

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

*Trust In God
And Your
Capability
And You Will Do It.*

VELMAH MARIA

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DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this book to my mum JERUSA OKENYURI, my mentor, our family at large. Friends and all people who have supported me spiritually, physically and financially. I am humbled and have no words to express to your gratitude that you have shown. But I know in due time God will reward and pay you back.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost I give glory to God who has brought me this far He is Ebenezer and Jehova Jireh [providence God].

But now I testify that indeed He is the great physician and He is the father to the fatherless because He delivered my mom from darkness after she was diagnosed with a mental illness. I thank Him for the wisdom and knowledge He has given me to preach the word and inspire you through this writing. I know whomever reads this book will be touched.

I want to appreciate my mom Jerusa Okenyuri, mummy thanks for your prayers and impacting me spiritually, I still remember how you taught me from a tender age the value of prayer and the significance of believing that everything is possible with God. You are my best friend and support system. I cherish and love you. To my grandparents, Daniel and Selina Moraa I thank you for taking the responsibility of raising me. I love you both and may you live long.

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To My cousins Clinton, Rawlings, Elvis, Felix, Linet, Diana, Mary, Doreen, Venah, Glory, Camullus, Joan and Justine I love you guys.

I also appreciate my mentor Dr Shogo from Nigeria, who I met through social media. Prior to meeting him when we both attended a National Conference in Nairobi, I had the pleasure of representing him in various engagements here in Kenya. I don't have the right words for you Sir. You are one of a kind and am privileged to have met you. I acknowledge all the pastors who have walked with me as my parents and mentors, your guidance is without comparison.

May God richly reward you as you selflessly mentor many more around the world.

I am indebted to a non—governmental organization by the name “MACHEO CHIDREN CENTER” for their overwhelming support in towards my success. May God bless you for taking me as your child.

To all my elders Mr and Mrs Edwin, Mr and Mrs Wilfred, Mr and Mrs Bagwasi, Mr and Mrs Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Maosa, Mr and Mrs Nimrod, Mr and Mrs Zablon, I can't thank you enough ladies and gentlemen. You all played a lead role in my life.

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To voice of Victory TV, KTN and Radio Sayare, thank you for give me a chance to talk to Young People and encourage them not to lose hope and despair in life no matter the challenges. It is always a nice experience to educate, encourage and interact with millions of people listening to those programs.

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Introduction

Life is not about where we are coming from nor our current position or situation. What matters most is what direction we are moving towards - the future!

HOPE

When we face challenges beyond our ability, we enter into the realm of faith and hope. When we face new frontiers in our lives we encounter what our creator has endowed us to do. Don't be afraid to desire accomplishing more in life no matter the challenges you are battling with. Hope will see you through. Hope gives you the strength to walk away from failure and pursue your destiny. It is not the strongest, neither the most intelligent species that survive the possibility of extinction, but the individual who is responsive to change. Change, change and change again, but for the better! "It is the tree that is not flexible which is broken by the wind. For life to change, and to live long is to change often."



CHAPTER I

ON OUR OWN

I need to know I'm not all alone and on my own.

ON OUR OWN

A golden thread runs through the testimonies of His mouth about the heroes of faith. Through all the ups and downs of life, I pursued an intimate relationship with God through faith. How did it happen? How did dazzling prosperity turn into such a disaster so fast? Shockwaves from bankruptcy have swept over us all. Is there any security when the mightiest amongst us fall so hard? No one's looking out for you. That is the feeling people are getting these days.

Well, I would like to respectfully disagree with TIME and all the analyst who tell us “You’re not on your own” I do agree that times have indeed changed. Yes, many companies and people aren’t as solid as they intended. It is important to conduct due diligence before investing in people and companies.

But I don’t agree that we’re on our own. Today, I want to tell you why I believe we’re not our own. And I want to demonstrate that fact through some individuals who accomplished great things, who looked back on their lives and said with one voice,” I was not alone.”

I think their testimony is powerful and persuasive. It is powerful in these times when foundations are being shaken all around us. Let’s consider recollections of Moses in the book of Deuteronomy. He began his career at the time when his people, the children of Israel, were enslaved by the mightiest empire of Egypt. Times were pretty dark. But Moses could remember that he was not alone.

“Therefore know that the lord your God, is a faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy abide on those who love Him and keep his commandment.” Deuteronomy 7:9

At times we succumb to the suffering and tribulations that we encounter. Moses was enduring a life of conflict in his household. The struggle and hardship in the wilderness as he braved the journey to deliver ex-slaves to the Promised Land.

“

“Therefore know that the lord your God, is a faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy abide on those who love Him and keep his commandment.

.....

“Deuteronomy 7:9

”

Through all his experiences, he proclaimed “the Lord your God is the faithful God who keeps His promises.

Listen to Moses ‘conclusion about God. ‘He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He. ’Deuteronomy 32:4

Do you feel afraid when friends despise and show contempt towards you? Do you feel insecure when financial institutions collapse? Do you regret when relationships and marriages break? Please remember the God who faced tribulation will stand tall because His work is perfect.

It's hard to trust and believe this but I can testify on this. You don't have to worry about what will happen tomorrow. Who will be the last man standing on earth. How my future and that of my family will look like. The God of Heaven is someone you can depend on. He is the reason you are not alone. 'For I know the thought that I have towards you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you hope and prosperity. 'Jeremiah 29:11

God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually, mentally and physically enriched and all the examples may be a source of strength to others. Thus lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at his feet since He cares. My village people, could not foresee a bright future or wish me well after being witness to my turbulent life. But to the glory and mercy

of Jesus Christ that has seen me this far, they have seen God changing disappointment to opportunity, failure to success.

I may not be perfect but I comprehend all this allusions. When I look back on my life, full of struggle and despair I could whisper those words JOSHUA said in his farewell “And you know in all hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; and not one word of them has failed.

During the ups and downs of Israel when we can testify that God reveals himself - He is an unchangeable God. Friends can give false assurance, family can leave you, empty promises from those you trust will disappoint you but God never fails you. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever. When faith fades away, greed always rushes in to fill the vacuum. Some people focus on making money at all costs. They have wandered from the principles of honesty, fairness, faithfulness and patience. God needs our involvement in cultivating our relationship with Him.

Without that vital connection we feel empty and alone. Something is lacking there is a hole we need to fill. So we try to get more things to fill that hole. We acquire more, accomplish more, and conquer more. We taste success. But the hole still remains.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulations, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness peril, sword?

Yet all these things we are more than conquers through Christ who loved us. You don't want that to happen in your life. That's why I urge you today to awake from slumber and testify the goodness of Christ. Please keep in mind people feel they're on their own when they leave God. It is time to take a step in the other direction. It's time to be there for God who has always been there for us. Pursue God in a relationship with all your strength, soul and heart.



CHAPTER 2

DEVELOP A WINNING ATTITUDE

I need less fear and more faith.

Sail on and on! What a life attitude—a winning attitude!

Whatever you know about any subject, there is more to learn. However proficient you are at anything, you can become even more proficient.

Whatever you have discovered, there is more to discover.

Whatever you have learned, there is more to learn.

Sail on in the face of difficulties.

- Sail on in the face of problem.
- Sail on in the face of opposition.
- Sail on in the face of criticism.
- Sail on in the face of doubt.
- Sail on in the face of fear.

- Sail on the face of defeat.
- Sail on in the face mistake.

A winning attitude COUNTERS all obstacles big and small without giving up. We are living a world full of problems and challenges. We will never be afraid to conquer them. What a contrast! Two different attitudes;

- One says, “it can’t be done!” The other says, “let’s do it!”
- One says, “We will be defeated.” The other says, “We will overcome.”
- One says, “We can’t.” The other says “we will.” One thing is certain—if you believe that you cannot, you will not! If you think you are a loser, you will lose! If you repeat it often enough, no matter how untrue, it will become reality. What was the primary difference between Caleb and Joshua and the ten other spies?

The ten were paralyzed by fear. But Joshua and Caleb were motivated by faith. Numbers 14:24

My servant Caleb has a different spirit in Him and he has followed me fully. It's the positive spirit of faith not the negative emotions of fear. All of us are capable of embracing the same faith that gives courage to keep us from the fear of man, and enable us to stand boldly and unflinchingly in defense of the right. Through reliance of the same power, every true soldier may receive strength and courage to overcome the obstacles that seem insurmountable.

“

.....
*The ten were paralyzed by fear.
But Joshua and Caleb were
motivated by faith. Numbers
14:24*
.....

”

Faith connects us with the divine power of God, fear and faith are opposite;

Fear sees the worst. Faith believes the best, and even if the best becomes the worst, faith finds a way through.

Fear breeds doubt. Faith grasps God's hand and believes.

Fear retreats. Faith advances. Numbers 14:3

Fear regards the unknown as threat. Faith regards the unknown as a challenge.

Fear seeks comfort from the past.

Faith seeks the opportunity of the present.

Fear wants the known, the predictable, and the status quo.

Faith delights in the adventure of the unknown.

Fear sees the obstacle. Faith seizes the possibilities.

Fear cripples, paralyzes, and stifles. Faith liberates, frees, enables.

Fear sees what is impossible and makes one crumble. Faith sees what is possible and joy is borne

Fear focuses on and exaggerates the problem. Faith sees beyond the problem and looks for God who can solve it all.

Fear sees problems bigger than God. Faith sees God bigger than any problem.

Fear infects others with the virus of doubt. Faith inspires others with serum of hope.

Fear tends to blame God for the problem. Faith trusts God through the problem.

Faith is believing in God—trusting Him. It is a vote of confidence in Him. It moves at His command.

It obeys His word. It works in His strength and lives in His power.

Be strong
and of
good
courage;
do not be
afraid or

“

.....
*“Be strong and of good courage;
do not be afraid or dismayed for
the lord your God is with you in
whatever you do. Joshua 1:9*

”

dismayed for the lord your “Be strong and of good courage;
do not be afraid or dismayed for the lord your God is with you
in whatever you do. Joshua 1:9

Most people say, “courage in people is like a tea bag. You never know their strength until they are in hot water.

This life—giving faith does not give up when the going gets tough. Faith is not some hyped-up emotional do-goodish. It is not some kind of do-it yourself psychotherapy. It is not.

- Faith in yourself.
- Faith in your ability.
- Faith in you skill.
- Faith in your talent. It is faith in God.
- The God of the universe—the God of the heaven and earth.
- The God who says to the sun, ‘Rise,’ and it rises.
- The God who says to the rain. ‘fall’ and it falls.
- The God who says to the flowers, ‘bloom’ And they bloom.
- The God who says to the wind, ‘blow’ and it blows—and “stop,” and it stops.

The reason faith produces such courage is because it's rooted in the infinite power of God, it enables you to have courage to scale the highest peak and climb the most rugged mountains.

It did for Toddy Huston. Toddy set a world record for climbing the highest peak. His toughest was Mt McKinley Alaska. The mountain is perpetually covered in a shroud of snow and ice. Climbers who have attempted the ascent know that the mountain's mood are capricious and unforgiving. Mt .McKinley remains one of the most challenging climbs in the world. But Toddy had to maneuver across huge crevasses and around avalanches. He had to pass over the glaciers jutting from the mountains, and he had to endure constant exhaustion and cold.

Toddy Huston had to make a choice. Was he going to try it? Was he going to take on this tremendous obstacle with only one leg? Toddy had lost his leg in a boating accident while water skiing at the age of fourteen years old. The boat's gears jammed in reverse, and the propellers on the engine mutilated his leg. To save his life from the infection which later led to amputation of his leg below the knee.

Toddy had great faith and courage that led him to set a new world record. Sometimes I ask myself, How was he able to climb that torturous mountain he climbed—one that would suck the life of we who are physically able.

“

.....

“Now give me this mountain. Bring on the giants. Show me the walled cities. The Lord and I will conquer them. Joshua 14:12

”

.....

Imagine the mountains of discouragement, disillusion, fear, frustration, difficulty and disaster he faced. But Toddy never gave up and his answer challenged me. “If you are going to look at your affliction or your injury and focus on that, you are going to live around it. But when you focus on the Lord, he is just going to get you through it. It’s going to be a learning experience. You are going to move mountains and become wiser and stronger.

- Faith conquers mountains of difficulty.
- Faith scales the heights
- Faith soars to the heavens above.

Also in Caleb’s phenomenal display of courage, when he was eighty-five years old he said “Now give me this mountain. Bring on the giants. Show me the walled cities. The Lord and I will conquer them. Joshua 14:12. Also at eighty-five cried out, “give me this mountain!”—and God gave it to him. My friend, I want to challenge you—no matter what you may be facing in life at this moment— have faith and counter your mountain. You may have mountains of problems to be solved, difficulties to unravel, challenges that seem to defy solutions.

Mountains of despair.

- Mountains of hopelessness.
- Mountain of defeat.
- Mountain of broken families
- Mountains of heartache.
- Mountains of sorrow.
- Mountains of broken relationship and marriage.
- Mountains of broken dreams and shattered hopes.
- Mountains of seemingly unconquerable habits and unsolvable problems.

The world is looking for positive, pro-active people who leap at the worlds needs proclaiming with courageously “Give me this mountain.” The world is looking for people who don’t flinch when they are faced with obstacles.

The world is looking for people who don’t cave in at every little difficulty. By faith in the Almighty power of the living God and with a heart filled with courage, take on your mountains and sail on—and on.



CHAPTER 3

YOUR EXCELLENCE MATTERS.

Step forward, reach out and help.

Success is not just about what you accomplish in your life, it's all about what you inspire others to do, help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours. You rise by lifting others! Give your hands to serve and heart to love.

Make others happy, help people even when you know they can't pay you back and go to sleep knowing that your talents and abilities were used to serve others. Never underestimate the differences you can make in the lives of others; there is no exercise better for the heart than uplifting people. Be the beacon of light in someone's darkness; you have two hands one for helping yourself, the other to help others. Good people

are like candles they burn themselves up to give others light.
Service to others is the key to your fulfillment.

Seven tips to keep in mind before you rise up.

- If you appear before your time - you will soon despair.
- Develop capacity for what you want to do before you launch out.
- The strength of your desire determines the staying power.
- How bad do you want what you want?
- The will to succeed is important, but success comes from planning and great execution
- Your desire to make meaning out of what you do, should be far greater than any obstacle you may encounter on the way.
- Our beliefs determine how we think and feel, what we do in life, beliefs are mental pictures, visuals complete with auditory aids. Our behavior, our facial expression and movement affects the way we may think about

things, we observe others move to determine their belief system.

Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do for a little progress each day adds up big result. Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally, it comes from what you do consistently. It's not about being perfect it's all about productive effort and when you bring this effort every single day that's where transformation change occurs.

Believing in yourself is the first secret of success. Don't be afraid to start over, it's a brand new opportunity to rebuilt what you truly want, for if you don't sacrifice for what you want, what you want becomes the sacrifice. When I encountered Jesus I could sacrifice my time to have a better relationship with Him. People would marvel at how this young girl got a revelation of the word of God. {Not by mighty or power but through the power of the Holy spirty}

To Become Successful You Need To;

- Believe while others are doubting.
- Plan while others are playing.
- Study while others are sleeping.
- Decide while others are delaying
- Prepare while others are day dreaming.
- Begin while others are procrastinating.
- Work while others are idle.
- Invest while others are wasting.
- Listen while others are talking.
- Smile while others are frowning
- Commend while other are criticizing.
- Persist while others are quitting.

Focus, believe and achieve; always remember your focus determines your reality, dream big, work hard, stay focused and surround yourself with good people. Focus on the solution not the problem, let go of the negativity. Never give up the good for the great! If you are not willing to risk the unusual,

you will have to settle for ordinary and if you don't like the way things are then effect the change you want.

As you strive to excel consider this; intelligence is good but wisdom achieves better result.

1. Intelligence leads to argument while wisdom leads to settlement.
2. Intelligence is power of will while wisdom is power over will.
3. Intelligence is heat, it burns, wisdom is warmth, it comforts.
4. Intelligence is pursuit of knowledge, it tires the seeker while wisdom is the pursuit of truth, and it inspires the seeker.
5. Intelligence is holding, wisdom is letting go.
6. Intelligence leads you while wisdom guides.
7. An intelligent man thinks he knows everything and will always try to proof his point of view but a wise man knows that there is still something to learn.
8. An intelligent man freely solicits advice, a wise person keeps his counsel until all options are considered.

9. An intelligent man sees everything as relative, a wise man sees everything as related,
10. An intelligent man preaches a wise man reaches.

Your true self is being who you are, understanding what God has packaged you with, always be yourself, express yourself, have faith and never allow anyone to define you by their limited perceived knowledge. Just be you, find out what you're best at and develop it. God endowed you with various talents thus you are an embodiment of opportunities. I have been discouraged by people before because of my background with some going to an extent of urging me to get married at the age of 12years but I stood my ground because I knew God had a purpose for me despite my upbringing.

Be persistent, be patient, prioritize your passion; for in the midst of chaos there is also opportunity!

Your best days lie ahead, start believing today that things are going to change for better. After a dark night comes the birth of a new day! If you want to see the sunshine, you have to weather the storm. Nothing worth comes easy! You were not

born to be mediocre. Modify your dream or magnify your skill. Life is not about waiting the storm to pass. It is learning to dance in the rain knowing am chosen generation, a royal priesthood and a unique person. He called me out of darkness into his marvelous light.



CHAPTER 4

BE EYEWITNESS OF THE UNBELIEVABLE

I need hope that will endure to the end

Sometimes life gives us blows by sending misfortunes our way. Though it might seem that the misfortunes have been unfairly distributed and that yours might be too much, God never allows trials that are beyond your capacity. I know if all of us were allowed to give our stories, we would come to the realization that horrible things have happened to each one of us but at different points in time. Even if the experience may differ, but the effect is always the same: devastating. These horrible things have potential of overshadowing all the good things that have happened or are happening in our lives.

The main reason I wrote this book is to challenge you to look beyond the problem. Psychologists over the years have made assumptions about human beings, they have developed

structures that they use to explain the nature of human beings. At my tender age I could not comprehend why my world was this unfortunate and I felt fear and doubt [latent stage] about what lay ahead for me. Being an only child I had to absorb the emotional hit alone.

But I thank my aunt who encouraged and stood by me during this trying moment. My uncle Obara (now deceased) who by that time was working at KRA as a general manager took it upon himself to ensure mom got immediate medical attention by moving her to Nairobi. To the glory of God and His great healing power, my mum regained consciousness.

Immediately after graduating from high school I had to earn a living for my upkeep. I moved to THIKA to live with my aunt HYLIN. I enrolled at KENA institute for computer packages. It was at this college that I met Pastor Edward who encouraged and challenged me a lot to be a better person.

This was my path and it taught me several things about success:

- Performance is your reality, everything else is an illusion.
- Work hard, the distance between your dream and reality will be bridged as you pursue your dream.
- Even when loss becomes a reality, never turn it into your mentality.
- With Faith and hard work you will succeed! When your work matches your faith, your reality will match your dream.

Whenever you get knocked down in life get up immediately and review the lesson learnt and carry on. Nobody ever drowned in his own sweat. Fail seven times; stand up eighty.

.....
“The name of the lord is strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Proverbs 18:10
.....

Vitality shows not only in the ability to persist, but in the ability to start over? The strength is within and you cannot give up. You will make it. This was the time I learned that your value is tied to the problems you solve? Recognize your dominant gift and raise it high to excellence. If you fail it’s

your fault! Your talent is a gift that God gave you; what you make of your talent is your gift back to God! God does not ask about your ability, but your availability.

Your thought creates the mold for your action - it was time for me to take the initiative. Moses was asked what do you have and he said a stick, my aunty will use the same terminology! All negativity is caused by living in the past and failures, anxiety, stress, worry and all fears.

I confidently said I have some coins to add on top of what they have. It is prudent to allow your faith to be bigger than your fear. Success is not measured by the strength of your desire and the size of your dream better you find your passion.[Hebrews 11:6 without faith is impossible and you can't please God.]

Don't depend on others as a source of happiness. Don't let the way you are treated determine your destiny. Even your own shadow leaves strength of your

“
.....
*Success is not measured by the
Strength of your desire and the
size of your dream better you find
your passion.[Hebrews 11:6* ”
.....

desire and the size of your dream better you find your passion. [Hebrews 11:6] you in darkness. What you can become depends on what you overcome. One small crack doesn't mean you are broken. It means you were put to the test and you fell apart.

It is not the Mountain ahead that you are about to climb that wears you down but it is the pebble in your shoe!

I endured this head high knowing I serve a mighty God, for those who trust upon His name He will never forsake or put into shame. In the year 2018, Satan wanted to shake my faith but God reminded me not to fear. What man can do the one inside you is greater than who is in the world. When Jesus says yes no man can say no and what He has begun He will accomplish.

When I realized I may not finish my course for lack of fees I almost despaired. But God opened doors and I met the Macheo Children Center fraternity led by Sir Manix, Madam Faith and Monicah. They accepted my request to be sponsored for my college education and upkeep. I thank you for

approving my request, advising me us your daughter and above all am humbled to be part of this family.

This was the time I learned:

- Have strength and courage with every experience in your life; look fear in the face and pursue your goals regardless of your past.
- Surround yourself with the people who believe in your best even though your best doesn't show at that moment.
- You have enough critics and cynics to accomodate friends who spend every minute talking about your weaknesses.
- God didn't bypass your faults but will send a helper to deliver you.

All this blows led me to discover:

- Humility influences people
- Humility helps you accept challenges
- Humility leads you to do right all the time.

- Humility seeks the advice of others.
- Humility believes in prayers.
- Humility has a thankful attitude.
- Humility freely admits it's flaws, mistakes and failures
- Humility Rejoices when others are celebrating.
- Humility Lives to help others - I salute Macheo for living by this virtue.
- Humility it is not easily offended.
- Humility does not live with a sense of entitlement.
- Humility is quick to forgive and doesn't hold grudges.
- Humility is confident in who it is and content with who it's not.

Are you humble?

The far I have reached is Ebenezer, and I have every reason to Glorify and cherish my king of kings and Lord of Lords.



CHAPTER 5

STILL STANDING TALL

I need to learn how to stand firm,

Bow low, and hang on.

If ever there was a time in history when God is looking for men and women to take moral stand, that moment is now.

- If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything.
- If you do not stand for something your faith isn't worth very much.
- If you do not stand for something—if there's nothing worth dying for—there is little worth living.
- If there is nothing you are passionate about, if nothing really matters, if everything is spiritual blur on the

radar screen of your mind, life itself will hold little value.

God is calling us to stand tall. Let us consider the life of the one who stood tall .We shall let his courage and faith speak to us. He is one of history's courageous giants.

- He served under five heads of state.
- He began his diplomatic service shortly after he graduated from high school—and his governmental service continued for approximately sixty years.
- Kings valued his counsel.
- Politicians treasured his judgment.
- Statesmen sought his wisdom.
- When his nation fell to a foreign power, this valued secretary of state was amazingly appointed to another term by the foreign conquering power.

Daniel's incredible courage speaks to us of three vital elements of standing tall in the world of moral compromise: standing firm, bowing low, and hanging on.

- You cannot stand tall unless you are willing to stand firm.
- You cannot stand tall unless you are willing to bow low.
- You cannot stand tall unless you are willing to hang on. Stand Firm

While in his teenage years, Daniel was taken captive by the Babylonians, when King Nebuchadnezzar took a number of Hebrews captive, he planned to educate some of them in the principles of Babylon and return them to be used as stooges as he reigned over Jerusalem through them. Gradually and cunningly Nebuchadnezzar plotted to change their thinking. His goal was to shift their allegiance from God to the gods of Babylon.

Early in his captivity, Daniel was ushered into Babylon's banquet hall to eat from the king's table at a lavish feast thrown in honor of bel-marduk, the chief Babylonian god. The feast was a victory banquet—celebrating the triumph of Babylon over Jerusalem. The food at the feast had been

offered to idols. Eating the food served here would be to accept idolatry and acknowledge the superiority of the

Babylonian gods over his God. Also, some of the food was unclean. Therefore, were Daniel to eat it he would be rejecting his Hebrew heritage.

Daniel quickly realized that the rich, unhealthy food would rapidly destroy his health and reduce his physical powers, while also impairing his moral judgment. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he will not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with wine which he drank; therefore he requested the chief of the eunuch that he might not defile himself. [Daniel 1:8]

Daniel stood tall and firm. He refused to compromise his integrity to gain the king's favor or avoid his displeasure. You can never stand tall unless you can stand firmly on the right side. Fast forward now for thirty-nine years. Daniel's decision was not an isolated case. It wasn't a once-in- lifetime kind of decision. Standing firm was part of his character, it was deeply embedded within the fabric of his being. It was part of his

spiritual life. Daniel comes before the king—the greatest monarch, the most powerful man of then—known world. But he does not tell Nebuchadnezzar what he wants to hear, instead Daniel gives the king a message from God. Daniel stand tall, because he stands firm courageously telling the king unless he repents, his kingdom is going to be chopped down, just as the tree in his dream. He is going to lose his empire, and he will be sent out to wander around like an animal, insane and eating grass.

“O king let my advice be acceptable to you; breakoff your sin by being of righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lightening of your prosperity.” Daniel 4:27.

What courage! What resolute purpose! What decisiveness! What firmness! To look into the eyes of the most powerful man in the world and earnestly call him to repentance.

“Thou shall have no other gods before me,” while in his old age he stood firm, he knelt down on his knees and three times a day and prayed.

I want to remind you that you can never stand taller than when you are on your

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“O king let my advice be acceptable to you; breakoff your sin by being of righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lightening of your prosperity.”
Daniel 4:27

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knees. Daniel acceptable to you; breakoff your sin by being of righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lightening of your prosperity.” Daniel 4:27 recognized compromise is fatal to a vibrant spiritual life. God worked powerfully to open door and solve our problem. You can never stand tall, my friends, unless you stand firm. Since a people who stand tall are not blown away by every wind of compromise comes along. Because they, like Daniel, have “purposed in their hearts to serve God. They have settled it—obedience matters.

Bow Low

You can never stand tall unless you bow low. The strength to stand tall is not some mental toughness. It is not some human determination. It is not some extraordinary will power. It is the strength of character rooted in a relationship with God through prayer. Daniel stood tall because he bowed low. I had to stand tall and firm in Gods' knees. My friend how many times do you take your cares and worries to God?

At each crossroad in his life we see Daniel bowing low. During his youth when confronted with the threat of death, we see Daniel “seeks mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Daniel 2:18”

Later in life, when faced with lions in the den, Daniel is found “as is custom” Daniel 6:10 praying three times a day with his window open praying that God will deliver his people from captivity . Then I set my face toward the lord God to make request by prayer and supplication, with fasting. And prayed

to the Lord my God,....and said ‘O Lord, great and awesome God.’ Daniel 9:3-4

Christians are encouraged to trust in the Lord always. He has given us hope and assurance that he will never forsake or put us to shame. Daniel’s life was saturated with prayer. He bowed low so he could stand tall.

Everywhere I go, having mingled with various cultures during my travels, I have met real giants of prayer—men and women who stood tall as Daniel, because they bowed low. I have realized that when mountain climbers reach the summit of some of the world’s greatest peaks, like Mount Everest or Mount McKinley, if the winds are fierce, the only way to keep from getting blown away is to get on their knees while they are at the peak.

If you want to stand tall on the mountain top with God, you must bow low.

- Daniel prayed to God of heaven as youth exiled him.

- Daniel prayed to God of heaven when presented with the king's delicacies.
- Daniel prayed to God of heaven when thrown into the lion's den.

I have testified that through prayer, I have seen miracles

- Evil spirits cast out of demon possessed men and women.
- Poverty—stricken, uneducated lay people who become courageous and successful.
- Broken marriages and relationships healed.
- Illiterate village people who became warriors for Christ.

I remember one elderly woman - long gray hair sun baked face with deeply etched lines. She had a striking and beautiful smile. She wasn't well educated, though she knew God's word.

This woman was a true prayer warrior who prayed for hours each day. She visited various gang leaders in her

neighbourhood. One day, she was meeting with the leading gang leader of the barrio—tough, ruthless, blood-thirsty thief and drug addict. He confronted her and said, old woman, get out of here with your Jesus

“Young man,” tell me why you don’t love Jesus as I do? For two hours, the gang leader ranted, cursed and railed against her and her Jesus, she listened and told him about this Jesus she loved and how he had changed her life, she told him how Jesus had forgiven her. She even told him how she had prayed that God would lead her to the leader of the barrio, and that he had answered her prayer. “Even your shooting of me is part of my answer. Then that tough, hardened gang leader began to weep. Old woman, please—please come with me to talk to all the other gang leaders and tell them, too, about this Jesus?”

You can never stand firm until you bow low. What is your prayer life like, my friend? Are you bowing low day by day before God? Is “standing firm” for you some kind of do-it-yourself, grit-your-teeth, clench-your-fist kind of standing tall? Or is it a humble relationship with God that leads you to seek His approval more than anything else in life— that leads you

to represent Him in everything you do? This bowing –low humility leads you to never compromise your integrity, because if you did, you’d dishonor the God who loves you so much.

HANG ON

You can never stand tall unless you stand firm. You can never stand tall unless you bow low. And you can never stand tall unless you hang on. Daniel hanged on —he persevered.

Daniel never gave up in tough times.

Daniel did not hang on to something. He hung on to someone {God}.

- A captive in a foreign land, Daniel hung on to God.
- Separated from home and family, Daniel hung on
- In the midst of a heathen culture, Daniel hung on.
- In a morally corrupt society, Daniel hung on
- With his life on the line, Daniel hung on.
- Betrayed by working associates, ridiculed and faced with jealousy and envy, Daniel hung on

- Facing his greatest test in his old age, Daniel hung on. There's a story about an old woman who was dying of cancer over her life. She had memorized hundreds of Bible texts. And one of her favorites was this one:

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to him until that day.”

2Timothy 1:12

This woman's life was ebbing away. Her strength was gone and her energy was spent. She could barely remember basic things. Her brain was slowly withering and with it went the memory. She had repeated this verse over and over throughout the months of her illness. And as her sickness progressed, her mind became increasingly clouded, until she could only remember one phrase: “He is able

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*“I know whom I have believed
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep what I have committed to
him until that day.” 2Timothy
1:12*
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“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to him until that day.”
2Timothy 1:12 to keep what I have committed to him.

Her memory failed further and on the day before her death, she could only remember three words: “committed to him.” On her deathbed, the entire passage faded from memory except one word—“Him” Jesus Christ is enough! Throughout his life, Daniel stood tall because he stood firm. He would not compromise his integrity.

- He stood tall because he bowed low.
- He realized his spiritual strength came from the God of heaven.
- He stood tall, because in all circumstances of life he hung on him.

Every time we see him in the book of Daniel, he is still standing.

- At the king’s banquet in Daniel, chapter 1, he is still standing.

- At the University of Babylon in chapter 2, he is still standing.
- In Belshazzar's banquet hall in chapter 5 he is still standing.
- Faced with threat of the lions' den in chapter 6 still standing.
- Babylon gives way to media-Persia, and Daniel is still standing
- Kings ascend and descends their thrones: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Cyrus Darius—but Daniel succeeds them all.
- Empires collapses, decades pass, kings die, but Daniel is still standing. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Ruth and Hannah stood firm and believed in God. This is the inspiration that strengthened me to trust and keep my hope in Jesus Christ despite the obstacles and challenges I have faced. I can confidently say, I am who I am today because I trusted God would lead me to greatness.

Indeed whomever overcomes will receive power over the nations. If in these end times, you stand firm, bow low, and hung on, you, too will be found still standing tall.



CHAPTER 6

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

I need to be more hopeful and optimistic about the future.

I was a deaconess for over three years. A cheerful, optimistic, and truly happy woman. I was ever smiling, warmly greeting faithfuls as they arrived at the church making sure they felt at home. One hot, sultry summer afternoon I got sick and I called my pastor. It was unusual that I would disturb my preacher in the middle of the day.

My voice was trembling and I couldn't speak coherently and thus resulted to write a text. "Pastor, I really need to talk to you. I need to talk to you as soon as possible. Can you come over?" pastor didn't know quite what was wrong. It was strange that I would call him at that time, he stopped what he was doing, rescheduled his engagements and drove to our house. When he got there, he knew something was wrong. I was unconscious with my aunty watching helplessly, still not

recovered from the shock. She had never seen me in this state and it scared her to the core. Without further delay they rushed me to ST.MULUMBA THIKA. The doctor immediately recommended I be put on life support. Aunty Hyline was on the verge of a breakdown but wore a brave face as she consoled the other family members also trying to understand the sudden turn of events. They all thought I wasn't going to make it.

I was comatose for three months as doctors tried to revive me a situation made worse by a malignant growth that posed serious risk. God works in a marvelous way. Because I came out of my coma much to the surprise of everyone. My purpose here on earth was yet to be achieved and here I am - Velma-testifying this because I know someone out there shares my story but no solution is feasible. That's the time I realized that the best is yet to come.

- If you are on top of the world today—if you are finding fulfillment in your job, your family is fine, your health is good, your finances are doing well—the best is yet to come.

- If you are going through disappointment, friends have despised you, people talk negative about you—the best is yet to come.
- If you are going through the heart-wrenching agony and trauma of divorce and rejection and you are wondering how to pick up the pieces of your life, the best is yet to come.
- If your body is racked with rheumatism and chronic diseases, or cancer has metastasized, the best is yet to come.
- If you come from a broken past and a dysfunctional family, and you are still healing from the scars, the best is yet to come.
- If your relationship and finances tank, the best is yet to come.
- If you're struggling with life, education, guilt, the best is yet to come

Let's take the example of Moses, because the life of the follower of God is a life of uninterrupted victories. This may not immediately manifest but eventually it does. And it was

because of the decree that Moses received education in Egypt and that enabled him to develop military and leadership skill gaining vast knowledge. A curse was turned into a blessing.

Curses drove me away from my father's home to a foreign land but I know all this happened in order for me to give glory and honor to my redeemer Jesus Christ. Indeed God turns curses to blessings for with God the best is yet to come. I may look young but I have experienced a lot that inspired me to write this book.

From broken families to desperate youth I know I will serve as an example by putting my story out there to encourage and strengthen those who have lost hope. Our life's traumas, heartache and sorrow are eventually turn into uninterrupted victories. We may not see them as such here, but in the end, we will.

- Do you come from a broken home? The best is yet to come.
- Have you been abused since childhood? The best is yet to come

- Have you gone through the trauma or rejection, broken relationship, divorce? The best is yet to come.

Your scar will be stars to shine forever in the other people's life. I believe and trust in God. If He can take the old rugged cross and a man with nails through his hands and blood running down His wrist—if God can take a crown of thorns , if God can take the death and agony of the cross and turn it into instrument of salvation , even for you and me. Do you think that there is something too difficult for our God that he can't do it for you?

Then the best is yet to come.

- Look beyond your tears.
- Look beyond your sorrow.
- Look beyond your heartache.
- Look beyond your disappointment.
- Look beyond the pain.
- Look beyond the suffering.
- Look beyond that cancer.

- Look beyond that scar, because seeing him who is invisible, the best is yet to come Because He takes curses and turns them into blessing, if He has done it for me, then He can do the same for you.

Mum [JERUSAH] used to repeat these words several times. “My child, how we human beings think and the way God thinks are very different. Do not stress yourself because God’s time eventually is perfect time.” Indeed this is the best time of God to do for me so that praises be to Thee. One night I decided to have a communion with my God.

Imagine what must have been on my mind? I felt guilty, disappointed, shame, failure and defeat all meshed into wild one wild emotional rollercoaster. I could ask myself rhetorical questions, “God had dreams about my life, but through my conscious choice, I might have crushed those dreams, God has plans for my life, but for how long should I wait?”

Do you understand what I’m talking about, do you feel my hurt? I knew God had plans for me but whenever I got into a serious relationship it could fall apart. I could question God,

so you say, those plans are gone? But that was the start of God doing new things in my life.

Understand this - God has plans for you, despite you being an alcoholic, smoker, fornicator or even a corrupt liar. You are unfaithful in your tithe, you break the Sabbath

- God still has plans for you. But inside you are overcome with shame and guilt knowing you haven't lived according to God's will. God turned a poor decision into a divine encounter! In the time of Moses, EXODUS 3; 4, you know it's quite an incredible thing when you think about this situation. Why would the Lord have a bush burned and not consumed? Why did God not sustain my first and second relationship? Because a burning bush that is not consumed gets your attention. As I underwent these tests, God was preparing and molding me for something bigger and better. And all He needed from me is to make a Holy ground for him to stand and manifest His Glory.

- Holy ground when am running from God.

- Holy ground when I have taken my life into my own hands and made a poor decision.
- Holy ground in my disappointment.
- Holy ground in my plans when they have failed.
- Holy ground when I'm filled with shame.
- Holy ground when I'm gripped with condemnation.

What is Holy ground? —A divine encounter with my God through prayer at the moment of my greatest need.

A moment when I rest my worries knowing he will solve them all according to His will.

Are you going through some sorrow in your life? Going through

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Jeremiah 29: 11 when God says that he has good plans upon our lives to give us future hope and prosperity we need to believe in those words.
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some disappointment? God says, “I know your sorrow. I am with you in your agony. I am there in the depths of your disappointment. I am there through your isolated, lonely nights. I am there when you put your head on your pillow and cry yourself to sleep because of your family. I am there when

you are weeping in the night because of your broken relationship or marriage. I'm there when you wonder, 'why God –why me? Finally God will give you assurance and hope; "I am there in your disappointment, sorrow, guilty, shame and despair too.

And indeed He has turned my shame into fame, from a homeless little girl He has given me a home.

Jeremiah 29: 11 when God says that he has good plans upon our lives to give us future hope and prosperity we need to believe in those words.

For you to experience the doing of Christ you have to have need. God allowed me to pass through this challenges in order for me to come and tell you - the best is yet come.

The Israelites endured hardship - EXODUS 3:7. God teaches us dependence when we have a need. Needs are the stuff miracles are made of.

I felt a need. Do you have a burning need to be loved? Some financial need in your life? What is your need today? Where

there is sight, no miracle is needed to heal. The fact that I'm blind physically means that I need sight. Jesus didn't heal people from blindness who were not blind, he healed people who needed to see.

Where there is no withered arm, there was no need to heal an arm that was not withered. Where there is no need, there is no need for miracle. So if there were no difficulties in life and we pretty well had our arms around everything, where would God fit in? By design, God puts difficulties and obstacles, in a way we don't see any way out.

His miracles occur in the context of human need. When you bring human need together with faith and commitment, the way is open for God to work a miracle. I am thankful to the Lord our God for my needs always meet a matching miracle. I thank God for he satisfies every need we have. Thus the best is yet to come.

Do you have a need today in your life?

- A need to pass your exam?

- A need in your marriage and relationship?
- A need with your finances?
- A need with your health?
- A need with your kids?

God doesn't rain manna when you have a full stomach after a large buffet serving. Therefore, I appreciate the fact that need should not disappoint me, neither will it dampen my faith. Instead, need leads me to reach out to Him seeking the solution. When I have a need, I know a miracle is on the way and that is why I proclaim the best is yet to come. When our fondest dreams are smashed, when our greatest hopes fade away and life is over—I don't mean death at the end—but when something inside us dies and say I can never fulfill my dreams, remember there are others like Velma who never gave up and now live to tell the story. Even if your dreams are broken into pieces and plans shattered or goals crushed, the best is yet to come. Because in Jesus there is no failure. In Jesus there is no defeat. In Jesus there is no permanent setback. One day we shall see him face to face, feel his warm embrace, experience his presence and shout,

“Home at last! Home at last! Home at last!”



CHAPTER 7

A FAMILY AGAINST THE ODDS

I need more kindness towards those in my family

It USED TO BE EASIER they say, raising a family. Life had a friendlier rhythm to it, neighbors helped one another. The church was a bind amongst communities living together. Friendships blossomed.

But the world is much different now. The odds are stacked against the family. Relationships are being subjected to world's pressures eventually tearing apart. Drugs and pornography are destroying young people. The pressure, the pace, the problem—so much seems stacked against our families today. Can we ever beat the odds?

“The highest happiness on earth is marriage.”

Williams Phelps (Writer)

Williams Phelps (A writer) said, “The highest happiness on earth is marriage.” But more recently a newspaper observed, “the three stages of modern family: matrimony, acrimony and alimony.” The odds are extremely against families today.

But I want to share with you a true story about a family that weathered these odds. And this family shows us in remarkable ways, qualities that are essential in building healthy families today.

The story of Ruth reveals that relationships really matter. Commitment to the Lord her God also meant commitment to her family. Faithfulness to God became loyalty to her loved ones. Ruth was fully satisfied.

Naomi, was a Hebrew woman. She was forced her to settle her family in Moab as famine depleted all resources making life tough. With her was Elimeleck, her husband and two sons. The two young men grew up and eventually married Ruth and Orpah— Moabite women.

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“Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the lord show kindness to you.”

Ruth 1:8

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All of the three men died in mysterious circumstances. The book of Ruth says the sorrowing widows-Ruth and Orpha, left without children and in grief Naomi decided to return to Judah.

So Naomi stops and tells her daughters-in-law “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the lord show kindness to you.” Ruth 1:8.

But Ruth and Orpha promised to go back with Naomi to her people. After all, they were all the elderly woman had as family. How could she survive alone?

Naomi however insisted, return home my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am not going to have no sons, who could become your husbands? Naomi really cared about these two girls.

She was more concerned about their welfare than about her own security in old age. You know it's pretty difficult to let go of those we've learned to depend upon.

There's a strong urge to hang on tight and cling to every bit of security we have. But Naomi is able to let go. She shows a priceless quality—unselfish concern.

So finally, Orpha embraced her mother-in-law tearfully pulled her close and said farewell. But Ruth could not let go. Her devotion was too strong. The young girls made a memorable promise to Naomi. Your people will be my people your God my God. Ruth 1:16

What a beautiful assurance! What beautiful words! Forgetting her own hopes for the future Ruth cast a lot “You are in our hearts, to die and live together.” 2Corithian7:3. Only those

who are selfless and devoted can show this kind of generosity and love .That is something we see less often these days.

We live in an age of ‘disposable relationships’. People find it easy to break bonds. If someone is useful to us, or attractive at the moment, fine. If not, we travel on to greener pasture.

We’re losing that sense of concern for others, of sticking by a friend, no matter what. Ruth held fast—she clung to that one family bond that remained. It wasn’t much, from our point we realize that Ruth was determined to carry on despite the circumstances and obstacles she encountered.

We see so many odds stacked against the family today. From immorality, strenuous careers, there’s a times for roots to sink in. But imagine young Ruth spend the rest of her life with a sorrowful old woman?

Death, too, had come into their lives in force. That’s never easy to adjust to. Tragedy has broken strong families. There was poverty. In old times the culture was set up in such a way that widows could not survive after the demise of their

husbands thus immediately remarried. Life insurance or social security back then was just a pipe dream. And don't forget, Ruth and Naomi were in-laws. How many in-laws do you know who enjoy perfect harmony?

All these factors conspired against the two women but they stuck together. You know God is a lot like that. His loving kindness and devotion are celebrated in the psalmist. Jehovah in the Old Testament is FAITHFUL to Israel. What we desire here and now is His faith, His promises are ever true. Faithful. That's God.

Our families desperately need this kind of faithfulness today—this unconditional loyalty. With tough economic times you expect many families to remain restless. Many families don't exude that kind of strength, these families drift apart. Problems come, adversity threatens, and they don't put a fight.

Sometimes we complain, we dwell on problems and reinforce our despair. We criticize others as they offer a solution to our

problem. You know, it's possible to nag one another into inaction. At times we simply withdraw.

The problem is someone else's responsibility. We build a cocoon around ourselves and try to shut it all out. It's easy to do nothing. As one bumper sticker read: "there's too much apathy!" and in small letters below. "But who cares?" Apathy destroys families. Successful families don't just happen. They require hard work. You know the saying "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

Sometimes our efforts seem pretty frail. Dark forces tear families apart, the odds seem stacked against them. We feel we just don't have resources to meet the great problems that burden us. But remember, God is eager to multiply our efforts. As we act in faith, He responds and magnifies those actions.

We can link our weakness to His power. God's resource are inexhaustible. We must ACT in faith and put our loyalty into action. We must demonstrate the will to work for the good of others. Friends, that kind of selfless concern can make all the difference in our families. It's not the loud warning about evil

that protects our families but the quiet acts of kindness that make family bonds strong. It's not fighting against the dangers of the world that counts as much as living for each other.

Solidify your loyalty and faith to vanquish all forces lined up against us. If we just take the first steps of showing our concern. God will magnify the effort. He will bless our families abundantly—just as He did to Ruth, Joseph, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Do you sense God calling you to kindness in your family?
Have other priorities entered into your life?

God is calling you to loyalty in your education, career, and relationships. God is calling you to turn your heart home.



CHAPTER 8

JESUS SATISFIES OUR EVERY NEED

I need to look to Jesus—who can satisfy all my deepest needs.

What is it about Jesus that meets the most urgent inner needs of our soul? How does he satisfy our heart's most fervent longings?

Here are four ways Jesus satisfies our deepest needs: First, God shows us and tells us that we matter to Him—that we are special and important. He created us. We are not merely skin covering bones. Not a random combination of chemicals. He loves each one of us. Deep, inner, lasting satisfaction comes from knowing that the creator of the universe loves us with an incredible love. I matter to him. I am valuable in His sight.

Second, God not only created us, but He has a plan for our life. He is always planning the very best for us. Jeremiah declares. ' For I know the thoughts that I think towards you,

saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”—Jeremiah 29:11 Despite life’s ups and downs, God has a plan regardless of disappointments and sorrow. God is working all things out for my good.’

Third, enduring inner satisfaction comes from knowing that the grace of Christ is greater than all our failures. In Christ there is forgiveness and freedom from guilt, in Christ there is mercy and pardon. John states. “For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but for the world to be saved.” John 3:17.

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“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”—Jeremiah 29:11
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Paul adds, “there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”—Romans 8:1. There is no greater inner satisfaction than knowing that Christ doesn’t condemn you.

Fourth, the greatest satisfaction of all is in knowing that one day Jesus will make a complete end to tribulation, sickness, and suffering. Sorrow

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“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, no more sorrow, nor crying, there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
Revelation 21:4.

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will be no more, disease, disaster and death will be wiped out. Worry, want and war will be forever banished.” And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, no more sorrow, nor crying, there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”— Revelation 21:4.

The bible assures us that when we hope in the lord then our strength will be renewed like the eagles. Life is full of challenges that make us tired, discouraged and hopeless.

We therefore recharge every other time to keep on going. When you set out to accomplish demanding tasks you are bound to feel worn out at the end of it. We experience a burnout even in vocational line of duty. When we work out on

a project, it might drain us financially by the time it is completed, or even before.

When you have pursued studies, a time comes when you are tired and you feel the need for some rest.

Change your strategies, your way of thinking, and the way you look at things if you desire from the best.

- “The world is fast changing and until you learn to adapt and adjust to stand out from the masses you will fade into oblivion.” Bernard kelvin
- I have also learned that you can be too busy, work hard in life but at the end of it all you still fail to have anything tangible, one of the reasons for such outcomes is lack of trust in the powerful meaning of - the best is yet to come.

There are categories of people that I have observed so far and I will like to share to you.

1. THE CONDEMNED

These group is always tired of life. They live resigned, purposeless lives, they appear as though God has delayed to call them to rest! It could be true that some occurrence in life may have subjected them to such a disillusioned attitude, but surely, one should be able to rise from their frustration and find new meaning in life.

2. THE COMPLAINANTS

These are the kind of people who are always dissatisfied with nearly everything in life. They will report to work late but still find an excuse to complain about and defend their underperformance. Students with such traits lay blame on virtually all their teachers to justify their failure, spouses who fall under this category no longer see anything positive in their partners.

Complainants are even found in the church where there are critics who will not pay attention to the gospel because they are hell-bent on fault finding. They are always crafting ways

of pulling their church leaders down, such people do not bring anything new to anybody's life. If you can't add value to change their lives, then you better avoid them by all means.

3. THE COMFORT ZONERS

This are people who live in deprivation but claim to be comfortable in life. They always discourage you to work hard, they simply give you examples of people who worked hard but still failed. They will remind you of people who had amassed wealth but died leaving it all behind. These are the category of people who are too comfortable with the little achievements they have made in their past life and always remind you of how they moved higher and accomplished a lot. They will have all manner of excuses as to why they can't believe that the best is yet to come.

4. THE CHAMPION

These are determined fellows who will stop at nothing to realize success. They have different perspectives in life. They do not spend the rest of their lives celebrating past

achievement, they hope for the best and fly even higher. They are always ready to take risks and persevere through hardship.

Their past failures are precious stepping stone opportunities for learning. They are ready to pay the price to be different, they also have the interest of others at heart. They do not excel alone; they encourage and help others along the way. These champions put their hopes on high places and they are God fearing, possess eagle characteristics some of which I will share with you shortly. I have always admired teaching about the life of an eagle and relating it with our lives. The following are few lesson you can learn from the eagles if you believe that the best is yet to come towards a better in your life.

A. Eagles possess a strong vision.

These birds are gifted with excellent eye sight, they can spot their prey from miles away. Eagles can even see fish swimming in the water as they soar in the skies. So when they set out to capture the food they rarely miss it. Our vision should be equally clear in life. We should focus on the main purpose we want to achieve and find ways of overcoming any

obstacles that can come our way. Change happens to those who have a vision.

B. Eagles are powerful

Equipped with large wings, sharp talons and a strong curved beak, eagles are known to be the strongest of birds.

They have what it takes to fly against strong winds as they hunt their prey. This helps them survive even during tough times.

C. Eagles are skilled and confident

They are skilled hunters. They mostly feed on fresh prey. They are also confident when flying up such that not even the heat and strong rays of the sun can prevent them from soaring to greater heights. No other bird can match these incredible characteristics.

What does this teach us in life? For us to embroil in the change we want to become we must;

- Realize and acknowledge that we are fed up with our present circumstances. We must accept the truth that our life has stagnated.
- Move out from our comfort zone and isolate ourselves from the card—just like the eagle moves to the mountain top. This will help us avoid unnecessary distractions and present ourselves with opportunities to rethink our new direction.



CONCLUSION

Do not keep to yourself whatever you have read in this book I know that it has touched and inspired you. Share it with somebody, for the Glory of God and you will be blessed.

Let us purpose to initiate the process of change that we want to experience in our community, our nations and in the entire world. Remain focused in achieving this change so that through you other people can be different in life.

May your name be recorded in the great books of history as one of those who added value to humanity.

Let us acknowledge that God has given us potential to build a lasting capacity that can leave a positive impact in our generation and the generations to come just like God promised Abram, may we pray that God uses our lives to be a blessing to many of His people.

SHALOM!