

Safe Journey - Leaving a Legacy of Leaders

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Thank you to my friend Barbara Fox for her diligent editing.

www.portacle.com

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to those readers, learners and entrepreneurs that generally may be under-appreciated, misunderstood and often taken advantage of.

I am grateful to my wife Cherie' who continuously teaches me that there's more to learn, more to explore and more love to give.

I also thank my children Tyler and Dustin who have sacrificed time with me so I can be on this journey. They are growing up way too fast.

I am especially grateful to all of those who have entrusted us by retaining us as clients. It is hard for me to tell who the real beneficiary in our relationship actually is. You are my teachers, I enjoy being your student. It is because of what you have taught me, that this book is now published and will help more people. Experience is the Master Teacher. It is with gratitude in my heart that I point to you the entrepreneur as my real heroes. You are the fearless leaders that I admire. Even in your frustration, you determine to flourish, and flourish you do.

There are many who have contributed to this great vision. I dedicate this work to the next generation. You are our hope.

Be Trustworthy and Loyal

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit
concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 11:13 KJV

A friend in business who achieved great success in his company helped me understand his success. He stated simply “loyalty begets loyalty”. This statement required some clarity, so in further prodding he explained to me that being loyal was an attribute that he intentionally ingrained in his business culture. He said, *"If you want loyalty you must first demonstrate loyalty."*

I find it interesting, when a business owner complains about either not having good employees, or not being able to find or retain good employees.

Employee issues are a direct reflection of that owner, and that owner is responsible for cultivating excellent employee skills.

The single most important thing that my friend taught me was the value of people and especially the responsibility to be loyal first. Loyalty is modeled, the harvest of loyal employees is a result.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Find someone you trust and discuss the loyalty principle and ask them how it could change the culture of an enterprise.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Branding the Real Thing!

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

*Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Amen.*

Galatians 6:17-18 NJV

Coca-Cola comes to mind when I think of branding. During my research I noticed where Coca-Cola simplified their image. To *simplify* was their goal as they repackaged and rolled out their “fresh new brand”.

The scripture above expresses the brand "Jesus Christ". The brand is original, authentic, sincere, honest and integral.

The real thing is Jesus Christ crucified. Often, in business, we do not associate that to the significance of being a steward and many times do not reflect that image to our hurt.

We look at competition in fear, which is clearly dealt with in the scripture above, "from now on let no one trouble me..." then it goes on to explain why you should not fear your competitors, peers, or those you serve. We who are followers of Jesus Christ are crucified with him and, as a result, we take on the real identity in our lives that matters on an eternal level. Finally, the scripture commands us to have the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with our spirit. That my friend is His Gift of the Holy Spirit that we would make decisions based on His brand... the Real Thing! No other name.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Find two or three people who are interested in the growth of your company and ask them for input as it relates to this devotional. Can we walk out of integrity? What are some of the characteristics of Christ that you admire?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Plan for your Succession NOW!

“Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead”.

Mathew 17:9

Jesus just took his most trusted people to the top of a mountain to simply reveal who he was to them. He took Peter, James, and John his brother by themselves.

Once on top of that mountain it became obvious to those who were invited to that meeting that Jesus was truly the Messiah. He simply was the successor to the throne.

God had chosen many people to lead and among the great were Moses and Elijah, who were invited to that meeting. It was a meeting where the natural men met the heavenly realm and were introduced to some of the great leaders who had walked in disciplines and prophets. They were there to encourage Jesus to fulfill his destiny. All of heaven's authority was needed to encourage his walk to Calvary. That moment was what I would call the greatest strategic meetings God has ever shown us. It was a succession plan in real time.

Every leader must consider that succession is a stewardship and when it is done in excellence becomes holy. Jesus left twelve behind to carry out His work. He invested in those twelve, yet he had a core of only three that He gave access to the great.

“In the midst of all this, God revealed “This is my son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.”

Mathew 17:5 KJV

Finally, and most importantly have a CORE group of trusted colleagues that you trust when making life and death decisions. Jesus did, and his example for leadership is to be modeled.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Take time to consider who your three most trusted people are. Pray for these people and give some thought to how you will engineer a future so that your legacy is carried out with excellence.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Preparing for a successor- the Danger of avoidance.

“During his lifetime, Absalom had built a monument to himself in the King's Valley, for he had said, "I have no son to carry on my name." He named the monument after himself, and it is known as Absalom's Monument to this day.

Then Zadok's son Ahimaaz said, "Let me run to the king with the good news that the LORD has saved him from his enemy Absalom."

"No," Joab told him, "it wouldn't be good news to the king that his son is dead."

2 Samuel 18:18-20 NLT

Succession is a matter of transferring the authority that you have been given to the next generation safely. No one can argue that King David made many mistakes as a father. I believe that there is an innate hope in every man's heart for his son to do better, be better and have a more excellent life. It is hard for a man to admit failures and even harder to see a son live out those failures that you may have modeled for them. A father's heart it to protect his son, and see him do better.

Tragically Absalom, King David's son was killed because of his arrogance due to lack of preparation, discipline and his desire to inherit authority before its appointed time. Power prior to maturity is unsafe.

Are you prepared for a succession? Do you have a successor in mind? Are they ready?

APPLY THIS TODAY

Write down some of your own thoughts about your life. Do you make mistakes that affect others? How well have you planned for someone else to step up into your position? Do you see the value of preparing a succession and exit strategy to protect those you love?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Is your work Ordained, or ordinary?

"What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes — from their own sons or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours." "

Matthew 17:25-27 NIV

Jesus was exempt from taxes because he is the son of God who owns everything. Imagine you earn a thousand dollars then you take the cash and place it from your left hand then shift it to your right hand. The money only physically moved, but it was still in the hand of the one who earned it. My point here is that our Lord has a tax plan. His plan is not avoidance, but submission. He does not worry or complain. The coin being in the fishes' mouth simply was an irony. Jesus knew where his provision was. The fish represents those who need to follow Christ, opening the mouth may be symbolic of what happens when we become Christian and speak His word, simply we have the golden truth that breaks bondage and frees us and others to excellence.

It is likely that that if we were to open our mouth, God would fill it with Golden speech and equip us in a manor that paying taxes would simply be a matter of not offending those in bondage to tax burdens. When you make money, there can even be a joy of paying tax because that is proof that you are doing well.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How do you view taxes? Do you get nervous and fearful or do you enter into joy and excitement when it comes to paying taxes? Are you trying to avoid taxes or do you have a tax plan that takes advantage of the tax code? Develop a few steps that you will be taking to ensure that you have a plan.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

God shows Jesus His Work – Holy Spirit Communicates.

“In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

Genesis 1:1-2 KJV

God exemplified how we should work in these two passages. I would imagine it was with great Joy and excitement God created something good. We see here how God was not independent, doing his own thing. He had the counselor with him (Holy Spirit) as he did His work. Jesus was with him also as clearly stated, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” **John 1:1 KJV**

Here we see a picture of God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus together working. It was harmonious and effective work that produced every thing you would need to be sustained and enter into the holy act of work as well.

So much emphasis is made by the go green movement of today, yet its origin is dated back to God’s creation. God loved the earth and gave it to us as a resource that when used intelligently produces excellent ends.

Scripture says, “*The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*” This would indicate that we need the Holy Spirit to move on our work as well. Are you convicted that the Holy Spirit is involved with the work you set your hand to do?

APPLY THIS TODAY

Consider your work. Does it glorify God? Is your work lined up with God's word and making an eternal difference? List eight ways that the Holy Spirit is involved in the work you set your hand to do. Pray and invite the counselor (Holy Spirit), your creator (God), and your deliverer (Jesus) to show you how you can improve your business in a way that serves eternity.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Rest is Ordained – Do you rest?

"These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do: Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

Exodus 35 1-3 NKJV

One of the great challenges is to take time and rest. We tend to get on a path where rest is not considered and because of that we are less effective because our bodies and brains for that matter, need time to rest and process.

Today's culture is so fast paced that even going to church can be a real test of our obedience to rest on the Sabbath.

In the scripture God says we are not to kindle the fire in our own home on the Sabbath. While I realize that we do not normally heat our homes with fire today, let me examine my own routine this last week to see that I met God's regulation.

The water heater was broken, I went to the home supply center purchased and installed a new heater core on the Sabbath. My point is that we get busy; we get involved in our daily routines and fall short of God's plan for us to rest. This causes overload, overcapacity and ultimately low productivity.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How have you been measuring up to God's command that we take time and rest? To rest means to spend time with the Lord and meditate in his word as well as to physically rest. Why do you suppose God desires that we take that time? Do you believe your personal effectiveness would increase or decrease if you took time to rest? If you have employees, do you give them time to rest? Take an hour today and shut your office door, disconnect your phone line and open your bible to Proverbs and ask the Lord to speak to you as you rest in His word. Decide one area that you are wanting to improve and ask God to help you in that area.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Overloaded? Focus determines futures. Are you focused eternally?

"Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever.

"Watch out! Don't let me find you living in careless ease and drunkenness, and filled with the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, as in a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep a constant watch. And pray that, if possible, you may escape these horrors and stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21 33-36 NLT

Overload is a real concern. Life has a way of encouraging us to be busy.

I think of a business owner who every time I meet him he says, "I'm Busy!" I have to agree he is busy, too busy working to make a difference. His life is a wreck. His kids have no idea who this man is. When they call, he gives them the same response, "I'm Busy!"

He is so busy working, that he has no time for living a life that reflects love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, joyfulness, faithfulness and/or self-control. He is simply in bondage to his business and unbalanced.

Jesus warns against such a life and that we should pray to escape those trappings so we will stand before Him in Heaven.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Can you relate to times where you developed a too busy attitude? Do you see how business can consume you? What specific steps can you take to ensure you take time to ensure that you are not in bondage to your business?

Carve out a specific time today where you pray as instructed by Christ. Escape the horrors of complacency, apathy, pride and other sin so that you can confidently stand at the Judgment seat of Christ and hear well done.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Be an encourager and trust God.

"I will give thee thanks with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praises unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and give thanks unto thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

In the day that I called thou answeredst me, Thou didst encourage me with strength in my soul."

Psalms 138 1-3 ASV

Attitude is a process. When we are focused on giving God thanks our day improves. What I mean is that we can either focus on the great and wonderful gift God has already provided, or we can focus on lack.

The amazing thing is that in this scripture God immediately answered and encourages us with the strength of our Lord. Wow, imagine receiving strength from on High to accomplish the impossible. That is precisely what God's promises. He is a man of commitment who fulfills His promise. We are to boldly approach to the throne and receive grace, mercy and prosperity. When we approach in gratitude and believe by faith we receive great and wonderful gifts. The Holy Spirit, the Helper is always present with us to help, correct and move us toward a direction of excellence. Be an encourager today in response to God's overwhelming love!

APPLY THIS TODAY

Live today for what you can contribute to other peoples lives in response to God. God ordained your work to be a pleasure and to be an extension of heaven. Find someone to intentionally encourage, and let the Lord strengthen them as a result of your relationship with Christ!

Take just today and give with a pure heart, expect a miracle.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Secret to Being Effective

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

John 15 1-4 NIV

Many business plans do not incorporate "Christ" into the equation. This flaw is often justified by complaining about the market or other factors that prohibit linking up with something much bigger. Heaven is much larger than anyones problems. He gives us provision from the third heaven.

While it is possible to grow a business to some extent without considerations of greater things, it is unlikely they will sustain. Faint not in your participation in the Great Commission and trust that the Lord is watching and He will cut off your competitions efforts to rob and steal your market share. It is a scriptural thing that God has a written plan (His Word) that never fails. Consider that those not operating in integrity are building your future market.

God's plan is to be applied; Jesus did what he saw His father doing. Don't you think you should also?

APPLY THIS TODAY

Read the scripture in this devotional several times during the course of today and ask God to speak to you through it as it relates to your particular situation. Record some of His thoughts toward you and that situation. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and direct your decisions as you determine to operate your business God's way.

Remember God will do the work in you, you just need to trust Him.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Does your incentive program drive profits, or waste resources?

There are two things never satisfied, like a leech forever craving more: no, three things! no, four! Hell, the barren womb, a barren desert, fire.

Proverbs 30:15 TLB

What do you want? This is quite a powerful question when it comes to considering incentives that drive profits. Many business owners struggle with this subject because on one hand increased productivity and an excellent work environment is desired, on the other hand doing work to accomplish that desire is resisted. What I want, what I am willing to do, and actually doing the work is necessary if you are going to be congruent.

Incentives that drive profits need to be consistent and serve the long view of an entity.

Simply by providing a fiscal reward with out the behavior modifications is a waste, the key is to change the behaviors in order to establish the mission.

An incentive program that works can be installed; it is much more strategic and effective when the object of the individual employee is a concern for those being served. This means that time must be taken to understand the priorities of the employee, the business, and those served. This will help to establish a healthy culture.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you have an incentive program that is working? How effective is your incentive program? Can you observe measurable improvement in your employee performance and morale? Pray about your incentive program that the Lord would give you insight so that you are not simply giving your resources to a leech. Are the resources you allocate being used to grow a healthy company or is it just another form of payroll? How do you win with the incentive program? How is the person being rewarded winning with the incentive program? How is the community being rewarded with the incentive program?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Partnership Issues?

*Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life;
He swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing.*

Proverbs 29:24 NKJV

What does it mean to have a partner? First and foremost partnership is always an area that must be clearly detailed. The most obvious partnership is a marital partnership. My wife explained that if you are thinking of having a partner, a good test is to think of it as a marriage. Unless you would marry the person they most likely would not be a good fit.

Scripture has a lot to say about partnership, perhaps the most convicting is found in Corinthians.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV

In my own life there was a time that God reminded me that I was violating scripture. My partner was not interested in the things of God, and mocked my belief. I was clearly unequally yoked.

This violation of scripture was convicting. The Holy Spirit reminded me of the violation, so I sold my interest in that company.

APPLY THIS TODAY

What can you learn from my mistake that might have a future impact on your partnership? When you recognize your error do you exit? Have you taken time to consider how your exit will affect your partner? If you do not have a partner; what do you need to consider when choosing one?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Marketing God's way!

Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything which he possessed was [exclusively] his own, but everything they had was in common and for the use of all.

And with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.

Nor was there a destitute or needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses proceeded to sell them, and one by one they brought (gave back) the amount received from the sales

And laid it at the feet of the apostles (special messengers). Then distribution was made according as anyone had need.

Acts 4 32-35 AMP

God has a clear plan for us to emulate when it comes to marketing. It requires commitment focus and clear understanding that the purpose that God has is far greater than our own purpose. The point is when you clarify your purpose and allow others to contribute you enter into God's Marketing strategy.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How is your company contributing to the fulfillment of God's plan on this earth? Do you sense that your partnerships are considering the eternal? Would you sell everything you have if it meant participating in God's plan? Define your why.

Find two or three people who are interested in the growth of your company and ask them for input as it relates to this devotional, and ask them if they think that marketing God's way has any merit.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Insight to Wisdom & Understanding.

“He knows where wisdom is and declares it to all who will listen. He established it and examined it thoroughly. And this is what he says to all mankind: 'Look, to fear the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding.'”

Job 28 27-28 TLB

“Don't be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil; when you do that, then you will be given renewed health and vitality. ”

Proverbs 3:7 TLB

“For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. "I, Wisdom, will make the hours of your day more profitable and the years of your life more fruitful." Wisdom is its own reward, and if you scorn her, you hurt only yourself. ”

Proverbs 9 10-12 TLB

In studying and searching scripture I have learned that to simply believe God. Jesus promised the helper and when we engage with the helper, we are applying wisdom to our situation. The Holy Spirit of God is simply Wisdom that leads us to all truth.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How long has it been since you consulted with the Holy Spirit and sought direction in your business decisions? Do you consider only the profit that you might make or do you consider the results of each decision as it relates to Kingdom growth? Take time to pray and ask God to reveal himself to you in your decisions to run business.

Read the scripture references and write down as the Lord leads you some insights that you can apply to your business and life.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Promotion comes through the Lord.

Wisdom is the principal thing;

Therefore get wisdom.

And in all your getting, get understanding.

Exalt her, and she will promote you;

She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

Proverbs 14 7-8 NKJV

Applied learning is where promotion comes from. God makes it clear that we are to be students, particularly of His word. Pursuit is when God activates promotion. It is in the pursuit of God and His truth that we enter Joy and can celebrate future promotions.

The key that unlocks all scripture can be found in this one verse. When you release everything that is not of God and pursue wisdom you become an asset to others. Become an expert at what ever position you are given, and you will find swift promotion as God promises.

God says we must exalt her (Wisdom), which means to apply the wisdom to our situation and He promises the desires of our hearts. It is exciting, and bold to take God at His word.

Every person has something in their possession or gifting that they may be holding on to , too tightly. This gift is designed to cause increase and promotion. We are to give that thing we prize in exchange for more wisdom so that God can activate His hand in our life, and the lives of others. God is a giver, and when we give up what we think is ours he gives up that which is His. His Generosity shows up in abundance.

We are to cast down pride and arrogance as it relates to accomplishments and give God Glory as we enter into His Glorious Provision. The physical possessions He entrusts into our care are merely seed to a greater future. We are stewards rather than owners. Can you identify exactly what might be holding you from greater provision?

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you believe God wants to promote you? Are you willing to submit to His will and direction in order to receive your promotion? What are you currently doing to gain insight into your future? How is your wisdom being increased? Who are your mentors? How effective are you at gaining wisdom? What can you do to increase your wisdom today? How are you holding on and applying the Wisdom you have gained? What are you holding on to, that if released might cause you to prosper?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Know Truth, and Apply Truth.

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:4 KJV

God is clear in this scripture regarding the value of truth. Truth is the one thing we can stand on that will set us free to be fully empowered. We have been promised "all truth", as we navigate with our friend the Holy Spirit, we end up in bliss.

This scripture came alive for me during a negotiation to try to help a business that was in deep decline. The owner agreed to have our company help him discover the areas of the business that were causing decline.

I had spoken with the owners' son who agreed that this work needed to be done, and hired me.

When I arrived the father tried to convince me that the son did not have the authority to make that decision. Conflict ensued. A lie existed that prevented growth. I watched and listened as they concluded that they indeed needed help with structure and communication.

The paralysis that was identified helped them both to advance.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you ever experienced a time that you were judged by others when your intention was only to improve their life? Have you been misunderstood? Do you believe that God can justify you in the things you do? Where is your source for truth and how does that truth apply to enable you to overcome the lies that often are planted as obstacles in your future?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Trust God obey Authority.

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:1 NIV

God has placed authority over us for our protection, and for the protection of others.

When we consider authority we often think of the president or the law officer. We are required to follow the president and those in legal authority. Authority presumes integrity, out of integrity, it is not true authority. If you are faithful in the little things, God will make you ruler over much. Being faithful, precedes authority, and authority is not positional, rather it is a result of consistent application of character.

Examine whether you are taking life seriously. For instance do you honor the signs posted at businesses you frequent. What I mean is when you see a handicapped parking space, do you take up residence? Do you cross the double yellow line when someone is going too slowly? When you pick up a product and later decide not to buy it do you return it to where you found it, or leave it someplace else and expect the store clerk to get it back to it's rightful position?

Authority comes from God, and obedience to His word.

If we can't lead by example in following the simple expectations of our community how are we representing the Lord? How can we expect others to follow us to Christ?

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you respect the simple signage posted in business establishments? Do you stop to pick up a piece of paper or just walk around it? Where do you leave your grocery cart? You are representing the King of Kings; the Lord of Lords, He sees your every effort and loves your high standard of integrity.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

No Regrets

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it — I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7 8-10 NIV

Apostle Paul wrote a strong letter to the Corinthians that was intended to cause correction. The design of the letter was simply that they should not use God, but be used by God.

True correction is followed by genuine repentance something demonstrated with a sincere heart and has Godly sorrow for the sin act.

Perhaps one of the most obvious sins we see is where David slept with a married woman and had her husband killed to cover up his sin. He later recognized his sin, repented and God said he was a man after his own heart.

There is a significant difference in being used by God opposed to using God. In our region we have a book called "The Christian Blue Pages" supposedly every person who is in that book is a Christian and therefore one would assume if you hire them they will come to your home with a white robe and serve your every need generously. It is risky to claim that you are a "Christian" business, especially if the fruit of your work is contrary to scripture, it might be good to evaluate how you and your company presents itself before making such claims. It may be better to live it out, than to advertise with a fish on your car.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you have a fish symbol on the back of your car? Do you advertize that you are a Christian in hopes it will gain market share? Do you try to use God for leverage, or are you applying scripture to your situation and Giving Glory to Him?

Find someone that knows you well, and ask them how you represent Christ in the market place. Do you have areas in your life you need to have genuine sorrow and ultimately repent for? Take time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas in your life where you might have sin, then confess it to the Lord in Godly Sorrow, renounce the sin and repent.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Credibility is a Leader's currency.

*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*

Proverbs 15:28 NKJV

Have you ever experienced that sales person who smelled like a sales person and talked himself out of the sale with fake humor and non stop talking?

If you are anything like me you probably hate being sold anything, but you may have a desire to buy.

It is easy today to go home after a long day at work, sit down on the couch and let the television program your intelligence. What I mean is that we may be tired and allow complacency to rule our evening. Permitting complacency can be quite costly because it consumes our life and depending on our choices the programming can make us dull. If we are to remain sharp and valuable to others we have to choose our learning material and remain in a healthy culture. What we permit in our lives may increase or decrease our value.

Credibility is the Leader's currency; with out credibility you are worth less. In the scripture above we are given insight into how we should answer questions with credibility. We who are students of God's word must study to show ourselves approved. We are to learn to be slow to answer and that our answers must come with biblical support.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are you slow to answer or do you let the answers roll off your tongue indiscriminately? How much time do you set aside intentionally to study so that you remain sharp in your industry? Take 30 minutes today and read a book that you once purchased to improve your market position and decide to make that a regular habit so that you remain sharp. Now repeat this action for at least 5 days a week. On the weekend read about another interest. Read every day.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Equipped for Business.

Knowing what is right is like deep water in the heart. A wise person draws from the well.

Proverbs 20:5 MSG

As Christians when we make God's wisdom, His Word, our goal, we are destined for success.

God explains in the bible that He has written His Word on our heart; therefore in our business encounters we can walk in a level of confidence, knowing he can use us to influence others toward successful outcomes.

I can remember as an adult Christian complaining to my mentor that I did not have much of the Word memorized. She encouraged me that I knew more of the Bible than I thought. It is the knowing part I was unsure of. I have learned that because God has made a deposit of truth on my heart I have been gifted the ability to discern and make choices that Glorify Him.

I have learned since that God is always faithful to give me the right word at the right time as I remain still and listened to Him.

What is exciting to remember is that God installs a moral compass in each of us so that our direction ultimately is heaven, our passion. All he expects is that we compassion and follow His lead.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you make an attempt to read the Bible daily? Maybe you feel like if you do not spend an hour an a half its just not worth it. Actually in just 15-20 minutes of reading quality not quantity you can really grow. You will find God meeting you with provision for such a time as this-business opportunity. Intentionally slow down and turn the wheel back over to God. He is a much better driver who knows the end from the beginning. Who better to be in touch with?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Who is the Greatest Business Leader?

In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Matthew 18:1 ASV

I can imagine a group of employees working in a competitive environment having a regular conversation around the water fountain jesting with each other about who is the greatest employee in the company. Finding no real resolve they all decide to schedule an appointment with the department head and make the inquiry to try to resolve the matter.

They go into the meeting, each quite confident in their own skill sets, prepared to make a case for themselves. They ask, “Who is the greatest employee?”

At first the question makes the department head nervous because internally he knows that the answer may produce unhealthy conflict. Given the question and being wise he looks around and sees a woman with a young child. He exits the meeting and asks permission to bring the child into the meeting as a means to clarify the issue.

He asks the kid to sit at his desk and tells him that he was promoted to department head. The young lad sits there with a huge smile on his face, excited about his promotion.

The department head explains that the greatest is this young child who had the faith he could sit in the elevated position. It was as a result of his faith and humility that he was promoted quickly.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you ever been placed in an uncomfortable situation and had no real answer to offer? Can you see a situation like this happening where you work? God has a scriptural solution to every problem, can you relate? Do you see that being humble is the secret to promotion? Think of some circumstances where you have experienced a similar situation and how you handled it and record it below.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

A wise Heart.

***Grow a wise heart- you'll do yourself a favor; Keep a clear head.
You'll find a good life.***

Proverbs 19:9 MSG

Daily time in God's Word is a necessity, likened to oxygen.

The Bible is no ordinary book, it is the living Word of God. That is why we regularly come across scripture that we don't remember seeing before. The word of God when applied to your situation often produces an epiphany break through. That is because it is Spirit Breathed; the Holy Spirit illuminates the word for us.

In the many business challenges you will encounter, having guidance from God's word affords you the competitive advantages. This scripture speaks about having a clear head, which is a key to provision. When we acknowledge Him in our business we enter into a stride where He can show off through us and our business grows with supernatural aid.

As believers we need to do our part to study, our diligence helps us to grow and become wise business leaders.

Our heart will grow wise and our head will be clear because we can walk in the confidence of Christ. We do not have to succumb to fear either. We only need to remember the everything/nothing concept of Christ. I am nothing, my best is filthy rags, but Christ is everything. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Remember that everyday you wake up God has a purpose for you. Dig into God's Word expectantly! Ask God to show you what you need to learn to take into your day. God will show up and do exceedingly abundantly more than you could ever hope or imagine. Use this devotional in tandem with your daily bible reading. Write down the epiphany moments and apply them to your business.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Know the beginning and the End.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2 NKJV

Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. God gives us insight as we learn from him and are able to know the beginning and the end. Having genuine confidence we rely on the fact that we know what is true and understand what the end looks like.

God's word expressed in the Book of Revelation states the end simply, ending with an invitation and testifying to our hearts.

And the Spirit and the bride says, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

A Warning

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

I Am Coming Quickly

Revelation 22:17-21 NKJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

We talk about business ethics, we talk about integrity yet in the hidden times where no one is looking do you have areas that need correction? Are there areas that would prohibit you from entering into the Kingdom of God that perhaps are sin that has not been repented from, or confessed? Having a personal relationship with Christ means knowing in your heart that He knows those areas, but His request is that you quickly confess your sin and repent so that you can walk in the inheritance. Many are in bondage to their sin. Are you in bondage or have you taken your shortcomings to the Lord and asked for his deliverance so that you can walk in confidence? Do you believe the enemy of your soul has been defeated or do you blame him for your actions? Do you take responsibility for the business God has given you stewardship responsibilities to perform with excellence?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Passion, Trust & Character

Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psalms 5:8 KJV

"Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything there is to know about the Almighty? Such knowledge is higher than the heavens — but who are you? It is deeper than the underworld — what can you know in comparison to him?"

Job 11:7-9 NLT

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

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9 KJV

PASSION, TRUST & CHARACTER are virtues of our company, Portacle™. Virtues describe attributes that drive performance and set standards of continuous improvement designed to move toward excellence.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you adopted virtues that shape your personal and professional life? Do they provoke change or have methods that challenge growth?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Talk less, Listen to wise Counsel More.

In a multitude of words transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent.

Proverbs 10:19 AMP

Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 10:19 AMP

What are you hoping to gain? In life, purpose is so important. In order to really live an abundant and fulfilled life in Christ means that you have learned to leverage time and other resources. Something about God and his instructions help us to advance time when we consider His truth. Both of the above scriptures use the word multitude in different ways.

Jesus looked at the multitudes of people just prior to preaching the Sermon on the Mount. Significance can be gained when we gain insight from others in reference to life.

Jesus said, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3 NASU

The poor in spirit can be translated as blessed. These are the repentant which are people who are ready to give themselves to the teachings of Christ and/or are those with a teachable (humble) spirit.

Your challenge is to obtain wise counsel when operating your affairs. Wise counsel will protect you and guide you toward Christ (Excellence) and give you a real purpose that is not wasted (eternal).

APPLY THIS TODAY

Just for today, talk less-hear more. Call a mentor and ask him to speak into your life, give you areas where you are challenged to do better, be more and develop a heart to hear. Search for great counsel, weigh counsel against God's word then take action to correct and improve. Finally communicate some goals below of how you will be more effective, speaking less and obtaining counsel more.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Associate well.

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Proverbs 22:29 KJV

Those who are diligent in their work can best be described as performing with intense concentration. Being diligent means you have a definite focus and are concentrated to perform with exceptional efforts and committed to set standards of excellence.

If that is you then, you are not a person who negotiates mediocre primary relationships. You do not settle for what life throws at you, rather you live out of passion to excel. You understand that relationships have an effect both positive and negative. You therefore are only willing to invest in kings. You associate with those proven to perform at higher levels and lead out of a track record. You focus your associations with those who cause increase in your life, because this is how you will increase others. You simply stand in the presence of high achievers, this is what keeps you sharp. You work along side the elect, the ones called to manage kingdoms and those who have success in managing and freeing the multitudes.

The greatest contributions you leave in the wake of your leadership are other great leaders. When you walk in excellence you can expect to be a magnet to other leaders who have excellent spirits as well.

You recognize the value of time and are committed to greatness.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you purpose to be in relationship with the greatest people, or do you settle for living with mediocre? Define some people of influence that you wish to associate with and then determine the steps you might need to take in an effort to attract them into your life. Write down your thoughts. Do you see God's promise and can you own that promise in your life? If you believe that you can - how are you going to apply the promise?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

What it takes to leave a Legacy.

The wise shall inherit glory,

But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

Proverbs 3:35 NKJV

Perhaps the most obvious legacy that has been left to us is Christ, with Him we have been given eternity. God gave us his son because he wanted to have a family, and now Jesus wants a bride.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB

To be effective and leave a legacy or leaders it will require discipline, vision and focus. These three essentials are needed if you are to enter your harvest and that harvest is to produce. The bible says obedience is greater than sacrifice and when we are obedient to the Holy Spirit and obey God's word we leave a legacy that has an aroma that contains the attributes of the Holy Spirit found in the book of Galatians.

When our vision and mission are scheduled to line up with the eternal plan found in the bible we enter into a spirit of love and joy. We receive the gift of peace where others are worried. We gain patience in situations that could destroy most businesses or ministries. We offer kindness that cultivates returning and promoting people who through word of mouth expand our influence. We demonstrate goodness, have a spirit of gentleness and obtain the gift of self-control. All this with no restrictions because we are operating in the gifts that God gave us to govern our life. It is this kind of balance that allows us to enter into a stride of excellence that produces a legacy of leaders who will influence generations.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Jesus said he did what he saw his father doing; evidently leaving a legacy is important to God. Do you consider regularly what your legacy means in terms of eternity? Write down some things you would want future generations to know from and about you. Perhaps the best way is to write your own eulogy. It is critical here to take time to write down your vision, mission statement and life purpose statement as clearly as possible. This process helps to create instant understanding for others and gives future generations guidance in their future.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

What is the condition of your Ministry or Business?

*I passed by the field of the sluggard,
And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense;
And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles,
Its surface was covered with nettles,
And its stone wall was broken down.
When I saw, I reflected upon it;
I looked, and received instruction.
"A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest,"
Then your poverty will come as a robber,
And your want like an armed man.*

Proverbs 24:30-34 NASB

Excellence is not a matter of maintenance but a matter of improvement. Study the scripture above and consider your life. God raising the bar and is informing you, specifically that he does not intend your life to be mediocre.

When you enter your office, home or ministry do you see excellence? If not, do you see a huge facility that you are trying to maintain with little to no enthusiasm of others? If things are not advancing, it might be a signal to obtain counsel and gain credible influence so that you can improve and be more excellent. Business and ministry must never stagnate, they simply must grow.

APPLY THIS TODAY

What do you think? What are you doing? Where are your Solutions coming from? Who are you leading? Who or what is leading your decisions?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Bad Connection?

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them or come under a different yoke with them, inconsistent with your faith]. For what partnership have right living and right standing with God with iniquity and lawlessness? Or how can light have fellowship with darkness?

What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial [the devil]? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 AMP

Being unequally yoked is a major problem experienced in business today. God is quite specific about associations.

A partnership that is truly blessed comes because each person is in agreement with truth. When two people agree to be in a relationship that relationship becomes either beneficial or unsatisfactory based on the agreements and beliefs of each person.

My wife and I spend time studying the bible together, which enhances our relationship. God deposits richly into our life, so we can deposit in each other and others.

Harmony occurs as a result of our agreement, disharmony happens because of opposing beliefs that are left unsettled.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are the people you partner with Christ followers? Can you see fruit of the Word in their life? Is Christ a priority in their life? Are there any relationships you need to eliminate? Study the following scripture as it relates to other relationships you should not have.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

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 5:1-7 KJV

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Attitude and Intelligent Speech.

PRAISE THE Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God, for He is gracious and lovely; praise is becoming and appropriate.

Psalms 147:1 AMP

Two things make a huge difference in ministry and business. Praise God! When we praise God in our circumstances we are acknowledging his excellence.

Often I come to a business or ministry and hear a complaint like the economy is the problem with the business, or that donors are not providing funding like they used to. Either comment is a lack of faith in the provision of God. When we see God as our source we don't make silly comments that have a negative end result. Comments like that only produce negative behavior and low productivity. Everyone wants to be associated with a winning team. Your speech will either advance you in the direction of victory or keep you from it. Words have the power of confession, both negative and positive.

We are wise to Praise God in our victories and in our defeats. When we have little provision we should praise Him. He wants us to trust Him and believe He can provide in our life. When we complain we are simply echoing a voice of unbelief that continues to ripple and its effect may ultimately lead to failure. Alternately we can confess faith, and trust the Lord as he provides richly in our life.

Change your speech and to whom you speak and God will increase your life. The bible says "Speak not in the ears of a [self-confident] fool, for he will despise the [godly] Wisdom of your words."

Proverbs 23:9 AMP

Leverage your time with Good attitude and excellent speech and faith in your future. Live as if your success already happened and God will advance you as your trust builds.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you believe your speech and attitude toward God has an impact on your ministry or business? How can you change the way you speak and act in situations that perhaps are not exactly the way you would want them to be? Evaluate times when you were complaining about a spouse, a business, a church, or a ministry in a negative tone. Do you think your negative belief is how God sees it? How does God evaluate others? Do you evaluate a condition based on what God says or do you let the media, gossip or other influencers steal what God has empowered?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Buyer Beware

There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV

This scripture promotes unity, which I believe we need especially for such a time as this. But... Buyer Beware!

Lately I have met some very nice people who spoke words common to the faith and belief of Jesus Christ. As a Christian I wanted to engage, excited to share something in common. I love to spend time with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ because I know who they know, we serve the one true living God! Buyer Beware! Satan was kicked out of heaven because of pride - he wanted the things of God's Kingdom and God's glory. He is simply a counterfeiter who has learned to deceive even the elect in the body. Many occults and false religions have like characteristics of Christianity. The Bible says the appearance of Godliness will be present in end times but denying the power of the one true living God. The Bible also cautions us believers not to judge a man; however God is very specific when he describes the Fruit of the Spirit which is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. He requires us to check other professing believers Fruit! I would caution you next time someone starts talking "church", don't assume that they are talking about the same church or the same Word or the same God. Take your time, check their fruit then decide if the playing field is level and if you will open your spirit up to what they are serving.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Revisit all the current relationships you are involved in and measure them against the fruit of the Spirit. These relationships might be at work, people from the gym or your child's school. Do you feel familiar enough with what these people believe to know with certainty that you will see them in heaven one day? The Bible says be in the world not of it, specifically we are to associate with believers. You can probably go to lunch with an unbeliever every day and still have a relationship with God; however it may be that person influences you more than you know. The question is; does this relationship encourage you in your walk with God or is it pointing to the things this world has to offer? You know the saying, "If you are not moving forward you are falling behind." I encourage you to check the fruit of those around you and aspire to be in relationships that draw you nearer to the one true Living God! Who knows maybe that is the one move your unbelieving friend needs to see in effort to persuade them to make a decision for an eternity in heaven!

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

When agreement fails to perform.

Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:19-20 NRSV

It is not uncommon for people to read the above scripture and get excited about what they might believe it means. At first glance appears that if we find someone else who agrees with us on a matter the end result is God (The Magician) gives us that which we agree on regardless.

Not so. God is not mocked so neither should we as believers be mocked.

This issue is clear according to Scripture:

And Jehovah, the God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling-place:

but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of Jehovah arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

2 Chronicles 36:15-16 ASV

God is watching over His Word to perform it, and He is selecting the Humble to be a part of this end time harvest of souls to His Kingdom.

The key is when you agree, make sure the other person is a sincere Christian and that the agreement lines up with God's Word.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Is your view of God a Magician? Santa Clause? Easter Bunny perhaps? Do you believe only what you want to believe about God and avoid reality? What is the truth that you know?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

God is Generous and sovereign.

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,

***"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."***

It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Romans 9:14-17 NIV

Generous God...Sovereign God. It is challenging to understand God is generous yet deals with our sin. The key insight that releases us to His Generosity is Repentance and Gratitude for His Mercy at the Cross.

Grace gives us the ability to not sin, a powerful reality when it is applied to situations. Mercy advances us to our potentials.

Job is an example in the bible that God demonstrated His sovereign hand to show us that even though obedient, Job suffered. We all have suffered in some way; the measure of our suffering may not be to the extent of Job, yet we go through things. God knew that even though Job would suffer, Job would not renounce God. His reward was a double portion.

APPLY THIS TODAY

When it comes to suffering should our attitude be, "we deserve all that we suffer, and more than we have yet endured. God is sovereign; and He is right. What is the purpose of our suffering? When you have a business reversal or loose something of great value, how do you react? Do you see what you have as yours or is it truly God's? Do you see God's Generosity in Job's life when He allows the enemy to strip him of everything precious to Him, then God ultimately restores him? Have you ever lost something of perceived value? In times where you loose do you look to God and believe He will restore?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Marketing Plan – Trust God

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5 NASU

Marketing God's way requires us to perform with excellence and we are to produce fruit worthy of eternity.

Often we contact the Lord when we are in Crisis; we at those times have an urgent need and call on him as if our house was on fire. Instead of marketing when it's urgent, market consistently.

10 Suggested Steps:

1. Give guidance to those who do not obey God, comfort less fortunate, and be patient with everyone.
2. Do not pay back evil, but love your enemies.
3. Rejoice, remind yourself to have Joy each day always.
4. Consistently Pray- pray before you speak you'll be amazed at the brilliance you will express.
5. Be grateful in your losses and your gains- Trust God.
6. Know that God's desire is your grateful heart, He will respond to your appreciation.
7. Let the promise of the Holy Spirit be manifest in your life, don't lie to yourself. If you want to know truth ask God, He wrote it on your heart!
8. Don't despise small beginnings. God has your future handled.
9. Prove everything against God's Word. He can't fail.
10. Don't get caught in places you should not be, if it appears evil just exit.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Copy the ten steps and paste it in an area you can read it regularly. Let those steps be a part of your daily routine. If you are inspired write some other steps to remind you how to live a life from the heart of the Master! Are you doing the things you want or the things He wants? How have you heard from God today? Have you been communicating?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Distinction between where are you and where are you now?

The LORD God called to Adam, "Where are you?"

He replied, "I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

Genesis 3:9-10 NLT

Certainly the question asked of Adam is really one we must face. Where are we in our relationship to Christ? Are we in a safe place or are we hiding something?

The question where are you now is much different, it implies blindness. The enemy asks where we are now instead of where we are headed because he is blinded in his arrogance, not knowing the future God has planned. The reason that the enemy wants to remind us of our past is because he can not see our future with Christ. The devil knows exactly where we have been because he observes us, but he has no clue what God has planned because he can not see futures because his eyes are covered with pride. It deeply angers the enemy to see us walking in righteousness, because that is impossible for the enemy to do. The real fear that the enemy has is that we would live a life of obedience and his influence will diminish, or that we will come to know all truth, and realize he was completely defeated and has no power. The soul destroyer does care about where we are in relationship with Christ because he does not want us stronger than he (the devil) is, or used to be before Jesus finished him off. The enemy is a fake and tries to copy God and entices us to act out of our own fleshly desires, cause that is his only appeal. If it looks good and feels good then by golly it must be ok to do regardless of who you impact, is the great lie. The problem is that when we sin we are forced to hide something, and so when we repent we are forced to shed that which held us in bondage. This hiding is exactly what happened to Adam in the garden, we became visible and alive the moment we accepted the resurrection of Jesus.

The only way that we are released from the burden of sin is by repenting from our sin. Freedom comes when we acknowledging to God that we have fallen short, and receive His forgiveness. We are also wise not to answer the baited questions of Satan that says, "Where are you now?" and when he tires to remind us of what we did, that violated

scripture. When we have repented, the blame game is over. We took responsibility for our sin, and God forgave us.. he remembers our sin no more.

The key is to slam that door on the enemy, let the protection of heaven and the angels of heaven do battle and live in the 3rd heaven where we have been invited to spend eternity. It is not the enemy's business where we are now. The fact is that in the third heaven he has no authority. We who walk in wisdom resist the devil and He not only has to flee, but is extinguished like a pot of water extinguished a match. Fact is, the devil is no match to the Holy Spirit that resides in us.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Who are you answering to? Are you accountable? Who do you trust to communicate deeply with? Is your relationship with your spouse safe or do you feel that if you communicate your shortcomings you would lose credibility? Are there places in your life where true repentance, forgiveness and love must be administered? Do you feel compelled to hide something - if so why? "His mercies are new every morning-each and every time we mess up- He is prepared and ready to forgive us and guide us. God simply has an open arms policy, and is glad to slap the enemy into submission.

CHALLENGE

Go to someone you trust and request they be your accountability person. Be transparent with your spouse, ask them to understand your challenges and love you anyhow. This can be challenging, but in an authentic relationship it is possible.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Has life made you bitter? Get over it!

From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15 NLT

Sin produces a response from God that the woman and the serpent would be enemies and her future generations would be with the enemy as well.

The sting of the serpent has infected generations. So what is the good news? Jesus was the man who crushed the head of the serpent and injected the antidote into the bitter roots of sin with his heel. Crushed was the head of the serpent, finished him off.

Jesus died so that none of us would have to die, ever. He was separated from the Father because he was the antidote that settled sin, once and for all. It was then that he was taken down to Hell and cast sin into the Lake of Fire so that we could experience a fruitful life, now. While Jesus was in hell He completely defeated the devil, Jesus then repossessed the keys that held humanity hostage, and handed us the keys to heaven.

Poison comes in many forms, lies, deception, poor character, ignorance, blindness, rudeness, bitter attitude that ultimately ends either with repentance or an eternity in Hell.

The choices we make determine our future. While Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the Serpent. It is the end we must recognize. Even in the first book of the Bible God gives us revelation of Christ and His promise to perfect His saints and provide us access to all truth and power.

If you're bitter, get better. If your better be greater, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the World. Jesus did not rebuke the apostles for their desire to be great, but gave us the plan of becoming great... simply we to be serving leaders.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Who do you serve? Do you serve well? Do you serve with an excellent spirit? Do you serve to be served? Do you serve because you Love Jesus? Who is your boss? When you love others do you remember it is Jesus that you love? Do you respond to the crucifixion of Christ with love and gratitude?

CHALLENGE

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you have been or are bitter.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Word of Mouth

Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Proverbs 27:2 KJV

So many times I hear a business or ministry tell me that the best way to gain market share or expand influence is by the word of mouth.

It is true that people tend to talk about things and market share can be expanded this way, but it is a limited thinker who does that only. We can not wait on others to promote us, we need to be in the others promotional business. When we promote others we will be promoted because of the law of sowing and reaping.

Today we have so many ways to communicate, yet few are effective simply because they are too busy self promoting, and not focused on promoting others. It is obvious when you are in remodeling business and you measure incorrectly. That which you measured simply is either too long or too short, often rendering it as scrap. Too many take a the short approach to marketing. They assume once they design a marketing project and send it out that the results will happen by some kind of miracle, opposed to intentional promotion.

While I do not discount that some short term results may happen, sustainability requires consistency. I love Pringles potato chips. Part of their attraction is the way they marketed something as simple a potato. They not only taste good but they are in order and rarely broken, like other potato chips. They have a unique factor, and that is what they market.

The Pringles, has a niche. Cost, Quality and Difference all make them marketable.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Think about your marketing plan or lack thereof. Does it perform and give you desired results? What measurements do you make to ensure with constantly changing markets you have the “Pringles” that people buy?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

When you fall, do you call?

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39 NIV

We forget sometimes the truth that Christ was human, and we know that in our human strength we can fail.

Jesus demonstrates persistence here as he walks forward into his earthly assignment. He was sent to save us from sin, that we would have eternity. Being a marketplace leader or lead person comes with unique challenges. We face giants that no one, not even those close to us may fully understand. We look to man that they would support us yet in some challenges it is only God who can really help us.

Jesus appealed to his Father when in His humanity he needed help. He fell on his face and poured out His heart, and sweated blood droplets from the extreme anxiety for that for which he was called to accomplish.

Pride will prevent us from calling out to receive God's best, we can be stubborn and try to do everything all by ourselves. It is a lonely place to be, and it is certainly not God's desired place. He wants us to enter into the Secret place and have intimate and meaningful conversations.

The miracle that was performed at Calvary was that we now have that same access to God through the finished work, and the most exciting part is that we are invited into the place of inspiration. He understands our challenges and is able to convey through the Holy Spirit that not only does he care but provides the answers to our greatest challenges.

Jesus said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

APPLY THIS TODAY

When you face your giants, do you go to God? Do you trust that Jesus knows how you feel and is able to comfort you in your challenges? Do you experience the Holy Spirit encourage your steps of action? If you answered no to any of the questions above, what can you do to realize His Love?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Raising the Bar.

*The Lord demands accurate scales and balances;
he sets the standards for fairness.*

Proverbs 16:11 NLT

It is amazing how we turn up the volume in our business life once we discover who we are in Christ. We look back at failed business relations, those times when we were manning the helm following our own standard or even the bosses' direction. Then the entire course of our life suddenly changes. It's an about face. We stop running from God who's ever pursuing us and we finally turn and get face to face with Him and we get a glimpse of the image of whom we really are! Our whole life is a reflection of eternity and our standards are new. We understand that we have a new partner, and the we are no longer in business with our boss or even with our company, that we have become the standard for truth and powerfully influence change. We are now called for such a time as this and we have a business mastery because of our call to righteousness. Every business decision we make from here on out needs to be aligned with God's standard. We don't ask what the companies manual or business policies state, we look to God's word and talk to Him in prayer... asking "God what would you have me say in this situation?" "What would you have me do?" My wife is a Proverbs 31 woman and a standard setter. She is in the hospitality industry and works as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. Wow! What a difference she experienced when she began serving the people with excellence based on God's Word. It made her company the leading airline and standard setter. I know this to be true because on occasion I get to be a guest and experience her in action. She raises the bar, and it is humbling to be a passenger.

In the book of Hebrews it says to be careful when you entertain lest you be entertaining angels. When Cherie' provides her gift of hospitality, I see her angle wings.

Maybe your customers actions are far from what you would expect from an angel, however your responsibility is to perform in the utmost for His Highest. God sees every person you experience as His. When we see others as He sees them, we know what to do.

Jesus says, *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothing and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”* Matthew 25:35 Serve others as if you were serving Christ. The example Jesus set for us is that the least is greatest. Rise to the challenge and understand that serving begins when one sees a need and does whatever it takes to meet that need.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Take a look at how you are serving your customers. Are your service standards lining up with God’s word? If Jesus was your next customer would we recognize that you had a spirit of excellence in service or would you provide a level of service that was mediocre not worthy of His praise?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Leadership. Will you win the contest?

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man.

Galatians 1:10, 15, & 16 NIV

From Cherie' my wife.

When my husband is following God's leading in business I see him challenged by other leaders, because he does not think in the box. In fact he thinks so outside the box I often have to warn him "You need to be careful not to share everything God has shared with you!" Honestly, God's thoughts' are not our thoughts; His ways are not our ways. So if you are working out a God sized vision and man resists, be very encouraged!

Resistance in the business realm seems to be the fuel that stokes my husbands' fire or ignites his passion to relentlessly achieve God's purpose. Leadership is not for the faint in heart, you must determine every day which master you will serve, God or Mammon. Man tries to manipulate or mastermind the plan, however you know in your heart what you heard from God and you must stick to it. I suggest that he put on the horse blinders and not look to the left or right but aim straight ahead for the prize which is the calling and purpose God laid out for us.

Fulfilling God's calling does not always make you popular with man. I like when Apostle Paul states "I did not consult with any man." My husband frequently states that a leader does not need to ask permission to succeed but that they just do. He is very clear of whom that he is called by. William understands his purpose and God given calling. He refuses to

let man shake his confidence or distract him from this focus. He relates to where his help comes from and he is a businessman with an audience of one, looking for the eternal, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

If you are called to be a leader of any sort, know that leaders often stand-alone. You may be challenged if and when those you thought were your friends turn their back on you. You are not alone, the same presence you felt when God gave you the vision will avail itself thought the task. Man will get on board as you enter success, yet it can be a lonely place in the meantime. Remember your actions have very little to do with right here and right now but a greater deal to do with eternity. Maybe your choice to follow God will mean one of your cohorts sees your business decision then decides to follow Christ, or that same cohort decides to exit your life, either way ... be at peace.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are you distracted by man and by the resistance you receive in businesses? Do you journal your business decisions and bring them to the Lord in prayer? When you hear something from God do you follow though?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Talebearer?

*Do not slander a servant to his master,
or he will curse you, and you will pay for it.*

Proverbs 30:10 NIV

Often times in business you will find some personalities that advance to the top at a rapid speed. You can't put your finger on what it is that sets him apart. He is not extremely educated or especially wise. (Smart) One talent he possesses is the ability to keep his mouth shut, and to be civil. In business this type of a person can become essential to the boss because a man that can exercise restraint and maturity may become the sounding board trusted colleagues. This kind of person may naturally have an outstanding rapport with others because he can be trusted. He may be promoted to represent the employee groups and be promoted. At this point he may be privy to information concerning both employees and leadership. His diplomacy wins over great challenges, essentially covering over a multitude of offenses, while creating harmony.

It's an attitude, coupled with mature behavior that brings this person to prominence.

It is not my job as a leader to slander anyone. I came to build them up and not to tear them down. If a business is viable it is viable because the members are meeting the customers' expectations with extraordinary service. The members thrive in an atmosphere of encouragement.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are you the confidant? Do you run to the boss with every false move you perceive a cohort makes? Are you trying to win some recognition for yourself, not considering the team? Do you find employees and leadership come to you with their concerns and trusts that you will be keep confidences with out being told? Trust that God knows every detail of your business. Choose to be an encourager, and let God handle the rest. God has your back. The bible says he is your rear guard. You have just found the key to unlock your advancement, take a hold of the key and unlock the doors to your future.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Every day should be Easter!

And although they could find no cause deserving death with which to charge Him, yet they asked Pilate to have Him executed and put out of the way.

And when they had finished and fulfilled everything that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

But God raised Him from the dead.

Acts 13:28-30 AMP

Today is personal; it is time to get sincere. Being transparent in the sight of God exposes your weaknesses and can even illuminate your strength. I struggle sometimes when I think of my past business blunders. The times I was less than honorable in my business affairs. Perhaps taking advantage of someone who was ignorant or perhaps misleading another on the deliverables. Hype, smoke and mirrors and trickery were all part of my past experiences. I learned from the best of the best. Bait and switch tactics, lies and deception all of which I am humbly confessing were part of a grand scheme to acquire financial means justified by the enemy of my soul. I simply was in agreement with the enemy and if God was real he would forgive me, if not who cared.

The above scripture speaks to me because we need to be sincere before a Holy God. We must acknowledge our sin, confess it, and receive eternal forgiveness. His Grace is now more powerful, because it is His grace that will avail us of our sin. Greater is He that is in us than He that is in the World.

Many years were wasted living in the world, working for material possessions and those things that I believed once acquired would show the world that I was successful.

The greatest day of my life was the day I knew Jesus was real and that His gift of eternity is the true prize, I won. I no longer had to show the world that I am a success.

The Lord will reign forever and ever.

Exodus 15:18 AMP

APPLY THIS TODAY

Does the Lord reign in your life?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Do you Lust after her?

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

Proverbs 7 21-23 KJV

It is amazing to me what a man can become when a provocatively dressed woman engages him on a sales call.

I remember working for a large consulting firm and they sent a woman to train me in sales. This woman as a seducer and understood her male victim. Her flirtation, and body language left this poor soul helpless. The man of course made the purchase, and I sincerely doubt he heard a word she said. He was simply focused on the wrong prize.

Many purchasing decisions are like that today. Sales has become a sequence of manipulations with coercion, not considering ethics and morals.

Scripture teaches us to be wise to such tactics, the Lord gives us ears to hear and eyes to see as we measure our decisions against God's word we are much less likely to be enticed by the things of this world.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you ever experienced a time where your decision to purchase was not based on reality, but some fantasy in your mind? How will you guard your self against such enticements? Do you have an accountability person who you speak with on a regular basis? Do you make hasty decisions or do you have a strategy to purchase wisely? Do you have a cash flow problem, or a problem saying no?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Anchors Away!

Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”

1 Peter 5:8-11 NKJV

Jesus said, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

Matt 10:16-17 NKJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Being in business today, especially for the Christian is dangerous work. We are aware that because we live our life to give Glory to God we must suit up. Have you put on your armor? Do you know you have an enemy? Do you fight for righteousness? How is your business impacting others to know Christ?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Be the head, not the tail!

The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

Deuteronomy 28:12-14 NIV

The Lord gives us a promise that he will bless that which we set our hands to; simply he will send rain on the seed we plant. He states clearly we will be the lenders to many nations. He will prepare you for leadership opportunities.

There is a qualifier however we simply must obey His Word, to remain on top. We in the consulting industry call that sustainability. Sustainability is a direct result of accountability.

We are instructed to stay on course with a laser like focus on the eternal.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you see yourself as the head, or do you settle for being the tail? Are you the best in your industry or do you make excuses to be mediocre? Who do you receive correction from? When you are corrected do you value that correction or do you simply look to another mentorship relationship? When the work comes do you delay or do you rejoice?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

When it is finished...

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

John 19:28-30 NKJV

Don't quit! It is not over till there is victory. We live by faith from glory to glory. Why do you suppose your business should be immune to a cycle of victories?

To accelerate your business and enter into greater victories something must die. Pride, Self, Lust, other such sins come to mind, but perhaps the one least considered is how you are rewarding others. A tenancy is to pay the going wage for the job done. That is called competing in a market with all the rest who have a competition mindset. If you want to stand out and be taller you have to hand out and be smaller. WOW! In the kingdom, least is first. I see it all the time in my travels, people cram ahead of me in line to get on the aircraft, I intentionally wait to be last seated. Many times when I exercise diplomacy I am placed in first class or standing in the front of the bus closest to the exit. Jesus final words were, "It is finished!"

He spoke victoriously in His darkest hour. It was through his humility that he promoted us to Eternity, we received the greatest gift. This correlates with promotion of every kind. Promotion often follows an act of humility.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How are you rewarding those you influence? Are your words encouraging, victorious with an excitement for a future? Do you live with anticipation that when you die you will hear "Well done my good and faithful servant?" All of His life Jesus lived to make one eternal statement simply, "It is finished!" Do you live with a passion that your last statement in life will have such meaning?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Something must die...

I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal.

John 12:24-25 TEV

Jesus speaking to his disciples prophetically. He said that He being represented by a seed would need to die and be placed in a tomb for Him to rise up to His kingdom position.

So you may be thinking what in heaven does that have to do with business.

God has a method of expansion, a plan if you will. He is able to place an invisible instruction inside a small seed (us) to produce a bountiful harvest. The instruction is His ordained plan simply to become greater. Many are holding on to their own dream instead of yielding to the Lords greater instructions.

Taking time to lie down on the earth, pray and let God reveal His plan for your life is the prominent position of influence with God.

We do not have to wait to physically die, or have a series of failures before we gain the blessing of God. Jesus was the sacrificial seed that now is in a position to steward a harvest of authentic, faithful and living men and woman who are surrendered to the High calling of Christ. We simply agree with God and perform his word in our daily activities and as a result we through diligence enter into multiplication.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you allowed God to impart richly into your life? Does the fruit of your life line up with the excellent seed deposited in your life? Do you hear but not apply His truth to your situation? What can you improve today? What are you committed to improving? Do you know how to apply God's word into your life? (A coach is helpful)

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Generational Wealth

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,
But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.*

Proverbs 13:22 KJV

My grandfather was a great man. During a recession, while others were complaining he simply started to solve problems for others.

He knew that leverage was still available in lean times, and relationship was still the priority of God. He had character, sincerity, worked hard and had an excellent attitude.

My grandfather always had a roll of lifesavers somewhere tucked into one of his suit pockets. He was eager to share his wealth of lifesavers with his grandchildren. He never seemed to run out or have a lack.

He was often caught in the act of helping some widow with her finances to the dismay of his wife. His wife, my Grandmother saw his wealth as her opportunity rather than knowing it was a gift imported to them as stewards.

It was a sad relationship in many ways because it seemed that grandpa was only good for the material wealth he was able to provide, and Grandmother's only purpose was to flaunt and exhaust that money on material things. Somehow, having a new car every year was the goal for my grandmother, yet my grandfather understood it was a means to an end. My Grandfather was the town go to person when ever someone needed something; the amazing part was that he always had something for them.

I remember an incident as a child where I ate some peanuts at my grandparents home. My grandmother was so upset she threatened to have my stomach pumped. I suppose the

was trying to teach me a lesson. I learned to hate her, and that in her eyes I was worth less than a jar of peanuts.

My grandfather taught me that generosity is not an abundance of things, but an abundance of love.

My grandmother taught me scarcity, how to horde and that materialism was the way to gain others approval.

Grandfather died at a young age, leaving a legacy of generosity. Grandmother spent most of his wealth and died a lonely and sad death. She lay years in a bed alone, never having even one true friend.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How will your life end? What will matter and how will you be remembered? How will your grandchildren remember you?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Generational Wealth continued...

***Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,
And attend to your herds;
For riches are not forever,
Nor does a crown endure to all generations.***

Proverbs 27:23-24 NKJV

To be diligent means to be constant and persistent in action. It requires character and is painstaking if you are to achieve ultimately the results you desire.

It is painstaking to be diligent often even mundane as you attend to life's matters. Absolutely every person has a flock, meaning a responsibility to others.

My children as an example are part of the flock God has provided. My wife, my friends and all those other people that the Lord puts in our life, may be considered our flock.

Your cohorts are examples of your flock. While many times being somewhat less familiar with the personal lives of the employees is desirable, it is not scriptural. Many times businesses do not excel to their potential because there is a lack of personal commitment to equip those who are struggling to achieve success. The result of care is often a lack of team spirit. A team needs a shepherd or coach in order to become great. The weakest employee often with positive encouragement becomes the leader. That same person, properly empowered might just change the culture. Often an outcast, properly nurtured can change the word. I point to the apostles as evidence.

APPLY THIS TODAY

What can you do to help someone today that is struggling to be better? Who can you specifically encourage? Do you protect that one employee when others are making fun of their shortcomings, or do you join in? How much does it cost you to poke fun at an underachiever? How much is it costing you not to mentor your employees?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Cleansing

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51 1-10 NIV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Reflect on the scripture and allow God to cleanse you from your past and receive total forgiveness. It is hard to comprehend that God will forgive your sin and remember them no more. Do you trust that God has completely forgiven you? Why do you think we remember so much of our past sin when God has totally forgiven it? When we are forgiven how should we act when the enemy brings up the past failures in our life?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

In the Fire!

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3 18-19 KJV

Recently I counseled a young man who was in position to take over his father's business. We were discussing effective strategies to communicate to those who were accustomed to being under the leadership of his father. I explained that during a meeting he was not to allow the meeting to go toward corruption but to manage the meeting toward a positive end.

None of the employees respected him because they believed promotion was not based on merit and skill sets but on the fact that this boy was the son of the owner. This is a common and a very hard position to be in for all parties, so mediation becomes necessary.

The young entrepreneur arrogantly ignored counsel and being overly confident started bullying his subordinates. My sense was that he was under the impression that his Dad or I would rescue him.

Noting his attitude and observing the chaos in advance, I simply looked at his father and excused both of us from the meeting in effort to allow the team to correct him.

When we allow others to experience the flames of real correction to their lives, they tend to learn the lessons faster. Some flames should not be put out, especially when the valuable lessons may be lost.

The main point is that fire is what purifies.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3 20-22 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you have missed the mark and place them on a piece of paper, then ask to reveal those acts or attitudes that may not seem so important, yet hinder your ability to be effective. Then take that sheet of paper and burn it as an offering to God. A burnt offering! Once done know that God remembers them no more.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Why do I need a consultant?

"Go and consult the LORD for me and for the people who still remain in Israel and Judah. Find out about the teachings of this book. The LORD is angry with us because our ancestors have not obeyed the word of the LORD and have not done what this book says must be done."

2 Chronicles 34:21 TEV

The bible speaks much about counsel, perhaps most importantly is that we are not to get counsel from those who do not know God and have evidence in their life of a fruit bearing life for Jesus.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:1-2 KJV

It is clear that we need counsel in our lives; it is even clearer that it needs to be Godly. Running your business outside the parameters of Godly counsel is simply nuts.

APPLY THIS TODAY

This devotional has many good things; this one may be the most important. Godly counsel will lead you to freedom and empowerment. If you feel you are in bondage to sin or otherwise in bondage it is recommended that you seek out Godly counsel and live in the freedoms that only Christ's love can offer!

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Look around see from God's eye!

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4 3-7 NKJV

Once and for all settle the ownership issue that can hold you in bondage. Enter into the provision of our God. Believe we are adopted into His provision and when we recognize that fact we look to the North, South, East and West in confidence. We have an eye of abundance not lack. Simply the Lord has supplied our every need and will continue as we enter into the kingdom work. It is only when you buy the lie of ownership that you come into bondage to things.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Rom 8:16-17 NKJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Study Galatians Chapter 1 in its entirety. Write down the significance of understanding your position in the Kingdom of God. Write the differences you see from the world's view and what God says. What is the difference? Why and how does it matter?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Obey the law of First Fruits!

And when you come into the land and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count the fruit of them as inedible and forbidden to you for three years; it shall not be eaten.

In the fourth year all their fruit shall be holy for giving praise to the Lord.

But in the fifth year you may eat of the fruit [of the trees], that their produce may enrich you; I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19 23-25 AMP

The Levitical law was given by God as instruction and it applies directly to many situations today. Although you may not be a farmer or even ever planted any seed in the ground you do plant in many other ways. We plant with our words, how we shake hands, how we look at other people and even with our smile.

One of the major problems today is the fact that we tend to rape our harvest of its fruit and never enter into any great level of harvest because we tend to exchange our seed and first fruit for temporary pleasures and perceived needs. That brand new Lincoln Navigator, or the dream home that the realtor persuaded us we needed to have.

Key to great futures lies in our ability to delay our own gratification and give our Lord the first fruit and to obey protocol of excellent living.

In the first three years we are to reinvest in our business. Simply do not eat the seed. In the fourth year we are to give our harvest to the Lord and trust Him with the provision and we will

experience the miracles that happen on the fifth year where we gain the harvest (fruit of our labor).

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you sell yourself short? Do you tend to strip your future of the harvest because you fail to understand seasons? Do you even know what season you are in? What would happen if you learned and applied this to your future? What would be the impact?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Wind and Waves!

AND GOD [earnestly] remembered Noah and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the ark; and God made a wind blow over the land, and the waters sank down and abated.

Genesis 8:2 AMP

Imagine, being Noah in the midst of a great storm. In the center of the storm is often where doubt and deception become great. It was perhaps a time that everyone in the ship questioned God's instructions, perhaps even Noah had some serious concerns until they were all safe, dry and had food.

As you read this scripture it seems as if God suddenly remembered Noah. God was quite confident and waited for the precise moment to make the wind blow in a direction that halted the storm. It was God's counterintuitive action that provoked safety. Noah simply had the eye and ear of God and trusted him in the midst of the storms. The waves that happen in life are there not to destroy you but to build your character. Embrace and trust God and he will calm the situation.

Be liberally cautioned that just as God breathed on the situation man can also. If you are not discerning of what others say and speak there is a good chance you can be deceived. The wind of God will rescue you from the wind that can cause waves of confusion and even deception. Hear what God says as he leads you confidently on that narrow path of eternity.

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalms 46 10 ASV

APPLY THIS TODAY

How do you handle the waves in your life? Do you cry out to God and do you trust that He can with one breath calm your troubles. Who do you let speak into your life? Do your associates speak fear or faith? Do you trust the wind of God?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Complete, don't compete!

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3 15-18 NIV

Recently I was on a missions trip with the youth of our church, A young man and I were assigned the task of separating rotten fruit from good fruit. It was a powerful lesson for us and it came with many lessons that can be applied to life.

In business we encounter many types of people, those of character, those who have ill intentions and those who simply don't know the difference.

It is clear in the scripture above that we must be ready to give an account for our life. We must be able to express verbally why we believe what we believe.

The real key to transformation happens in the core of who we are and produces fruit in accordance with our belief. False belief will produce failed results ultimately. True beliefs while God says we may suffer for our belief will produce eternal fruit worthy of entrance into the Kingdom.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Can you express clearly why you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the purpose of His death, burial and resurrection? Are you able to express yourself in gentleness with a clear conscience? If you cannot clearly articulate your beliefs, what can you do to ensure you can? What steps are you willing to take to ensure you do have a clear way to communicate your faith?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Separating Bad Fruit

Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corthians 6:14 ASV

During a task assigned on a mission trip I was mentoring a young man with his faith. The task was to separate a crate of oranges that were beginning to rot. The good fruit had to be separated from the bad fruit.

Many lessons were learned from this exercise. It is important to separate the corrosive fruit from the healthy ones. The acid leaks on the good ones and begin to fuse and deteriorate the perfectly good fruit.

The real deception in life is that we compromise in the area of relationships thinking perhaps we have acquired cheap labor. When you employ someone you have a partnership and the flaws of that person or character has a direct impact on culture, much like the acid has on the good fruit.

In considering relationships it is wise to recognize that our associates will largely determine our future, and we will impact theirs. The goal is to stay your focus on your creator and even pray that He places you in healthy relationships. The real benefit of God giving us legs is that we can reposition ourselves as frequently as necessary in effort to ensure we are surrounded by good fruit and not a part of a rotten core.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you have associations that are corrosive? How do you deal with rotten fruit and corrosion? What can you do to be less corrosive and healthier? Do you let the hand of God separate you and place you among healthy people?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Agreement

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever?

And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corthians 6:14-16 ASV

Agreement is powerful. Once we recognize this fact we position ourselves to do better in life.

A parasite will remain in your life as long as you take no action to remove it. Jesus was clear in communicating that there is only one way to eternal life. The world believes that there are many paths. What is concerning today is that society approves of good works, while it may seem good on the surface often the heart is not with Christ.

In business it is essential to have core values that agree with Christ so that those who walk with you can head in the same direction. It is possible to do good works, even have a thriving business and miss eternity, so your core values need to align to a greater mission, the Great Commission.

Scripture teaches us to associate with those who believe in Jesus Christ and abide in Him, more specifically that we can do nothing with out His hand of approval that has any eternal significance.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are you in agreement? With whom to you agree? Do your associates agree? How would it impact your life if you had associates agree?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Do you follow instructions?

Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate , saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you,

And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 ASV

God gives us clear instructions about being separated from the world and what it has to offer. Jesus said that he was about His Father's business, always keeping his eye on His father who modeled the behavior that we saw Jesus perform on earth. He was simply modeling the behavior of His father.

When we follow the lead of Christ and obey His teaching we enter into an adoption. We are given a Father who understands and cares for us. We start to enter into relationships with others and God that moves us under the anointing or a portal of heaven. We move into greater provision and greater understanding when we are in this "Secret Place". Our purpose becomes clearer and we learn to walk by faith moving us from glory to glory. Our life is simply transformed by the renewing of our mind as we consume His word and our hearts line up vertically so that our horizontal walk is pleasing to our Maker. We are given not to the lust of the world but to the genuine love of God. He cradles us in His hand and gently moves us to desire obedience because we have received an eternal adoption. Our new family loves us unconditionally and will take great strides to ensure that we together glorify God. Our goals become greater because our roles have changed. We simply die and encounter a new life.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Read the scripture and write down the significance of your relationship with Christ and how it impacts your daily decisions.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

A few words will do!

Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter a word before God. For God is in heaven, and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few.

For a dream comes with much business and painful effort, and a fool's voice with many words.

Ecclesiastes 5 2-3 AMP

This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20 NASB

Be still , and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalms 46 10 ASV

Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.

Exodus 46 19-20 NKJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Meditate on the scriptures and ask God to show you the relevance of listening. Write down what you discover and apply your ears to listening. Write down your observations at the end of your day.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Conflict resolution!

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5 44-45 KJV

Conflict occurs in our life and to be effective in resolving that conflict Jesus taught us to understand some simple factors. First that God loves everyone, and so should we. He cares about their future and desperately wants to be in relationship with them.

It is key to understand that your provider gives rain to the just and the unjust. Simply translated he gives them the substance to activate the seed laying dormant in them. God is generous beyond our human comprehension. Favor is the leverage to recognize that being in agreement with God is the highest choice. Even though our enemies offend, hurt, deceive and lie, our response can never be a decision to take matters in our own hands. When we operate in a spirit of love, gently communicate to understand, and obey God he works things out most often to our favor.

To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Deuteronomy 32:35 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

How do you deal with conflict? Do you let your competition have the upper hand or do you pray for them? The bible says to be angry but sin not. Do you get angry and try to get even? If so, how can you win God's way?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Wake up!

*A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to rest;
So shall your poverty come like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.*

Proverbs 24 33-34 NKJV

Being awake physically is not the same as being alive spiritually. While many people get out of bed each day and believe they are awake, many are dead to their sin.

Some of your first thoughts of the day and your first actions will determine the direction of your day. Your dominant thoughts can either control or free you to live a life that is awake or sleepy.

When you are physically awake you can still be spiritually lazy and not lift your eyes to Jesus. When you awaken you realize like Apostle Paul that you have one assignment.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 KJV

Paul knew that life was not about him. He prized salvation and surrendered his day completely to the work of Christ. He understood that the enemy was cunning and would attempt to come against him, yet in Christ we are safe.

APPLY THIS TODAY

When you wake up, is your dominant thought about how well you will serve Christ? Do you let other distractions consume your mind and crowd out your need to spend time with God. Are you pursuing eternal wisdom or have you surrendered to mans conventional wisdom? Do you think you are awake and alive? How can you improve your life with Christ?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

God's Promises about Dishonesty

When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

Proverbs 29:16 KJV

Be honest in your words and actions these give you an edge and provides gain as the Lord has promised that the righteous shall see the fall of the wicked.

In a competitive market it is tempting to try to cut corners and take short cuts in an attempt to compete. We are not in this life to compete with others but to complete an assignment of the Lord. His ways are much higher and have eternal rewards. When we live our life with an eternity in mind choices are made to cooperate and we learn how to trust the Lord.

He does not want us to struggle or to be concerned with the things of this world but to focus beyond this life and make our decisions based on what He says in scripture.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:13 KJV

The difference between living for this present world and living for eternity is simply summed up by your choices. We have to choose each day what we will do. We also have consequences for those choices. He gave us the answer to choose life.

And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.

Jeremiah 21:8 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

How do you act toward dishonest competition? How should you react? What is the Lord showing you through the scriptures? Do you believe that God will set the record straight?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Blessing or Curse – You decide!

Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse –

The blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day;

And the curse if you will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you this day to go after other gods, which you have not known.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 AMP

I set before you this day... meaning that for today you get to make choices that will either bring you closer to God and His care or choose to reject Him and walk in darkness. When you need sight and want a hope for an excellent future it does not happen by your own efforts, but by alignment with an Almighty God who lets us make a choice to either walk in our own flesh or enter into the supernatural.

Efforts that align with God come with a promise of blessing. We choose to follow God's instructions and find that our business improves and becomes great because it is not normal for man to walk in a spirit of excellence. It is that difference that will cause favor to abound in your life and for you to realize the dreams God placed in your heart. It is when you enter into obedience that your character becomes great enough to sustain the blessings.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you agree that God gives you a choice? Have you considered whether your actions are in alignment with scripture? Can you imagine what would happen in your life if you choose to be in alignment? Write down some things you can do today that would honor God.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Integrity Preserves, expect a miracle!

O keep me, Lord, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed or disappointed, for my trust and my refuge are in You.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for and expect You.

Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles.

Psalms 25:20-22 AMP

David understood the heart of God; in fact the bible says David was a man after God's own heart. He sought the things God cared about most. He wanted to be in the perfect will of God as exemplified by this prayer.

Integrity is simply obeying God's commands and operating in excellence in all your affairs.

David said, I await for and expect you! His conversation with God was one of expectation. He trusted and knew that the Lord would show himself. He believed that God could and would provide the solutions for mankind. That prayer could have caused the hand of God to sacrifice His son. The purpose of the prayer could be so that you and I would have entrance into heaven. The desire might have been that we live a life that represents the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. The result of a diligent life is that others would become jealous unto salvation.

APPLY THIS TODAY

When you pray, do you expect God to answer? Write down some of your prayer concerns that God has answered for you and with a grateful heart thank Him today. Be in a state of gratitude today for the finished work at Calvary and share with others the reason for your hope.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Be Wise, Talk to Strangers!

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2 KJV

God may shock us when He exposes the times we have had opportunities for a divine connection. He places us in a position to be blessed yet I wonder how many times we have passed by a stranger and missed His intended blessing.

Life can be a Joy when we recognize that people are a gift from heaven and that even a stranger has the potential of being a blessing. While the bible says we are to guard our heart at the same time we are encouraged to entertain strangers. Most of my young life I was told “Do Not Speak to Strangers!” It seems that this statement does not align with scripture, and we may have learned an unhealthy fear of man from our parents.

So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:6-8 NIV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do something nice for a stranger. In your daily routine look for a stranger, someone you do not know and do something that will bless them today. Write down the results of your effort.

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NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Anchors Away.

Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

Ephesians 6 11-20 AMP

Put on God's word today for it will protect, guide and encourage you as you walk in obedience God will bless your going and coming.

The amazing truth is that God equips us to battle and when we walk in the supernatural. We often experience great Joy and Peace in the daily affairs as we exercise faith in His Armor.

Be clear that God has great futures for us and we are to walk in the expectant hope knowing in our heart that He will provide for all our needs.

Live with an eye that is not limited in scope, and ears that hear His instructions. Walk today in a spirit of excellence knowing that He has furnished us with the armor of Righteousness. His blood covers our sin and the enemy has no ability to penetrate what our Lord gave his life to protect. We are simply covered over with His abundant Grace and Mercy and design to prosper.

We put his word over us and enter into a reality of eternal abundance, sharing His Good News to those we encounter!

Be encouraged and strengthened today and declare His word over your life!

APPLY THIS TODAY

God is so generous! Write a letter of gratitude to the Lord today and let Him know how blessed you are. He is the Good News and we should be brimming with Joy expecting a miraculous today. Place this list in a place where you will be able to read it, and confess to God all that He is and how much you love Him.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Synchronize with Heaven!

If there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, make full my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; (doing) nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.

Philippians 2 1-4 ASV

When we determine to think like Christ and perform as a servant we enter into Joy! We serve the Lord and honor Him when we allow our mind and heart to agree with God. The mind of Christ will abort conflict and help us to see beyond this world, into eternal truth.

It is hard to think of others and prefer others more than ourselves. If we determine to do just that one thing we gain because victory is a series of right actions that line up with God's word. We win only when others win as well. We choose to walk in victory by looking out for the best interest of others.

APPLY THIS TODAY

When you negotiate a business deal, are you concerned that the recipient of your service or product wins? Do you consider and count the costs? Do you look at futures in light of the decisions you make to ensure everyone wins?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Conflict Resolution?

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7 2`-25 NASU

Paul expressed that his inner turmoil was at war. His flesh wanting something and his mind wanting something else. He fought to be obedient. The fact is that our sin nature is conflicting with our hearts desire to live a righteous life.

The solution is that Christ said he would send us the Holy Spirit to equip us and to help us to walk in integrity. The problem is that our flesh is in argument with our spirit. The inner man who has a desire to please the Lord is in conflict with the flesh that wants to be fed the things of this world.

We learn from this that the only solution is our hope in the finished work of the Crucified and risen Christ. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit as the resolver of this conflict. Knowing the Resolver of conflict gives us the advantage in any conflict.

APPLY THIS TODAY

When you are in conflict, how do you lean on Jesus to help you to enter into the solutions of that conflict? What kinds of conflict do you have and how can the Lord help you to live in freedom from those areas that are holding you from your desired destination?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Have a sense of urgency!

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —

A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear 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 throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.

What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves.

Ecclesiastes 3 1-10 NASU

It is very important to know the seasons of life. Joy and true fulfillment come when we operate in our seasons with the intention of extending the Kingdom of God. God blesses our efforts every season of our life. In building a business or organization this scripture describes the continuous improvement and development of self-sufficient teams.

We start this process by tearing down the old structure and building it again with love and support.

APPLY THIS TODAY

What season are you in? How have you planned your business and considered your future? Do you have a sense of urgency? Clearly articulate what season you are in and what plans you need to make to ensure those plans are carried forward.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Hope Defined!

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3 11 AMP

God plants eternity in our hearts, but as we read this scripture he does not give full insight to every aspect from the beginning because He wants us to have a hope and expectation as we receive revelation knowledge. It is his way to ignite our faith as we enter into celebration of the truth of the Gospel Message. Simply put the “Good News”!

The mystery of God is that we receive Joy as we align directly with the gift of the Holy Spirit as our guide. Jesus said he was about His father’s business. We who labor on this earth for the Lord gain insight into the relevance of that work only when we are in faith walking in genuine faith, trusting Him.

God shows us one step at a time as we need to know at that very moment, but does not always reveal the complete path of the Journey. This is because we need to rely on Him and to enter into faith not mans reason or wisdom.

Our purpose is a discovery, and the journey is to be enjoyed!

APPLY THIS TODAY

How are you relying on Hope to accomplish your tasks in business? Do you understand the relevance of your work as it relates to scripture? Describe some of the times your business lined up with the call of the Lord on your life and how you felt.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Watch your step!

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Psalm 37 23-24 KJV

He will guard the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked shall be silenced and perish in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Samuel 2 9 AMP

A man I met owned a machine shop. He was sincere when he told me he had no need for any outside help. This man told me that he was the last man standing, meaning that he no longer had any employees. He told me that even though he had no employees left, he was operating a profitable business. I looked around and saw approximately seven cats and smelled cat urine so strongly. My main thought was, how could I gracefully exit the toxic place. I looked down where this man was standing and noticed he was standing in the the cat urine. It was a scene that was sad, yet this gentleman believed that he was doing ok. I listened to the radio in the background that was blasting negative thoughts about opinions regarding the economy, political rantings and the end of the world.

This man was spouting the same words that aligned with the radio rant, all negative. This man had remained in this culture so long he had no idea that he became a product of his environment.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Where are your feet? What culture do you allow? When is the last time you evaluated your position or asked for outside help? Are you so conditioned by your culture that you have settled? Do you have a desire to improve? What is your attitude like? Write down your attitude as honestly as you can, then allow friends to evaluate what you wrote.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Anoint your Business!

How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10 38 AMP

Your business should solve problems. Jesus was a problem solver. He saw disease and cured it. He saw water and turned it into wine. He saw sorrow and turned it into Joy. He saw ignorance and gave it wisdom. He simply saw the solutions. He saw death and gave His life.

Jesus redeemed us and lived His life for the Father's Glory. He said we who believe will do greater things than He himself did. This means that we can operate a business in times where the rest of the world are declining and have Joy and be confident that our bread will be multiplied.

The key is to be a solution maker, a problem solver and to believe by faith that His miracles and favor are on our life. We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to anoint that which we set our hands do, and because He gave us the ability to gain wealth we raise our hands to Him and worship the giver of life, and extend kingdom life to those in need.

Scripture solves mans needs. The anointing of Christ delivers uncommon love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control... against such (Jesus) there is uncommon freedom to live an abundant life. (Galatians 5:22)

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you accepted your call to excellence? Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you to be best in your field? Are you seeing yourself as the Head not the Tail? Where are you investing your life? Is your life producing results worthy of the King? Have you confessed your shortcomings and asked for help to overcome? Where does your help come from?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Clarity and Consulting

*Through presumption comes nothing but strife,
But with those who receive counsel is wisdom.*

Proverbs 13:10 NASB

A man who builds his business with assumption generally makes statements like, “I can’t get good help”, “The economy is the reason we are slow” or “We have a cash flow problem”

These are excuses not problems. When we think about the opportunities rather than give a voice to mere concerns we tend to improve when others are in a decline. Presuming that in a down economy your business has to slow down or that finding good help is the reason for your business failures is simply making a statement of presumption. When you operate on these assumptions there is a tendency to reject His Blessings and in turn curse your own self.

Think about it, someone must have all good employees... what are they doing? Someone has to be the strongest economically... what are they doing?

The secret is that they have counsel and are applying wisdom to their situations. When your business is filled with strife it is because a group of people are operating in strife. Leadership is lacking and direction is poor. The natural tendency of man is to move toward corruption. Your job is to encourage, coach and empower others to be the best in the industry. Not having good employees is an indicator that the ones you have are untrained or not loyal.

You are not lacking economically, you lack the application of wisdom to solve problems for others and to serve with excellence.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Who do you have that is serving with excellence and loyalty? Where do you go to get timely counsel to help improve your business? Have you obtained Godly counsel to help to ensure that you are growing spiritually? Have you obtained business counsel to ensure that your business is growing? If growth is not the issue have you obtained counsel to help increase your efficiency? Have you obtained counsel to consider long term effects of current decisions?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Pay based on relevance & Job Results.

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:8 NKJV

A team must work together to accomplish the goal. Absolutely every business must have a higher goal to achieve for the team to realize success. Scripture makes it clear that the team is needed but the reward is clearly dependent on the task accomplished.

In thinking through the above scripture it seems quite obvious that simply dropping a seed into a hole would not be worth as much to the farmer as it would to regularly water the entire crop.

Job Description of Planter

Planter is responsible for tilling the soil and ensuring the correct nutrients are in the soil in advance of planting. The ground will need to drain to ensure that seeds when planted do not rot when they are watered. Seeds will be planted at one foot intervals and carefully covered over with soil.

Pay at satisfactory completion \$ 500.00

If crops yield is 90% or better a bonus of \$ 100.00

Job Description of Water Person

The water person will carefully go up and down the rows and ensure each area is watered till damp. That person will be careful not to destroy any fresh growth with the hoses.

Pay at satisfactory completion \$ 300.00

If plants are not mechanically damaged bonus of \$ 50.00

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you pay your employees fairly based on performance and reward? Do your employees know that they are paid for the solutions they bring? How do you measure their success for the purpose of reward?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Faith in the heart is a hope for what God Promises, Favor is attaining it.

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2 11-14 NIV

Apostle Paul had a hope in his heart, and so teaches us through scripture that we are to first remain humble. Simply, we are to remain in an active state of growing and learning, equipped to advance when the time and opportunity of promotion is before us. Paul considered that even though he was certainly one of the great in the service of Christ that he had not attained all that God had for his life.

Paul once illustrating humility brings out an eraser. Paul clearly believed in the finished work of Christ and reminds us to forget the past; we are each day offered a fresh opportunity to live a life that reflects a clean soul. Ignorant men will attempt to hold you to your past, while God already erased it.

Finally and most significant is the fact Paul knew he was in a race. There was a sense of urgency that caused him to step forward sometimes against anything that would be considered sane. Paul moved as the Holy Spirit of God led him.

You have the greatest guide giving you insight that the goal is to win, and the victory is in Christ. Your Character and life decisions based in Christ gains Reward!

APPLY THIS TODAY

You are in Business, Not busy-ness! Do you have a focus like Paul that honors Christ? What value does it hold for you and those you know to be living free from past decisions that had an adverse effect? What are you holding on to that is hindering your Joy? What are you committed to change today to ensure you walk in integrity? What do you need to erase about someone else's past?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Winning!

An athlete who runs in a race cannot win the prize unless he obeys the rules. The farmer who has done the hard work should have the first share of the harvest. Think about what I am saying, because the Lord will enable you to understand it all.

2 Timothy 2 5-7 TEV

Many people want to win but are not willing to do what it takes to win. Simply they want the object that represents victory but want it without qualifying for the reward by doing the work involved to win.

Many times in the pursuit of victory the rules of the game get broken because the person lacks the integrity to perform the task because of a lust to have the object or praise that comes with Victory. Simply they step out of line in the race of life and start drifting because they have lost focus of the path to the goal. A crown on this earth will ultimately parish, a crown in heaven is eternal.

Victory and freedom are found when we obey the rules that are set before us because we know those rules are to protect us and help guide us to a victorious day where the Lord will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant!"

The Lord gives us revelation to genuine victory that includes confidence because we obey the rules. Obedience is great gain, disobedience is stagnation and great loss.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How are you measuring your progress? Are there areas of your life where you know you are violating the rules of engagement? Jesus understands and forgives so bring your violations before the King and let Him forgive you and give you a fresh start. Feedback is the breakfast of Champions!

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Feedback is the Breakfast of Champions!

So David conquered the Philistine giant with a sling and a stone. Since he had no sword, he ran over and pulled Goliath's from its sheath and killed him with it, and then cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

1 Samuel 17 50 TLB

It is the little things that cause greatness to fall. There is no doubt that Goliath was huge and had the upper hand in combat. If you gambled it would be unlikely you would bet on David.

David was strategic, he understood his situation well and rather than running from his opponent he assessed his situation and took his best shot. What is amazing is that he teaches us to assess our position even against odds that would appear to be unfavorable and press on to utilize the tools God has given us for victory.

The feedback he heard from others perhaps was that it is impossible with man, but the feedback he got from the Lord was to believe in faith and recognize Victory would be given to him.

It was not good enough to knock down this great obstacle but once on the ground David cut off Goliath's head. To ensure victory often times we do not go far enough to be fully confident the Giants in our life are defeated. We can not simply knock out our enemies but we need to take out our enemies fully to ensure they can never rise against us again. We simply eat them for breakfast because we have the feedback from God! Goliath was breakfast for David, breakfast of champions.

APPLY THIS TODAY

A friend sent me the text. Feedback is the Breakfast of Champions. I could have ignored the relevance of the comment but instead I used it as an illustration. What do you do when you hear feedback? What corrections do you take? How important is feedback and how do you weigh it then apply it?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Equity is in the Mouth of the beholder!

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue — a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

James 3 5-10 NRSV

It is an amazing truth that the tongue that is so small has the ability to so powerfully influence and affect so greatly. The tongue can influence a company, a community and even reach to global proportions.

When you communicate verbally it has an impact that is far reaching. I have heard so many businesses that tell me that they are marketing by word of mouth. The interesting fact is that some of these same companies confess negative ideas. For instance they may say “we have cash flow problems” or “the economy is making us fail”. These statements contain some truth but are not the truth.

What is wild is that their tongue is confessing the condition of their soul. They are confessing not what God has the ability to do but what they are restricted by. These are worldly confessions and simply not lined up with the confessions of God’s word. While it is true that some of these factors exist, they are not the root issue that is affecting the

performance of the company. It is leadership and the words spoken over the business that are the real root issue.

Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent and so it goes in business. Business owners blame the employee, the employee blames the employer, simply no one seems to take responsibility.

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 6:6 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

How healthy is your communication? What kind of words are you speaking? How is your speech affecting your bottom line? Who do you know that speaks well? What is the difference between toxic speech and speech that promotes progress?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Obtain and Speak with Excellence!

An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble. Reliable communication permits progress.

Proverbs 13:17 TLB

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 KJV

First gain insight, and then speak it over your business and personal life. We must be sure that we gain insight from Godly counsel and then apply the truth of His word to the areas of our life.

Many live a life of mediocrity simply because they have not cleansed the toxins that exist in their life by the washing and renewal of the truth of God's word.

Defeat exists as a result of impoverished counsel that is obtained often times at a discount. We listen to voices of lives that are living mediocre lives and walking in poverty. The Bible teaches us to gain reliable communication so that we can advance! We are also instructed to communicate with excellence always edifying and building others up.

Do not sit at the feet of bitter and broke people. Their influence will effect more than your pocketbook!

APPLY THIS TODAY

So how do you speak? Who do you allow to have a voice in your life? What impact do the influencers have in your life? What changes do you need to make?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

He watches our steps!

The steps of a [good] man are directed and established by the Lord when He delights in his way [and He busies Himself with his every step].

Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord grasps his hand in support and upholds him.

Psalms 37 23-24 AMP

You are known by your habits! Habits form futures one step at a time. Today I challenge you to simply see where God is blessing and walk in that direction.

Simple solutions are often the greatest because we sometimes are looking for some grand plan that orders our steps but miss out on the obvious.

To be disciplined is to be a disciple of Jesus. When we walk in the direction of excellence (Jesus) our life accelerates and we are blessed.

Wait for and expect the Lord and keep and heed His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; [in the end] when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

Psalms 37:34AMP

APPLY THIS TODAY

How are you walking? What directions are you headed? Are you going by design or by default? Do your goals reflect God's plan?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

The Secret Place of provision.

HE WHO dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. [Then] He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High] as you witness the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, [Ps 91:1,14.] There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent. For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service]. They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. [Luke 4:10,11; Heb 1:14.] You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall you trample underfoot. [Luke 10:19.] Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows and understands My name [has a personal knowledge of My mercy, love, and kindness — trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never forsake him, no, never].

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.

Psalms 91 AMP

APPLY THIS TODAY

As you read scripture what promises does God make? List the promises below, and communicate your feeling to God.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Multiplication = Remove Discord

A scoundrel and a villain goes around with crooked speech, winking the eyes, shuffling the feet, pointing the fingers, with perverted mind devising evil, continually sowing discord; on such a one calamity will descend suddenly; in a moment, damage beyond repair.

Proverbs 6 12-15 NRSV

In business the culture that exists and whom is part of that culture directly affects the profitability of the organization.

Discord in any organization has to have zero tolerance because unchecked it can spread like fire that is unstoppable. The enemy of your harvest is subtle and uses discord to steal, destroy and kill futures.

If you do not deal with discord, you have made a choice to be mediocre and simply compete. Business leaders today who want and desire more excellent results choose their employees, train them to perform and have their eye on Jesus as a measurement of excellence.

Principles only work if they are applied. In the case of discord it is the one thing that reduces effectiveness more than not having a sharp tool to work with. We can tool and engineer a company with the latest and greatest technology and mechanical equipment, but allow discord to exist and we will not even be competitive in the market place. It effects attitudes that if poorly managed will reduce productivity and marketability of a venture.

It is serious when a company has some person or persons who are permitted to sow discord. The spirit of division is contagious and ultimately causes ruin. The great news is that it can be eliminated.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Who in your organization is sowing discord? How will you deal with discord in your business culture? What plan do you have for eliminating discord? Can you see that if discord is eliminated that growth can multiply? Who in your life is infusing discord? Do you have anyone in a position of influence that you permit to point fingers instead of take responsibility?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Conflict is not the same as Discord.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Galatians 5 16-18 NIV

Conflict is good. We need to embrace conflict to arrive at decisions that line up with God's word. We are in a war zone and if we make decisions based on what the Holy Spirit tells us we tend to make righteous decisions.

The integrity of your business life is dependent on conflict and resolving that conflict to the alignment of Christ.

Avoiding conflict is like avoiding responsibility. The key to developing healthy growth is always to deal with the issues presented before you quickly and with counsel.

Too often a business owner will let others deal with the real issues that cause stagnation or failure. The stewardship responsibility is always given to the one called to manage the business. A manager does things well, a leader does the right things.

As a young boy spending time in the temple Jesus responded to his parents questioning, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:49 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

How did Jesus deal with conflict? What do you think you should do with conflict in your business? How do you lead others to ensure conflict is resolved? Who is part of the process of conflict resolution? Who has the authority to resolve conflict?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Delegate

And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

And Moses said unto his father in law , Because the people come unto me to inquire of God:

When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

Exodus 18 14-18 KJV

There is a story about a young boy who was overweight on a hiking trip. The fat boys name was Charley. Charley was a little slow when it came to teamwork because no one would ever pick him when it came to establishing a team. As the group of boys went on their hike Charley fell behind and as usual the other boys made fun of him. It was only after Charley fell way behind did the leader approach and ask what was holding him up. Charley pointed to his backpack and said it was too heavy. Curious the leader grabbed a hold of the pack

and came to a swift conclusion that it was indeed too heavy. He looked into the contents of the pack and it was full of boulders. Inquiring of Charley, the leader discovered that the pack was filled to help poor Charley lose weight so he could look like the other boys. Understanding the origin of the rocks being that they were from Charley's mother's garden the leader decided to ask the other boys to put a few in their backpacks and distribute the load. Unfortunately the distribution of the load did not solve the problem because Charley just fell behind. You see Charley was in the habit of coming in last. The leader had an inspiring idea to place Charley in the front of the pack. At first the other boys just made fun of Charley till this unknown voice started to encourage Charley and suddenly the pace picked up. Charley felt like a winner when he was encouraged and lifted the spirit of the whole team.

APPLY THIS TODAY

Have you considered why your team is not as productive as you would like? Can you relate to Moses? How about Charley? What changes do you need to make to your leadership style?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Be Diligent!

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 22:29 KJV

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Proverbs 22:29 KJV

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Proverbs 21:5 KJV

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 13:4 KJV

To be diligent means to perform with care, with speed, with watchfulness, scrupulously, earnestly, early, with haste, being industrious, exacting, endeavoring, carefully, and with love.

It is with faith we press on and by excellence we enter into prosperity. The key that unlocks God's hand is summarized in one word, diligence. It is God's desire to see us grow and enter into prosperity, but it is with our hand we prove our faith by performing His Word.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2 KJV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you see the relationship between diligence and prosperity? Does God want you to prosper? What are you doing today to ensure that your work is being performed with diligence?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

What do you want?

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say:

"The LORD is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13 5-6 NKJV

Sometimes people operate their business in fear. They make business decisions on what appears to be "real" instead of what is real. (False Evidence Appearing Real)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11 1 KJV

A key to success is found in scripture but the hidden manna comes from meditating on the scripture. While I do not know what the Lord will show you - here is what I gain from the scripture above. First I receive a gift of peace because I do not rely on man for my provision. Second I gain an increased confidence and trust because authority has given me assurance that He (God) has things under control. Third I gain freedom from materialism because of the fact that I recognize that the Lord has given me certain provision just for me that I might extend His kingdom work at a level that He entrusts to my stewardship. Fourth I gain a sense of comfort because the Helper (Holy Spirit) is empowering me to make great decisions. Fifth I recognize that it is by conducting myself with the utmost for the Lord an ultimate Joy is released as a gift that has no earthly equivalent.

Finally and without doubt the greatest of all, I sense the Lord pointing me to another scripture that ultimately gives me the reassurance needed to remain in my Godly confidence.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5 22-26 NIV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Are you walking in the spirit today? Are there areas of your life that still need to be crucified? Are you free? Pray for your freedom and receive it today! Let this be the greatest day of your life and let the Lord reveal and unlock a deep passion to live in excellence and to be anointed to solve problems for others and live in freedom from bondage and breaking yokes that hold you from success in Christ!

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

Take Responsibility

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30 NIV

All too often I find a company that is not a community, meaning that there is contention or strife in the business and low engagement. It is accurate where there is strife there is a multitude of sin.

To have an excellent company a mindset of belief that the work that forgave sin and said "It is finished" is effective and simply only needs to be believed.

The danger of disbelief is that strife will exist and the bible is clear that with strife comes every evil work.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
James 3:16 KJV

Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out; yes, strife and abuse will cease.

Proverbs 22:10 AMP

Tolerance of strife affects the whole culture. God teaches us in Proverbs that we are to drive out a scoffer. A key insight is that a scoffer is also an abuser. It is a root in the offender that covets a position of authority. Those who sow discord seldom rise to a position of authority simply because they fail to qualify because they refuse to be a team player. You can not rise to a position of authority without proving yourself as a team member. Submission to ordained authority is a key to promotion.

Above everything, love one another earnestly, because love covers over many sins.

Peter 4:8 TEV

APPLY THIS TODAY

Do you tolerate strife? How do you deal with those who cause discord? Do you see from scripture the ultimate effect that strife and discord causes on the team? How will you react the next time you observe strife and contention in your organization? What protocols do you have in place to deal with issues causing corruption?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

You are called to be an Entrepreneur.

For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Mathew 25 29-30 NIV

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. This is a cliché that contains some very insightful truth as it relates to the parable that Jesus taught. The reality of life is that we are all entrepreneurs called to multiply that which God places in our hand.

As we read the above scripture we recognize a variety of truths.

1. An abundance mentality is needed for multiplication.
2. Lack mentality produces a lack.
3. God cares deeply that you gain, but will use your failure to enrich those who trust Him. (wealth transference)
4. God approves of those who increase and disapproves of those who are decreasing.
5. God is concerned with growth and he gives wealth to test your character.
6. God is not in the maintenance business.
7. The difference in people is their willingness to trust God with their provision to grow more.
8. God refers to those who do not increase as worthless servants.
9. God teaches us that we are investors.
10. When what you set your hand to grows it agrees with God when it does not it is a violation of God's desire.

APPLY THIS TODAY

How is what you're doing growing? Who is responsible for your success? Who do you have in your life that is growing a business well? What is the difference in those who understand the truth of God's Attitude? Do your friends and associates have a lack or an abundance mentality? Pray today that God will show you how you can grow your company in a way that pleases him.

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)

By Faith we gain!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11 1 NKJV

Nothing our naked eye can see is impossible for God to do in our life. We simply believe by faith that God can produce a future beyond our own abilities. It is by faith we are able to be and become great and positioned for blessing.

Greatness is attainable when we recognize that His desire for our life is to live a life in abundance and blessing. He gives us the desires of our heart.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2 6-10 KJV

Our position is in heavenly places so that we can see the big picture and to walk in excellence. Gaining perspective gives us the understanding of the eternal. Let your words, actions and life reflect this image and faith in your future!

APPLY THIS TODAY

What's faith got to do with it?

NOTES (What has the Lord shown you in this sacred time?)