*.

God spoke to the prophet.

The prophet spoke to the widow.

That sequence is honored by God.

3. When Man Refuses To Trust And Accept An Instruction Through Someone God Sends, He Loses Every Promise And Reward God Had Intended. When God wants to bless you, He will talk to a man of God about your life. When God wants to stop judgment, He usually sends a man of God with a warning. He did it to Nineveh. “Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before Me,” (Jonah 1:1-2).

Now Jonah was disobedient. His experience in “Seaweed University” is known around the world. He was swallowed up by a fish, and his own disobedience was costly. When he arrived in Nineveh, he was a *persuaded* man.

Persuaded men persuade.

Jonah cried in the streets of Nineveh, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown,” (Jonah 3:4).

Somehow, the credibility and truth of his message was felt and believed. The people were repentant. “So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?” (Jonah 3:5-9).

Think about this: The king wept and cried. The people were instructed to stop feeding their animals and flocks. The animals themselves were forced to fast. The senators and government leaders went without food.

4. Something Supernatural Happens When You Decide To Trust A Man Of God. What was their reward for trusting The Word of a man of God? “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of

the evil, that He said that He would do unto them; and He did it not," (Jonah 3:10).

I had a very unusual experience that changed my life. Each year I host a World Wisdom Conference. It happened years ago during a service at my World Wisdom Conference. One of my friends, a visiting evangelist, came to me saying, "I feel that God spoke to me to receive an offering for your ministry today."

"Well, I will let you know whatever God impresses me to do," I replied. I appreciated what he said. I really felt that I was able to hear from God as much as anyone else present. I felt no leading whatsoever that an offering was to be received at that time.

A few minutes later, another evangelist handed me a note. It reiterated that the other brother felt impressed to receive an offering.

They both felt it was God and wanted me to hand him the microphone. *I was agitated*.

I had a personal schedule for the time that offerings would be received. My basic attitude was, "This is *my* conference. Nobody is going to receive an offering unless I approve and know that it is the will of God. This is neither the time nor the place for an offering," I had already received an offering that morning, and I did not want the people to feel *harassed*.

I am not a novice in the ministry. I have walked to the pulpit more than 16,000 times since I have started preaching at the age of eight years old. I spoke at my first crusade at the age of fifteen. I entered full-time evangelism at the age of nineteen. I have been in thirty-six countries of the world. I was a little peeved that another man of God would push me in this manner.

While I was speaking and preparing to dismiss the people for lunch, this evangelist walked up to me publicly. He was weeping and crying. "Brother, could I say a word?" I was still frustrated. It bothered me deeply. I pray, fast, and make every effort to hear the voice of The Holy Spirit. I was hearing nothing from God. I *felt* nothing. Somehow, I really believed in my heart that he was totally out of order.

But, *he was a man of God*. I knew that he was a man of God. His ministry was proven. His anointing was obvious. He had passed the test of time. He wore the badge of endurance. He was gentle and kind, but very persistent. So, I handed him the microphone, very reluctantly.

As he began to speak, tears ran down his cheeks. Within moments my

partners began to step out of their seats streaming to the front with $1,000 faith promises for the ministry. They kept coming, and coming, and coming. I stood there, still feeling nothing. I could hardly believe what was happening. I cannot say that I felt joy, because I did not feel joy. I never did feel a confirmation. During the entire time that he received the offering, I never felt the winds of The Holy Spirit. The offering that day in cash and pledges was more than $100,000.

I prayed, “Oh Lord, I thought I knew Your voice. I thought I knew when You spoke.”

You see, God had spoken to another man something He had withheld from me. It concerned me deeply. I was *incensed.* I was *embarrassed*.

I felt the timing was wrong. I had my own schedule. The only reason I had finally allowed and permitted him to do what he did was because I really knew he was a man of God. The touch of God was upon him. I felt *nothing.* I saw no vision. I experienced no revelation. *I simply trusted in the man of God that my Father had decided to use that day.*

I learned that God tells others things He will not tell me. It continues to irritate me, but I learned a valuable lesson.

Remember Wisdom Key #14: *The Instruction You Follow Determines The Future You Create.*

My success will depend on my ability to recognize and trust a man of God.

Recommended Investments:

Seeds of Wisdom on Relationships (Book/B-14/32 pages/$3)

Secrets of the Richest Man Who Ever Lived (Book/B-99/179 pages/$12))

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Turning Points In My Life

If You Are Going Through A Battle In Your Life, Get Ready To Be Healed.

You may be going through a battle of the mind over your faith…it may be sickness in your body. *Get ready to be healed*. If your marriage has fragmented, a spirit of sorrow has entered into your heart, disappointment may be suffocating you… *get ready to be healed.* If you feel like your back is against the wall and everything you do seems to be failing…if you are obsessed with seeing change in someone you love and nothing seems to be moving… *get ready to be healed.*

One of my precious friends, Joel Osteen, made a statement on television that has stayed with me: "Stay steady." He said, "You may *feel* like you are not seeing any changes. You may not even *see* any changes, but something is happening you cannot see. *Something is happening in your favor*. Something *miraculous* is coming *toward* you." Remember Wisdom Key #333: *You Are Never As Far From A Miracle As It First Appears.*

I want to share some turning points in my life. First, the miracles of healing…how I was literally given up by doctors. Six hundred worms came out of my body in one day, crawled out of my mouth on my mother's, my father's and my sister's shoulders. They said there was no hope, but I am here today because we serve the God of the turnaround.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end," (Jeremiah 29:11). *Expect a miracle.* If you are going through sickness in your body, if there is pain in your body, *get ready* for your healing. If you have lost faith, *get ready* for new faith to enter you. If doubt has overcome you… *get ready for changes.* We serve the God of the turnaround.

When I was two-and-a-half years old, my father pastored a little church in Big Lake, Louisiana, seventeen miles from Lake Charles, Louisiana, where I was born. One famous evangelist from Louisiana and his whole family have been friends of my family since I was a child. His dad used to spend nights at our house. In fact, I laughingly told him some time ago, "I am still shocked that you are actually saved…that you are really born again…that you are really preaching the gospel." I was eaten up with worms, eating dirt at two and a half years old. My mother snuck me to a doctor, and the doctor said, "We can not help him. There is nothing we can do."

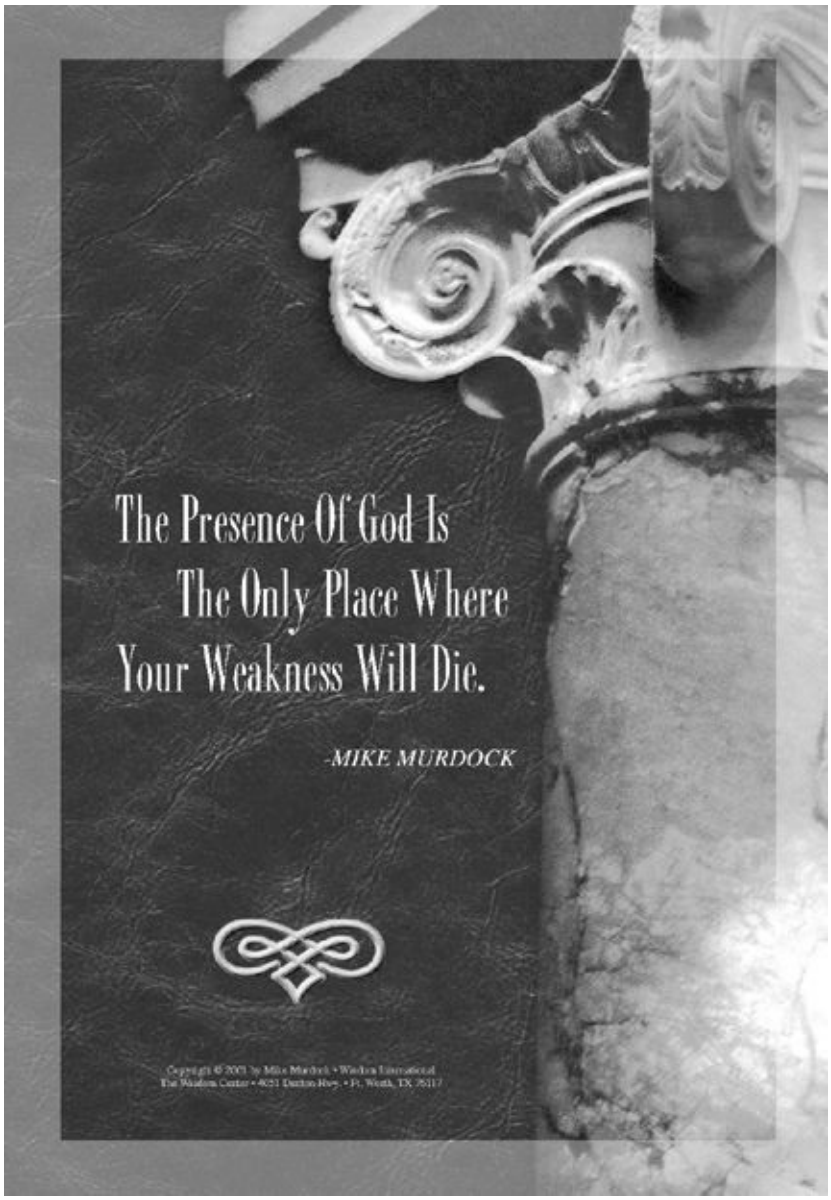
One night my father made a statement. He said, “I'm going to pray tonight until I get an answer.” My father knelt down and lifted both hands and began to say repeatedly, “Thou art a mighty God. Thou art a mighty God. Thou art a mighty God. *Thou art a mighty God*.” Instantly, he saw a vision in his mind. Satan was holding me as a two and a half year old baby, and Jesus walked over and just took me out of satan's arms. Daddy said that Jesus did not slap the devil…he did not kick him…he just took me out of his arms. My dad said he knew God had heard his prayer. The next morning, I started eating. *I was healed by the power of God.*

What You Say Determines What God Will Do. God reacts to words. A simple confession opens the windows of Heaven, gives you a mansion in Heaven according to the tenth chapter of Romans. Nineveh cried out to God, “Forgive us.” God delayed the judgment. The thief on the cross, with a lifetime of rebellion whispers to Jesus next to Him, “Remember me.” He said, “Today, you will be with Me in Paradise.” Something you are saying will decide what God will do for you.

I want to tell you another miracle. I had just started in the ministry. I was about twenty-one years old, and every offering mattered. My first year in evangelism, my income was $2,263. One month it was $35. One month it was $90. I was *devastated*. I was *desperate.* I had a two week meeting planned close to Corpus Christi, and the pastor called me and said, “I am going to have to cancel your two-week meeting.” My offering was how I survived. That is how I paid insurance. That is how I paid my bills. I was so mad. I was angry. *I was hurt.*

Within an hour, a phone call came. I was in a hotel room. A man said, “Brother Mike Murdock?” I said, “Yes.” He said, “I am over here in Beeville, Texas. My name is Sam Armstrong. Would you come preach for me?” I said, “Brother, I cannot.” I was so mad. I was just so upset. I said, “Brother, I am going back to Lake Charles.” He said, “Would you pray about it?” I said, “I will pray about it.” I continued packing my car and got ready to leave. I said, “You know, I told him I would pray about that.” I knelt down beside the bed with one foot ready to go. I said, “Father, if You want me to go to this church, I will.” Of course, I was not listening, but suddenly I felt this little nudge, “Go.” *The Difference Between Seasons Is Simply An Instruction.* God said, “Go.” I called him and said, “Brother, I am coming.” Out of that revival with seventeen people in his church, a couple bought me an Airstream travel trailer and planted thousands and thousands of dollars in my ministry.

Nothing Is Ever As Bad As It First Appears.


The Presence Of God Is
The Only Place Where
Your Weakness Will Die.
-MIKE MURDOCK
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Uncommon Church

The Church Is Not A Building.

We are the Church…*the Body of Christ.*

7 Qualities of An Uncommon Church

1. A "Word Of God" Conscious Church. The first quality of an Uncommon Church is a Word *conscious*…a Word of God *focused* church.

Why is this so important? To me, the most important thing a pastor can do for you is to *nurture* …to *develop* in you, a passion for The Word of God. If He can get you to fall in love with the 800,000 words, 1,189 chapters, he can solve every problem in your life through The Word.

Let me explain. If I can get you into His Word, I can solve your depression. Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full," (John 15:11).

If I can get you to fall in love with the Bible, I can solve all your unbelief, your doubts. Because He said, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by The Word of God," (Romans 10:17).

If I can get you to fall in love with the Bible, I can change your income. The Psalmist tells us that a man that loves God's Word, wealth and riches will be in his house. "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever," (Psalm 112:1-3).

"That is not true. I have been tithing and I am broke." Well, let us work on that a little bit. I had a couple one time come up to me and say, "That does not work. We have been tithing and we still have no money." I said, "Well, I just met you and I have known God longer than I have known you, so you are lying. One of you is lying." I said, "You are lying." I said, "Bring me all your tithe stubs from your checks. Bring them to me tonight because you may be planting in bad soil…the quality of the soil determines the future of the Seed." They kept talking. I said, "Well, will you bring me the check stubs?" I said, "How long have you been tithing?" They looked at each other and said, "Two weeks." I

explained to them that everything multiplies…including Seeds of nothing.

If you sow nothing, you create a season of nothing. Remember Wisdom Key #105: *A Seed Of Nothing Always Creates A Season Of Nothing.* This is one of the reasons that the Old Testament talks about different kinds of Seeds. There is the meal offering. There is the wave offering. You have the dove and the turtledove, the pigeons, the lambs. There are different kinds of offerings. We sow up for wealth (see Isaiah 58) and we sow down for health (see Psalm 41). Every Seed contains a different future according to Scripture.

Now, if I can get you into The Word of God, I can change everything in your life…*everything in your life*. The Wisdom of God which is The Word of God will change your relationships. The Word of God makes you discerning of the hidden agendas of others. One of the goals, one of the purposes of Wisdom, is so that you can discern the spirit of a scorner in your life…the spirit of a fool.

To me, the greatest quality of a church is…do they love The Word of God?

2. An Obedient Church. One of the things Jesus told us to do is to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

That is why in India, we built the three story dormitory for young preachers, the young Timothys of India. That is why we underwrite *The Wisdom For Asia Bible College* every month and pay their teachers. That is why we purchased the piece of land next to the Bible school. There are rubber plants on the land next to the Bible school and the profits from the rubber plants will pay the teachers for many years to come.

Evangelism is obedience. (See Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Galatians 1:15-16.)

3. A Restoration Healing Church. Restoration healing is the third quality of an Uncommon Church.

The church is not a museum for perfect people. The local church is a *hospital* for those who need the healing of Jesus. I want people who have made the worse mistakes known to man to walk into The Wisdom Center, be comfortable and feel like they are where they need to be.

I want an obedient church to hear His voice: “God, I will do what You want me to do. I will say what You want me to say. I will be what You want me to be…no matter what the cost.” Oral Roberts said to me one time, “Everybody is sick somewhere.” There are three things Jesus did. Jesus went about all Galilee *teaching* in their synagogues and *preaching* the gospel of the kingdom and *healing* all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Jesus’ ministry was teaching, preaching and healing. *He still desires to…through the Church.*

4. A Praying Church. We are a praying church.

I believe you talk to God. Do not try to *think* a prayer. You have to speak it. Thinking is not praying. Do not think a prayer…because you think about your problems…you are not praying about them. *You must speak*. You must speak *in faith* because *God only reacts to faith.*

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands," (Acts 12:5-7).

Now here is what is phenomenal to me about this Scripture in Acts. Peter was a man of God. Remember his shadow had healed people, but he could not get out of jail until *somebody else* was praying. It is important that you *reach out* for other intercessors. *Get other people involved in your problem.* Do not try to get through this thing by yourself. Do not try to survive something you are going through alone. Abraham interceded for Lot. Do not minimize the role of intercession.

Oral Roberts has been a major Mentor in my life. I used to stay on the 58th floor of the City of Faith in a penthouse apartment. There were three of us…Dr. Paul Yongi Cho, who is now David Yongi Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world, and another brother we all know, and myself. We always stayed there when we came into the city. I came down one day on my way to the airport, and Richard Roberts, now the president of Oral Roberts University, was with me. Just as we got to the elevator, a woman rushed up to him and said, "Oh Richard, oh Richard, come pray. You have got to come pray for my husband down here." My thoughts were, "You have got other people to pray. We are about to go to the airport. We have got plans. Just have somebody else pray. Pray for him yourself." Suddenly Richard said, "Just wait for me." *Nothing else mattered.* He dropped everything and rushed down there. I mean it was like I had no schedule… *nothing mattered but that.*

When he came back, I said, "That is really nice of you to do that." I said, "Man, with all of your plans you just dropped everything." He said, "Well that is what we are all about." He said, "Do you know the more people you get praying for something, the more power works against the enemies that are coming against your life."

I am sitting there thinking, “Wait, wait, wait. I am going to work with this little Scripture, ‘If you have faith like a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be cast into the sea.’ Wait, wait, just me and God are a majority. Me and God, me and God, me and God.” Suddenly he is talking about the power of involving others in inter-cession. He said, “Mike, this thing is too big for daddy and I and our faith. We have got to have the faith of other people involved. This is too big for our faith.” I had never even thought of something like that. What do you mean this thing is too big? God said if you are sick, call for the elders of the church. *Call for people*. *Reach out* for intercessors. If one is fallen, another will pick him up. Satan never showed up in the garden before Eve joined Adam…*because two are better than one. Two can multiply.*

I would urge you to develop an intercessor circle. You do not have to tell every Tom, Dick and Harry your problem, but get other people using their faith for you. Do not sit there and try to take anything alone. *Do not try to handle anything alone.* That is why we pray for one another. This is why we stand with one another.

I will never forget stumbling over daddy laying in the floor. He and mother were laying there one night. I was going to the refrigerator to get something and I heard him and mama on the floor just weeping for my older sister, “Oh God save Barbara. God save Barbara.” I was upset and I told mama the next day, “Mama, I am saved. Be glad I am saved. All the rest of us are saved. She's the only bad one in the whole family. She is bad. Let her go. Why are you not glad that the rest of us are serving God? We are living for God.” Of course, mama was crying. Daddy was crying because of this *one lost sheep*. Nothing mattered but one lost sheep…*one lost sheep*. I lived long enough to see my sister saved, full of the Holy Ghost and work with our ministry.

Prayer. I remember when my sister Deborah got into some trouble and daddy and I drove all night looking for her. We finally found her. We saw her and I will not give the whole scenario, but daddy burst into tears and said, “Oh, little Deborah. Oh, my little Deborah!” He just burst into tears and grabbed my hand and we began to pray for her.

I have lived long enough to see that my little sister, Deborah, today is one of the hardest workers in my ministry. I do not know of anybody who works harder…17-18 hours a day…day and night. Her daughter is working for our ministry. Her son is working for our ministry.

5. A Controversial Church. An Uncommon Church will always be controversial. *If satan enjoys you, you are doing something wrong.* If demons

beg to attend our church, we have made some mistakes. The controversy may be over healing. The controversy may be over speaking in tongues. The controversy may be over finances and prosperity.

Do not be intimidated by the money talk of the world. We have a Jehovah-jireh who wants us blessed. He said if you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children how much more does your Heavenly Father know how to give good gifts to those that love Him? (See Matthew 7:11.) Enjoy the blessing message. Enjoy that we have a Jehovah-Jireh that wants to bless us…not just in money, but in relationships, in open doors, in opportunities and in health.

If you are going through a bad time right now, and you have lost your job, and your business cannot take off, and it seems like you just cannot make it, I have a Wisdom Key for you. *Don't Change Your Theology To Accommodate A Tragedy*.

"Well Mike, I have lost my job, lost my money and now I do not have any friends." *A friend never leaves you*. If you are going through a bad time and people have walked out on you, *thank God*. God purged your life. Do you know what? Bathrooms are as valuable as kitchens. Subtraction is as necessary as addition. *When God Wants To Bless You, He Brings A Person Into Your Life. When God Wants To Protect You, He Removes A Person From Your Life*. Every attack, every battle is a purging to get rid of the clutter that you have allowed to accumulate in your life.

6. A Relationship Church. The sixth quality of an Uncommon Church… they are a love relationship church.

This is why at The Wisdom Center, we have meals together and time together. I do not want a place where we just gather and look at one another and hear a sermon and walk out. The Bible said that those that feared the Lord, spake often to each other. This is why after every Sunday morning service, we go straight back to the Hospitality Suite to become acquainted with first time visitors. We *want* to know about you. We *want* to know what you do for a living…where you work.

I receive business cards from people I meet at churches where I am speaking. I carry their business cards because God blesses everything I touch. *I believe that*.

An Uncommon Church is a *relationship* church. Get to know one another. Talk to one another. *Build relationships.* It does not mean you have to give everybody your address and say, "Come to supper tomorrow night." Make an

effort though, to get to know one another. I believe in a relationship church. I never had what God is building right now in my life. I have never had such a love for a people. I cannot sleep on Saturday nights in anticipation of Sunday services at The Wisdom Center. I am constantly thinking about how I can create a better environment. What can we do? I get excited about teaching. I think about how incredible it is to teach people how to succeed.

7. A Seed-Sowing Church. An Uncommon Church is a Seed-Sowing Church. Tithe to your Church. Your church is not the only place God blesses your Seed. There are other ministries God blesses. You can sow to various ministries. Sow everywhere you see good ministry. Your Seed does not all belong in your own church.

There are too many different kinds of people to bless. There are too many kinds of ministries, too many kinds of anointings to bless. I have written checks to several different ministries. *Why?* When I see good soil, I want to sow in that soil. While I am waiting for Seed number three to come up, two can be coming up. While I am waiting for Seed number five, four can be coming up. I believe in sowing wherever you see good soil. Sow wherever you get blessed. Never let anyone…not even the government…never let *anyone* tell you where to sow. *You sow where God directs you to sow.*

Sometime ago, a lady came up to me and said, “I've got my tithe.” I said, “Well that is wonderful.” She said, “No, I have another home church.” I said, “You bring your tithe back to your home church. That is the man of God who is feeding you. That is the man of God that is strengthening you.” I said, “He is the one that goes to see you in the hospital. He is the one that prays over your life.” It is important for you to sow as The Holy Spirit directs you and guides you.

I want a Seed-Sowing church. A lot of us sow Seed that nobody ever knows about. Some of us sow Seed that we do not even document, and it is coming up all around us every day. It is coming up. I see the blessing of God.



Our Prayer Together…

“Father, I thank You that my church is a place for miracles. It is the place for miracles. It is the place where healing waters flow. Lord, grow my church family into a great church. Grow us into a great group of people that love each other, that love You, who are obedient. Lord, I ask You for an Uncommon Church. Not

a building. We are thankful for a building, but Lord, it is just a place to bring attention to Your presence. I ask You to raise my church up to be a voice in our community, in our town and around the world. Make us a healing river throughout the earth. Preachers everywhere are receiving from the oasis that is at our church. Make my church an Oasis. Make it a place where broken lives can come and receive the healing oil of Jesus. Restore *faith* in my church. Restore *joy*. Restore *hope*.

Oh, Father, help me to build my brother or sister, strengthen one another. When somebody is going through a battle, I will be there with them, *praying* for them, and *interceding* for them, *standing strong* in their behalf. When their children have disappointed them, give me the words that bring healing again and hope again, reminding them that You are still on the throne, that You are a God Who answers prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

51

Winning

Winners Are Simply Ex-Losers Who Got Mad.

They got tired of failure. The day you get angry at your failures is the day you start winning. *All Men Fail…The Great Ones Simply Get Back Up.* You do not drown by falling in the water, you drown by staying in the water. Winning does not start around you—it begins *inside* you.

It begins between your ears. Your mind is the drawing room for tomorrow's circumstances. *What Happens In Your Mind Will Happen In Time.*

Mind-management is the first priority to becoming a winner. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things," (Philippians 4:8).

When You Make Up Your Mind, It Is Just A Matter Of Time.

4 Things You Must Do As A Winner

1. Rebuild Your Concept Of God. What is your idea and opinion of God? Is He a harsh dictator or a loving Father? Read Luke 15 and you will find a description of the Father Jesus knew. The total obedience and respect Jesus had for His Father indicates His "God-picture" resulted in trust. Go beyond what you have heard or imagined about Him. Read the Gospels. The *nature*, the *compassion*, the *love* of the Father is reflected through the activities and attitudes of Jesus Christ. Jesus took time to talk to an immoral woman…little children…a tax collector in a tree. People mattered to Jesus. Spend time developing the proper concept of God. Rebuild the mind-photo that *strengthens your faith* toward Him. By reading books, listening to cassette tapes, and sharing your love with others, you will correct and enlarge your picture of God.

2. Recognize The Limitations Of Satan. Certainly, there is a need to understand the damage of demonic influence. However, through The Word you will understand the limitations of their efforts. Satan is a *liar* …a *deceiver* …a *manipulator*. I might add that he is a *loser*. He is an ex-employee of Heaven who got "fired." He is headed for total destruction. He is under the dominion of the

believer, who is a joint-heir with Christ, who has “Put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church,” (Ephesians 1:22). Satan and the demonic forces are beneath us. (See Romans 8:37.) Remember, *you are the winner!* When you feel you are at your lowest, you are *still* “on top of the devil!”

3. Understand The Needs Of Others. Two classes of people who received attention from Christ were: *First*, people who received His ministry and His work. Good examples are Zacchaeus in Luke 19:2 and the Samaritan woman in John 4:9. *Secondly*, people who ministered to Him. Mary and Martha illustrate this in Luke 10:38.

Jesus’ dealing with the Pharisees revealed they had contempt, irritation and absolutely no real respect for Him. They neither ministered to Him, nor received ministry from Him.

Jesus saw people as needs that He could meet. If they received Him, miracles happened. If rebellion surfaced, He detached Himself from them. He knew how to say no when necessary. *Cultivate discernment of people in your life.* If you are a positive influence on them, it will show. If you are not lifting them, chances are, they are a negative influence on you. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,” (Proverbs 13:20). Jesus could not spend time with everyone. He never surrendered “Zacchaeus Time” to be abused by the Pharisees. Develop the ability to listen to God regarding the part someone is to play in your life.

4. Rebuild A Good Picture Of Yourself. *Stop Looking At Where You Have Been, And Start Looking At Where You Can Be.* Parents, schooling and friends condition us. We become failure-conscious. Sometimes we become more problem-oriented than possibility-oriented. We concentrate on our weaknesses and lose confidence and self-respect. Begin to concentrate on your strong points. *Sometimes what you consider a weakness is actually a God-implanted gift.*

Let me illustrate. I have always loved to talk. My father was and is a very quiet man. I admired that quality. I tried with little success to retrain my mouth to be quiet! I memorized Scriptures about talking too much. I suppressed my opinion in conversations. Oh, I admired and tried to emulate shy, timid, quiet friends. *Impossible*. I had to talk! Through my mother and father's gentle and tender nurturing, they helped me see that God had given me a gift to express myself and make truths clear. I could study and work to make my words edifying and uplifting…this was a strongpoint. Since then, I have simply asked the Lord to give me words that will bless those around me!

Listen to a preacher who wrote one-half of the New Testament:

- "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen-eth me," (Philippians 4:13).
- "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us," (Romans 8:37).

Paul had the right concept of *God.*

Paul had the right concept of *satan*.

Paul had the right concept of *people.*

Paul had the right concept of *himself.*

Stop talking about your lack. Be thankful for gifts God has given to you! Think good things about yourself and others. *Stop complaining!* Project enthusiasm! Avoid negative and depressing conversations. *Dominate your turf!* Be aggressively happy!

Recently, I was in a garden of beautiful flowers. While admiring their beauty, I noticed the gardener pulling up weeds that had grown up around them. As weeds choke out the life of a beautiful flower, there are things that we must remove in order to grow. To guarantee maturity and a winning life, you must eliminate the weeds.

6 Things You Must Eliminate From Your Life To Have A Winning Life

1. Wrong Relationships. Ask yourself: "Will this friendship bring me closer to Jesus? Or, will it soil the beauty of what God has begun?" Get rid of anything that clouds your mind or spirit.

2. Moral Impurity. Nothing can destroy your testimony and inner joy faster than immorality. When satan plants the "seed" of a bad thought in your mind, *immediately resist it.* Exercise your authority! Say: "Satan, I bind you and resist your ungodly suggestions. I am a child of God walking in the power of The Holy Spirit. I cast your thought back to you. I am a new creation in Jesus!" Immediately, thank God aloud for good, wholesome thoughts.

3. Ungodly Mind-Manipulators. We are influenced greatly by what we see and hear. "Mine eye affecteth mine heart," (Lamentations 3:51). Depressing television shows, sensual music and suggestive books guarantee spiritual suicide. Replace these by saturating your life and home with wholesome books, tapes and Christian materials.

4. Negative Conversation. Words minister life or death. (See Proverbs

18:21.) Put off the former conversation. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers,” (Ephesians 4:29). Insist on positive and uplifting conversation. “To him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God,” (Psalm 50:23).

5. Bitterness And All Other Sin. In Ephesians, Paul tells us: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you,” (Ephesians 4:31). Bitterness is like a cancerous sore that deteriorates the inward soul of man. Sin is the deceptive snare that poisons the possibilities of a would-be winner. It promises roses, but delivers thorns. Repent and ask God to pour out His love through you to others.

6. Time-Wasters. God is a Planner. From the creation of a world in seven days, including a rest zone, to a scheduled rapture, even a marriage supper of the Lamb projected thousands of years in advance…from these, it is easy to conclude that our Father is a Master in details, goal setting, priorities and order. Learn to avoid non-essentials and energy wasters. *Make your time count:* “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” (Ephesians 5:15-16). Chart your course hourly… daily…monthly. *Stay on target*. Schedule every small success… *literally*… time spent with God, others and yourself.

Those Who Are Unwilling To Lose, Rarely Do.

Circle today's date on your calendar. Declare that the happiest and most productive days of your life are beginning today! Never, never, *never quit.* You may be minutes from your miracle.

Get ready to enjoy the winning life.

Recommended Investments:

Wisdom for Winning (Book/B-01/228 pages/$10)

Enjoying the Winning Life (Book/B-08/32 pages/$3)

52

Zeal

Zeal Is Enthusiasm…Desire…Passion.

An ungodly man with passion and zeal can accomplish more than a Christian without passion or zeal.

5 Facts To Understanding Zeal

1. What You Love Is A Clue To Something You Are Assigned By God To Do. *Pay attention to what you love.* What do you love to learn about? What do you love to think about? What do you love to write about? What do you love to talk about? What you *love* is a clue to a *gift* you contain. Michael Jordan loves to talk about basketball. Tiger Woods loves to talk about golf. Evander Holyfield loves to talk about boxing. Benny Hinn loves to talk about healing. Billy Graham loves to talk about salvation and commitment to Christ. Zeal is a signpost to a gift you contain. Zeal is often a clue to a divine Assignment that you have received from the Lord.

2. Zeal Can Also Be Based On What You Hate. Terrorism is a very real threat. Men bond for different reasons. They *hate* the same things. They *love* the same things. *They have the same pain*. You will see a boy and a girl date who have had the same experience…"My wife left me." "Really? My husband left *me*." "I have a child that gives me problems." "Me, too. My child gives me problems." So, people sometimes come together because of mutual pain or mutual gain, mutual goals or mutual fears. *Zeal is based on desire and memory.* The memory replays the past.

I want to talk about zeal in a good format first and then tell how it can get off base because satan loves to pervert the flow of your passion and your zeal. God Himself instructed us to have zeal and be zealous toward the things that we love. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," (Ecclesiastes 9:10). "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men," (Proverbs 22:29).

3. God Wants Us To Have Zeal Toward Truth, His Word, The Wisdom Of God. "But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and to cleave unto Him,

and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul," (Joshua 22:5).

4. Zeal Is Contagious. One of the most phenomenal men in my life has been a friend of mine for 30 years. He is a precious man who pastors in Phoenix, Arizona, who, with his son, has a great work called "The Dream Center" in Los Angeles, California. These men are phenomenal men, precious men. *Their enthusiasm is contagious.* Late one Sunday night, he and I were eating a hamburger at a little drive-in place after I preached for him in Phoenix. He started telling me about his soul winning and the men who had come to Christ. He said, "Mike, this person…" and he began to go through testimonies of the lives that had been changed. I had been with him on the platform earlier and he had pointed out people in the congregation that had been transformed. He said, "That lady was involved in terrible sin, but no more. That man was on drugs, and he came to Jesus." He is a soul winner, and his zeal is contagious. He is a phenomenal man that you want to be around all the time…because of his zeal.

5. There Are Some Incredible People Of God Who Are Full Of Zeal For God, And That Is How You Know What Is In Their Heart. *What You Hear Determines What You Pursue.* What you pursue, reveals what you value most.

3 Threats To Zeal

There are some threats to zeal. You can be zealous without knowledge and create tragedy.

1. Zeal Without Respect For Protocol Will Cause Tragedies. Aggressiveness is admirable. Abraham though was too aggressive, and gave birth to Ishmael who became an enemy to Isaac. We are still trying to conquer those problems today.

2. Zeal Without Respect For Environment. Esther had zeal to save her people, but she embraced and respected the protocol of the palace and did not barge into the king's presence. If you have zeal, measure it with protocol. Remember Wisdom Key #68: *Every Environment Requires A Code Of Conduct For Entering Or Remaining In It.*

"He that hasteth with his feet sinneth," (Proverbs 19:2). One of my precious friends, Dr. Robb Thompson, pastors a wonderful church called *Family Harvest.* He and I were flying from Hong Kong to Manila, Philippines. I was anxious to get to my next destination. I was to preach that night in Manila for Dr. David Sumrall, a wonderful man of God in Manila. I was walking fast. *Got* to go. *Got* to go. We were almost missing the plane. He starts *sauntering* down the isle. I

said, “Dr. Thompson, we've got a service to preach tonight.” He said, “I never run anywhere.” I said, “Well, I *do*.” So, I grabbed my stuff, took off, ran down the hall. I looked back and he was just sauntering along. I tried to catch the plane before we left. I got there and I was huffing and puffing. We went through security, we got on the plane and he *still* got there on time. Of course, I was trying to brag on myself. I said, “The reason you made it, is because I held up the plane. That's why you made it.” As we were taking off, I looked around for my little black bag that I keep with me every where I go. It contained all my papers. It had my credit cards. It had everything…in that little black bag. I could not find my black bag. I had left it back at security. *I never did get that black bag back.* Hurrying can be deadly.

3. Zeal Without Planning Is Destructive. It is wonderful to have a zeal for God. It is wonderful to have a zeal for *what* is right. It is also important to *do* things right. I have made a lot of mistakes in my life because I got over zealous. I got ahead; there are some things you have to plan and do right. Zeal is a wonderful enthusiasm. Do not let anybody steal it from you. But, it *must be* tempered with Wisdom.

Nobody can steal your joy. Nobody can steal your zeal. Nobody can steal what God has put inside you. Ask God for a double portion of His Wisdom today.



Our Prayer Together…

“Father, thank You for the gift of zeal and enthusiasm and passion. Lord, we realize that our passion is a gift from You. I pray in the name of Jesus that nobody, from this day forward, will steal your joy. I pray that nobody will steal your passion. The enthusiasm God has given you for your Assignment will not be *diluted*, will not be *polluted* …will not be *destroyed*. Whatever God has put inside your heart, He will breathe new life into.

If you have just lost your enthusiasm…something has died inside you…. maybe through criticism…maybe through attack… you have just lost your desire, in the name of Jesus, I breathe a *new wind* in your life. In the name of Jesus, I ask God to stir you up…to keep you in the center of your Assignment. I pray that God will unclutter your relationships of anything or any person who has caused you to lose your enthusiasm. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DECISION

Will You Accept Jesus As Your Personal Savior

The Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved," (Romans 10:9).

Pray this prayer from your heart today!

"Dear Jesus, I believe that You died for me and rose again on the third day. I confess I am a sinner…I need Your love and forgiveness…Come into my heart. Forgive my sins. I receive Your eternal life. Confirm Your love by giving me peace, joy and supernatural love for others. Amen."

DR. MIKE MURDOCK is in tremendous demand as one of the most dynamic speakers in America today.

More than 16,000 audiences in 40 countries have attended his conferences and Schools of Wisdom. Hundreds of invitations come to him from churches, colleges and business corporations. He is a noted author of over 200 books, including the best sellers, *The Leadership Secrets of Jesus* and *Secrets of the Richest Man Who Ever Lived.* Thousands view his weekly television program, *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock.* Many attend his Schools of Wisdom that he hosts in many cities of America.

☐ Yes, Mike! I made a decision to accept Christ as my personal Savior today. Please send me my free gift of your book, *31 Keys to a New Beginning*, to help me with my new life in Christ.

NAME BIRTHDAY

ADDRESS

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Mail to: **The Wisdom Center** 4051 Denton Highway · Fort Worth, Texas 76117
1-817-759-BOOK · 1-817-759-0300

You Will Love Our Website…! www.WisdomOnline.com

DR. MIKE MURDOCK

1 Has embraced his Assignment to Pursue…Proclaim…and Publish the Wisdom of God to help people achieve their dreams and goals.

2 Preached his first public sermon at the age of 8.

3 Preached his first evangelistic crusade at the age of 15.

4 Began full-time evangelism at the age of 19, which has continued since 1966.

5 Has traveled and spoken to more than 16,000 audiences in 40 countries, including East and West Africa, the Orient, Europe and South America.

6 Noted author of over 200 books, including best sellers, *Wisdom for Winning*, *Dream Seeds*, *The Double Diamond Principle*, *The Law of Recognition* and *The Holy Spirit Handbook.*

7 Created the popular *Topical Bible* series for Businessmen, Mothers, Fathers, Teenagers; *The One-Minute Pocket Bible* series, and *The Uncommon Life* series.

8 The Creator of The Master 7 Mentorship System, an Achievement Program for Believers.

9 Has composed thousands of songs such as “I Am Blessed,” “You Can Make It,” “God Rides On Wings Of Love” and “Jesus, Just The Mention Of Your Name,” recorded by many gospel artists.

10 Is the Founder and Senior Pastor of The Wisdom Center, in Fort Worth, Texas…a Church with International Ministry around the world.

11 Host of *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock*, a weekly TV Program seen internationally.

12 Has appeared often on TBN, CBN, BET, Daystar, Inspirational Network, LeSea Broadcasting and other television network programs.

13 Has led over 3,000 to accept the call into full-time ministry.

THE MINISTRY

1 **Wisdom Books & Literature** - Over 200 best-selling Wisdom Books and 70 Teaching Tape Series.

2 **Church Crusades** - Multitudes are ministered to in crusades and seminars throughout America in "The Uncommon Wisdom Conferences." Known as a man who loves pastors, he has focused on church crusades for over 41 years.

3 **Music Ministry** - Millions have been blessed by the anointed songwriting and singing of Mike Murdock, who has made over 15 music albums and CDs available.

4 **Television** - *Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock*, a nationally-syndicated weekly television program.

5 **The Wisdom Center** - The Church and Ministry Offices where Dr. Murdock speaks weekly on Wisdom for The Uncommon Life.

6 **Schools of The Holy Spirit** - Mike Murdock hosts Schools of The Holy Spirit in many churches to mentor believers on the Person and Companionship of The Holy Spirit.

7 **Schools of Wisdom** - In many major cities Mike Murdock hosts Schools of Wisdom for those who want personalized and advanced training for achieving "The Uncommon Dream."

8 **Missions Outreach** - Dr. Mike Murdock's overseas outreaches to 40 countries have included crusades in East and West Africa, the Orient, Europe and South America.

JOIN THE

Wisdom Key 3000 TODAY!



Will You Become My Ministry Partner In The Work Of God?

Dear Friend,

God has connected us!

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