

THINK **ON THESE** **THINGS**



31

Essential Business Principles
FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Judy Howard

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**Thirty-one
Essential Business Principles
for Entrepreneurs**

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For Entrepreneurs

By

Judy Howard

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Think on These Things

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to

All Entrepreneurs

As an encouragement to pursue their visions

INTRODUCTION

T*hey that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles.*

Taken from Isaiah 40:31, this verse has been my guide for many years, lighting the course of my life. The eagle has become my symbol because of the encouragement I gain just from looking at its stance in flight.

When I look at the eagle in flight, I see greatness. I see success. I see elegance. These are attributes that serve as examples for my life, and which inspire me to keep on believing, keep on achieving, keep on climbing, and keep on expecting to reach the highest pinnacle of success attainable.

There are many similarities that exist between the eagle's life and the Christian Life, and anyone striving to reach a goal can draw from these similarities. The quoted text speaks of the wings. The eagle has a tremendously wide wingspan and these wings attest to its strength and power. The eagle can soar through storm winds, using them to lift it higher.

This is a very valuable lesson for an entrepreneur because many times adversity comes at the moment we take a step to achieve our purpose or our goal, but we can draw from the strength within us – the strength that comes from God – and this enables us to glide through the storm without becoming overwhelmed by it. It is interesting to note that when other birds are trying to seek refuge *from* the storm, the eagle flies

into it. As entrepreneurs, we must use the pressure of the storm: disappointments, frustration, rejection, etc. to lock our minds on our purpose, which in turn will bring us to a higher altitude in life. It took me a while to appreciate trials and tests, but I discovered that after I had gone through a testing circumstance once, I came out a stronger person.

Another point about the eagle and its wings: The eagle flies higher than any other bird. Therefore, we can take a “feather” from the eagle. When other people try to bring us and/or keep us down, confidence in knowing who we are causes us to lift our heads up, spread our wings out and take off. We should not allow others to bring us down to their level of thinking. **Eagles do not mix with other birds.** I have had to do some of this during my lifetime. Be encouraged!

Another attribute at which I would like us to look is the eagle’s eyesight. Did you know that the eagle’s sight is 3.6 times sharper than the human’s? An eagle can site its prey from miles away and zoom down on it with amazing accuracy. This fascinates me. However, it speaks to the spiritual insight that we possess. We are able, because of our knowledge of right and wrong – knowledge of the Word of God – to spot an enemy before he/she strikes, and we are thereby able to protect ourselves. This insight is often gained through experience; and yet sometimes we close our eyes to what we see, causing us to fall into a trap. At all times, therefore, we need to use the extremely powerful inner eyes we have, to avoid bad decisions in business.

One last feature I would like to mention here is the eagle’s face. In the face of an eagle, I see determination. I see confidence. I see fearlessness. These are all necessary

qualities for an entrepreneur. There is a certain degree of elegance and royalty in the face of an eagle, which to me speaks of greatness. Greatness – not in the sense of worldly acclaim – but, actually overcoming whatever life brings your way and achieving in spite of them. As entrepreneurs, we need to elevate our thinking to the mentality of a lifestyle of royalty – not in the possession of things, but in freedom. Freedom to become who we were created to be!

I sincerely hope that as you study this devotional that the Lord will speak to you personally because He has your plans, your future and your success in His hands. His plan for you is to prosper.

God Bless.

Judy

DAY 1

BIBLE READING

Matthew 13:54-56

THE BUSINESS ANOINTING

It is fitting to begin this devotional with a look at Jesus as a businessman.

We very seldom, if ever, think of Jesus in this way. Yet the Bible clearly states that Jesus was a carpenter – a craftsman – a successful businessman (Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3).

I give credit to Ed Silvano, author of the book “*Anointed for Business*” for bringing the business side of Jesus to my attention, and after reading only the first couple of chapters, I felt compelled to share some snippets with you.

Even though I had never thought of this aspect of Jesus before, it is not difficult to believe that the Son of God – the Creator of the Universe – would also be creative while living here on earth. Jesus was not only the ‘carpenter’s son’, but he was the eldest son in the family; and Jewish tradition required that the eldest male would have to take over the family business after the death of the father. Jesus, being the firstborn son of his family was placed in this position, and therefore, according to tradition, had to learn his father’s trade while he was a teenager.

As an adult in this position, he would be responsible for calculating the costs of material and the sale prices of the products in order for the business to make enough profit to

provide for his family. The Bible says that at twelve years old, when Jesus was missing from among his family's company in Jerusalem, his parents searched frantically for him and found him in the Temple. His mother, as mothers would do, rebuked him for being insensitive to them, and then Jesus returned with them and was obedient to them. I see from this recorded incident that it was not time yet for Jesus to do His Heavenly Father's business, but it was the time for him to do his earthly father's business.

Jewish tradition, as pointed out in the book, required that "a rabbi had to master a trade and exercise it honestly to support himself before he could teach for free."¹ I therefore conclude from this that Jesus had to prepare in advance for His later ministry. He had to learn how to support himself to fulfill His greater mission. The scriptures say that Jesus was obedient to his parents, and he grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people. (Luke 2:45-52).

This insight leads me to believe that Jesus excelled in business. I believe He was a great communicator and a workman of integrity who exercised mercy when it was needed.

Up to this point, we have overlooked or taken for granted the business side of Jesus, but now it should solidify our intentions and motivate us to continue to work in a manner that would positively influence the lives of others, by providing excellent goods and services.

¹ Silvos, Ed; *Anointed For Business*; p.40

Once again, the Bible teaches us! Once again Jesus is our example. Indeed, He is our Motivator!

Know that God is interested in your success in business! After all, in addition to His being the Master Craftsman of the Universe, Jesus also was a master craftsman for over 20 years while on earth.

PREPARE NOW, FOR SUCCESS LATER!

DAY 2

BIBLE READING

2 Kings 7:3-11

NEVER GIVE UP

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best when he said,

“Our greatest glory is, not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail”.

With this thought in mind, I would like to encourage you to go for it!

I am reminded of a story in the Bible of four lepers who had to sit by the entrance of the city because of their physical condition. Their enemy, the Syrians, had taken over the city, and had caused a great famine there.

It dawned on them one day that they had a choice: A choice of whether to sit there at the gate and die, or to risk going into the city. They faced the possibility that if they entered the city they might die in the famine, or they might even be killed by the Syrians. In any case they would die. However, there was a 50/50 chance that the Syrians would capture them and they would stay alive.

Therefore, they came to a decision. “Why sit we here until we die?” they said. Since death was inevitable if they remained where they were, why not at least change position and have a chance at life? Therefore, they left their sitting position and went into the city towards the camp of the Syrians.

To their great bewilderment, they found the camp totally empty! You see, as they journeyed toward the camp, God augmented their footsteps, and the Syrians mistook their footsteps for a great army coming towards them. So the Syrians left everything where it was and fled. They left their houses, their horses, *and* their food!!! Just what these lepers needed! Not only did they find food, they became the recipients of silver, gold and clothing; which they joyfully took for themselves. There was even enough to share with the whole town.

What lesson can we learn from this story? What lesson can *you* learn?

First, do not be afraid to take a chance.

Secondly, make a decision and follow through with it.

Thirdly, when you do your part, God steps in to do His part.

When God steps in, the results are amazing. He provides a way that you can receive a blessing, not only for yourself, but also for a whole company of people. Remember the feeding of the 5000 with only five barley loaves and two small fishes? He does beyond what you can even hope, think or imagine. Trust Him.

My encouragement to you today is NEVER GIVE UP. Do not Sit There and Die! We must get up from our “sitting position” (e.g. doing nothing) and take a step forward. When that step is taken God will do something that will amaze us.

MAKE A DECISION, PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD, AND LET GOD DO THE REST.

DAY 3

BIBLE READING

Luke 9:1-5

GO FOR IT!

A friend of mine shared that people did not understand her zeal and passion for success in what she was doing, and it occurred to me that they did not understand Jesus either. That did not stop Him, however, from achieving His purpose; and it should not stop you either!

In the town where Jesus grew up and lived, many people looked at him only as Joseph's son (the carpenter's son – Matthew 13:55). They were totally un-impressed with him, despite the fact that He was exhibiting the power of God in His life.

Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38). He was anointed for that mission. Everything He did benefited the other person, yet He was criticized for it.

The lesson I take away from this is that Jesus did not try to convince his critics, He simply moved on to other places where He was accepted. This is also what He instructed His followers to do. If they don't accept you, shake the dust from your feet" (Luke 9:15) and move on to another place.

I like Jesus' attitude! This is the attitude we need to adopt in various aspects of our lives. Do not cry over spilled milk. Do not let the opinions of others keep you from achieving your success. Whether that success is in business or

otherwise, go on to achieve your dreams or purpose – just as Jesus did!

Look at the great influence Jesus has on the world even to this day! Do not deprive your ‘world’ of the good God has placed in you for them.

TAKE COURAGE AND PERSEVERE

DAY 4

BIBLE READING

Psalm 37:4

HAVE THE RIGHT PRIORITIES

A praise and shout out to God my heavenly Father for His smooth way of handling things.

His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts.

We seldom understand what He is doing when He is doing it, but if we totally trust Him, eventually we see His hand.

A few years ago, I decided that I wanted to find a way to evangelize on the World Wide Web. I wanted to spread the word of God's love all over the world, and to encourage others in their Christian walk. I wanted to show how the Word of God helps us in practical, everyday situations. I wanted to show how God directs our steps, and how He is involved in our everyday affairs.

I did not want to write blogs and not have them seen; I wanted them to be effective. So, I conducted several searches on the internet to educate myself on optimizing a web presence. After a few months of investigation, I found a site whose sole objective is to have everyone share freely about his or her business and/or opportunity.

I became a part of the group and began meeting wonderful people. In just a few days, I became acquainted with a like-minded individual who shared his vision and the manner in

which he was accomplishing it on the internet. This brought to mind the verse that says, “God will give you the desires of your heart.”

This act of God proved conclusively to me that (1) God loves us personally, (2) He cares about our everyday circumstances and (3) He assists us in reaching our goals.

If we have the right desires, if we put His cause first, then He grants and fulfills those desires.

Line up your priorities and you will succeed.

HELPING OTHERS IS THE HALLMARK
OF RIGHT DESIRES

DAY 5

BIBLE READING

Matthew 25:14-29

GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN

This Biblical principle will help you to succeed in all your undertakings.

The principle taught by Jesus Himself has been recognized as the leading strategy for success in business. Here is what the experts say: “When you give value to someone else, that person is most likely to listen to you, become a follower, and eventually a customer. Give, and it shall come back to you.

It is important to know what your audience wants, and then to give it to them. This is the number one marketing strategy for today. What do you have to offer? As I write this, I am reminded of a story in the Bible that Jesus told. He spoke about the division of talents. One person was given ten, one was given five, and the other was given one. So, each person received a gift.

What does this have to do with marketing? Well, let us look at what each person did with his gift. The person who received ten talents invested those talents and gained a return of 100%. The second person also invested his talents and gained a return of 100%. The third person did NO investing. The result was that he got NO return. Jesus made the point that he should have given the money to the “exchangers” and then he would have received back what he had given, with interest. If you don’t give, you don’t receive back again.

Furthermore, you might possibly lose even that thing to which you are holding on.

Invest into the lives of others. That's the greatest investment you can make, because as you invest into one person's life, you never know the ripple effect it will have, and the tremendous returns you will receive.

INVEST YOUR TIME, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES.

DAY 6

BIBLE READING

Nehemiah 8:10

WEALTH IS NOT JUST MONEY

Wealth is not just money, it includes all the things you generally do not associate with wealth.

To be truly prosperous a person must first of all be filled with the love of God and with His joy. If we stop to think about it, we can see that there is a great deal of merit to the old saying “Don’t worry, be happy”. I do not really know the origin of that adage, but it clearly echoes the Biblical message, “the joy of the Lord is my strength.” Indeed, one of the most pronounced desires upon the heart of our Heavenly Father is that we His children be full of joy (John 14:15), and that we “prosper and be in health – above all things” (III John 2).

Prosperity then, first comes from within. When we are full of joy, it affects our health in a very positive way. This joy causes us to be energetic, full of life and gives us mental clarity. Conversely, if our life is stressful, we lose our drive; we experience ill health, and possibly even a feeling of depression.

However, when we have an underlying joy, we are comfortable with who we are, and we are not easily shaken by adversity. Disappointments can come, but we are able to shift and rise above them, recognizing what is truly important in life. We are able to draw from that inner

strength – the well of joy that springs up from within to dissipate any other feeling.

I encourage you, my reader, not to lose your joy over everyday circumstances. You and I are bigger than any situation into which we may fall. Do not depend on money to make you wealthy. You already have a wealth of attributes which can cause you to bounce back from anything, and which will enable you to create material wealth if you so desire.

Be full of joy! Guard your health! “Laughter,” says the Bible, “is the best medicine.” Everything else in life will pass away, but the Word of God will never pass away. In other words, whatever the Bible says, is the truth that will stand the test of time. So, go on...throw away all thoughts of anxiety, fear, frustration or confusion – do the things that make you come alive – for that is the best kind of wealth!

MONEY IS A BY-PRODUCT OF THE JOY OF THE LORD

DAY 7

BIBLE READING

Proverbs 3:1-10

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

While sitting in Bible Study this past week, it suddenly became quite clear to me that there is a blueprint in the Bible for financial prosperity. It is not that I did not know this before, but I believe that NOW is the time for the actual fulfillment/accomplishment of this Word in my life.

This blueprint is found in Proverbs 3, verses 9 and 10. It reads like this in the New Living Translation:

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce
Then He will fill your barns with grain
and your vats will overflow with good wine.

That is our Partnership Agreement. It is the best and most lucrative contract around.

As entrepreneurs, we understand the necessity of collaborating with others to achieve greater success in our business. We know that numerous off-line businesses seek out investors to help financially in their endeavors. When an investor comes onboard, he/she is usually given a predetermined percentage of the profits of the business. Sometimes an investor might even ask for 50% or more of the business.

As Christian businesspersons, our highly recommended business partner is God Himself. When we take Him on as our Partner, we are in covenant with Him, and He does not break contract. Our Partner is very wealthy, and He is a giver, not a taker. He does not seek to prosper Himself, He seeks to prosper us. Therefore, unlike earthly investors, He only asks for the first 10% of the profits – not 20, not 30, not 50. I say “first” because He asks for the best – not the leftovers, the best. He will take that 10% and invest it in other ways that bring returns to us tangibly or intangibly.

God is waiting eagerly to become our Partner because He wants to bless us.

We MUST have a partnership agreement. Thankfully, we do not need a lawyer to draft one for us, one has already been provided in this blueprint.

MAKE HIM YOUR PARTNER TODAY

DAY 8

BIBLE READING

Psalm 37:23

SEIZE THE MOMENT

In Malachi Chapter 3 and verse 10 our Father said, “Test me now in this, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.” (New American Standard Bible).

If you have been faithful in giving to God His portion of your profits as provided in the Partnership Agreement, then you can expect that He will keep His part of the agreement.

As you can imagine, when the windows of heaven are opened, the blessings pour out in abundance. The blessings can appear in many forms and we must be quick to recognize those that are financial opportunities.

A Biblical representation of this can be found in Luke 5: 4&5 when Jesus told Peter to launch out into the deep and let down the nets for a catch. Because Peter had “toiled all night and had caught nothing”, he was reluctant to go out again, and therefore he only took one net. However, it was his Partner, Jesus, who had spoken, and so he agreed to go out. Let us remember that Peter had first given the boat to Jesus so that He could teach the people from it (verse 3). This was Jesus’ response to Peter’s gift.

When we give Jesus the little we have, His response is more than enough. I believe that His little is our abundance.

Let us therefore walk through the doors God opens for us. It may seem impossible to us, it may seem an arduous task, it may seem like something for which we are not qualified, but I have learnt that as long as we act in obedience to what He says, the ability appears from nowhere. We even sometimes surprise ourselves. When our business suddenly takes off, we are left wondering ‘how did that happen?’

For many it will take a great deal of faith, but “without faith it is impossible to please God.” We must take that leap of faith. When He presents an opportunity, seize the moment despite personal feelings or opinions. A provided opportunity is His word to us to launch out.

If we do not recognize an opportunity as an open door or a blessing from God, we might pass it up. We may not have ever ventured into those waters before, and so we might be apprehensive, but our Partner knows exactly where the fish is—and furthermore, He can command the fish to come into our net.

SEIZE THE MOMENT

DAY 9

BIBLE READING

Genesis 3:6-8

WHAT ARE YOU HEARING

During my devotions this morning, I got an awesome revelation.

I was reading Genesis Chapter 3, and when I came to Verse 8, a statement jumped out at me. It said, “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...” I said to myself, ‘The voice of the Lord was walking in the garden?’ It may seem strange to think of a voice ‘walking’; but it brought home some truths to me.

The voice of the Lord is everywhere. What will we do when we hear His voice? He is always talking...reaching out to us. He talks in the garden (our place of comfort). He talks in the cool of the day (in our quiet time or our time of relaxation).

When we hear His voice, what is our response? Do we ignore it? Do we try to hide from it? Do we run away from it? And if so, why? Have we done something wrong? We cannot hide our sins. We cannot hide our shortcomings. We cannot hide our weaknesses.

In that passage of scripture, it was His usual custom to visit with His earthly son, and they usually had a wonderful time together. This time, however, was different. That was a very sad day. Very sad indeed.

Do not run away from the voice of God. It is our guide. It is our helper. It is our spiritual GPS system. The voice of God keeps us from making serious mistakes; but even if we do make a mistake, the voice of the Holy Spirit “recalculates” and re-directs us on to the right path. Even if it is something you really, really want to do — if you hear that voice “walking in your garden” warning you, do not do it!

Sometimes people ignore their GPS system when they believe that they are familiar with the way to go, but it is a greater mistake to ignore our spiritual Guide even if we think we are familiar with the way. Our Guide may foresee something along the way that could cause us harm, and may direct us into a safer way, even if that way is unfamiliar to us.

The voice “in your garden” could be someone you trust speaking to you; or it could be that inner voice of guidance. There are natural consequences for going against that inner voice.

After all, what is the point of having a guide who knows the way thoroughly, if you are not going to follow his instructions?

SELAH.

DAY 10

BIBLE READING

Genesis 41:39-44

THE FAVOR OF GOD

*The greatness of the Lord is inconceivable
The love that He shows is unconditional
The power of the Lord is unbeatable
Great is the God we serve. – Ricky Dillard*

When God's favor is upon you, the most unusual things happen in your life. Unusual--not in a negative sense—but in the most unexpected and positive way you can imagine. In fact, it is above and beyond what you can even imagine. There is simply no limit to what God will do for you when you are totally relying on Him to work things out on your behalf. He is truly an awesome God.

He loves to be involved in our business affairs. We should not limit him only to the spiritual aspect of our life, we need to involve Him in the mundane, everyday routine and decisions that we need to make. That's what I do now, ever since I found out that He wants to be involved. Why do I do this? Because He is a better decision-maker than I am, and He has an overview of the whole situation. He has a managerial perspective over our affairs, and from His vantage point, He sees and knows more than we do.

Most of us who are parents know how much we want to see our children do well. Many times, we want to take away the hardships from their lives and help them over their rough spots. That is just how our Heavenly Father feels about us.

We need to release our decision making into his care, and He works things out for our greater good. He's a wonderful Father.

Recently I had to make a business decision and I simply said, "Lord, I place the people and circumstances into your hand, knowing that you have my best interest at heart." And voila...! All my questions were answered, all my doubts allayed, and I came out ahead!

You see, He is the only One who can prompt the heart of a man or woman to take a certain position.

TRUST HIM WITH YOUR BUSINESS DECISIONS

DAY 11

BIBLE READING

Matthew 12:31-37

THE POWER OF WORDS

As we begin this day let us think very carefully about what we are going to say to those with whom we are in contact, whether in person, on the telephone, or on the internet.

Why is this important? Well, in the book of Proverbs we read, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”* Proverbs 18:21.

This means that we bear the consequences of what we say. If we speak life (or good things to someone) then those words will in turn cause something good to happen to us. Similarly, if we speak death (or negative words) then we can expect that we will experience something of a negative nature.

Many people do not think about the consequences of what they say before they say it, but rest assured that whatever tree we plant will bear the fruit of that tree.

So, speak words of kindness and encouragement, so that the principle of sowing and reaping will be in effect in your life in a positive way.

Sometimes this seems difficult because people we meet are angry and frustrated, and they tend to lash out at everyone—but that is when we let the love that is in us shine forth. That

is when we CHOOSE to rise above our natural impulses and take the high road. That is when we need to recognize that the person may be going through a rough situation, and a positive word can dispel their anxiety or fear.

CHOOSE THIS DAY TO SPEAK LIFE – NOT DEATH.
THE POWER LIES WITHIN US.

DAY 12

BIBLE READING

Proverbs 25:11

HOW TO FUEL YOUR DREAMS

Yesterday I wrote an article entitled “The Power of Words”.

That article encouraged us to be careful of what we say to others throughout our day. Later that evening I read a blog that, similarly, gave an astounding example of how a word fitly spoken can change the course of one’s life. The right word at the right time can have a lifetime impact on a person’s actions. It can and does save a person’s life.

Today, however, I want to take it a step further and encourage you to make positive declarations over your own life also. The principle is the same and works in the same way for yourself as it does for someone else. It works, not because I say so, but it works because it is a kingdom principle established by God.

“The simple truth is that if you had a mere kernel of faith, a mere poppy seed, say, you would tell this mountain ‘Move!’ and it would move.” (Taken from the Message Bible, Matthew 17:20).

This is the confidence we need to succeed in our endeavors. Despite what hindrances may pop up from time to time, we will be able to overcome them by simply believing that we can, and then by telling these obstacles to get out of the way of our success.

Whatever dreams and ambitions you have for yourself financially and otherwise, or even just your goals for today, be bold enough to say, “I will succeed at whatever I put my hand to do!”

Be like the Olympic athlete ... train yourself to win. Have the “I know I Can” attitude. Declare your victory in the little things until it grows into bigger things.

I WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR!

What do you say? Be assured that you will get what you say.

**THE FUEL TO IGNITE YOUR DREAM
IS THE WORDS THAT YOU SPEAK**

DAY 13

BIBLE READING

Mark 5:25-30; Luke 13:10-16

PUSH THROUGH PERSONAL INHIBITIONS AND OBJECTIONS

As the saying goes, ‘we are our own worse enemy.’ In our first story today, we find a certain woman who was inhibited for a period of twelve years. She was not supposed to be in public. She was not supposed to touch anyone, especially not the priest. But when she heard of Jesus, she went beyond all the established *don'ts* and **pushed** her way through the crowd to total victory.

Imagine what would have happened if she was afraid of the crowd, or if she was intimidated by the position of Jesus as a Rabbi, or if she had allowed self-doubt to dissuade her. We might never have even known of her.

Despite numerous thoughts which are sent to deter us in our desire to succeed, thoughts such as “what if I fail? What if they don’t accept me? What if...what if...?” We must push through those thoughts and keep our eyes on the goal, remembering that it is God’s desire to see us succeed and prosper.

Many times, we have to step out to do something even if we are doing it while ‘shaking in our boots’. Because indeed, it is not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the living God; and God is faithful!

In our second story, this woman had to push through the objections of others as well as the traditional role of women. In verse 11, we note that this lady could “not lift herself up.” This speaks of oppression. Even in some cultures in today’s society, women are oppressed, not given the opportunity to express themselves or to climb to the heights that men have achieved. In many of these cultures they are made to feel inferior and subservient, but when Jesus calls you, women, be ready to respond. He places purpose in your life, and He will help you fulfill that purpose.

Go beyond the norm – go beyond man’s expectations, because man’s expectations are limited and do not promote the purposes of God.

PUSH THROUGH TO PERSONAL FREEDOM

DAY 14

BIBLE READING

John 13:3-5

PLAN TO SERVE OTHERS

I usually spend my free time listening to something or to someone who can enrich my life, particularly in my business endeavors. It was on one of these occasions that a Biblical truth struck home.

When we first start out to do business, our mindset might be to make money, to be financially independent, to have freedom, or some other noble reason. All of these reasons are good, but when Jesus said, “I came not to be ministered to but to minister, (Mark 10:45); He disclosed a principle for success in business.

When God blessed people in Genesis with the gift of a business, each business was designed to do something for other people. A carpenter makes furniture for other people; a shoemaker makes shoes for other people, a hairdresser fixes other people’s hair (so many times neglecting their own). I am sure you’re getting the idea.

I believe that if we follow this principle, thinking of ministering to others instead of making money for ourselves, then the money will automatically follow. A fisherman does not catch fish just for himself, does he?

THINK ON THESE THINGS

DAY 15

BIBLE READING

LUKE 8:22-25

NO FAILURE WITH GOD

What looks like failure may just be an opportunity for your team Partner to show off.

In this story, we see Jesus asleep. Even though we can conclude that this was not the only time Jesus slept, it is the only time scripture mentions it.

After a long day of teaching and healing, Jesus no doubt experienced a bit of tiredness – and so, He fell asleep, after giving his disciples instructions to “go to the other side.”

We too, often become tired, weak and many times frustrated in our quest to move from our present position over to the “other side” of the financial arena. There is tremendous toil involved in steering our lifeboat across the sea of economic turmoil and contrary winds of change.

Sometimes we might even wonder whether it really is God’s will. It seems like such an uphill climb. Customers with slow payments, other customers with complaints, new internet guidelines to follow, and the list goes on.

We must remember, however, that our team partner is not troubled by any of these happenings. Why? Because He knows that we shall reach the other side. It may be slow going for you and for me, but if we remember that we have the authority to speak to each situation as it arises, just as

Jesus spoke to the sea and the winds, we will find that they respond in the same manner as they did for Jesus.

I am sure that the Father is very pleased when we handle a situation in the way He has authorized us to do. He must feel like a “proud papa.”

To put it in business terms: our partner has already signed off on the authorization form for us to take action against any opposing forces.

When we do this, our Partner, the Holy Spirit, shows off on our behalf.

Go ahead! Do it! Speak peace into every situation that arises.

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF

DAY16

BIBLE READING

1 John 4:17

ACHIEVING GREATNESS

Achieving greatness means becoming more humbled.

As the greatness of our God becomes more of a reality in our lives, we experience a deeper level of humility. We ultimately recognize our own inadequacies, failures, and shortcomings, and realize that we cannot live one day without God. So, when He does an amazing thing for us, a sense of humility and gratefulness comes over us.

Gratitude and humility makes us aware of the tremendous strength of the God we serve, and more importantly, of the truth, integrity and power of His Word.

I experienced His Word as a shield about a week ago when I encountered a person who seemed as if they meant harm. The peace and presence of God so cloaked me, that there was absolutely no fear within me, even though my mind was filled with a million thoughts. I believe that God so surrounded me with His presence that even if the person intended to harm me, he could not.

What a humbling experience to fathom the reality of the Word of God! His Word confers greatness upon us “*As He is, so are we in this world.*” It is not for us to seek to achieve greatness, it is for us to humble ourselves and He will lift us up.

I recall an incident in the Bible when an angry crowd wanted to throw Jesus over a cliff. The Bible says that Jesus walked right through them, and they were not able to kill Him (Luke 4:28-30).

AS HE IS, SO ARE WE.

DAY 17

BIBLE READING

2 Kings 5:1-14

PRIDE DEFEATS PURPOSE

Today we're reading about a very successful businessman whom God had used mightily in his country. In his career as a chief commander, he had led his people to victory on numerous occasions. He was courageous and highly respected; however, he had an incurable disease.

This, first of all, tells me that physical limitations do not hinder success when we are working with God. This is powerful! It is something we all need to remember when we are tempted to whine and complain.

Our businessman in the story employed a servant girl who knew God personally, enough to know that God had an answer for her boss' problem – so she suggested to her boss that he seeks help from God.

As business people, we need to have those working for us who have answers to the problems we encounter. We need people with a team spirit who would unselfishly implement solutions rather than add to the problem through complaints.

To continue with the story—our businessman took the advice of his servant and visited God's representative in Israel, but he did not receive the reception he expected, and became furious.

Point number 3: Regardless of our status in life, and despite whatever success we have attained, we must remain humble. We must realize and acknowledge that it is not through our own efforts that we have achieved significant success; it is through the might of God.

Naaman left his country with one purpose in mind – to be cleansed of his leprosy. The circumstances that would bring about his healing jarred his pride and almost cost him that healing. Had he refused to obey, he would have missed his blessing – he would have lost that battle.

Thankfully, being a soldier at heart, he did what was necessary to win. He lowered his pride, and consequently fulfilled his purpose. If you have not yet read the Bible passage listed above, I encourage you to do so and see what other nuggets you can glean as a businessperson. It's not just a story, it is revelation.

A HUMBLE ATTITUDE IS ESSENTIAL
FOR REACHING YOUR GOALS

DAY 18

BIBLE READING

Philippians 4:6-7

DON'T MAKE EMOTIONAL DECISIONS

Be anxious for NOTHING. Really. When I read this statement I usually relate it to worrying about something; and while it *does* apply in that situation, it also holds true with regard to someone being in an emotional state of eagerness.

I had to learn this after making mistakes in my business. Mistakes will happen – and it is good when we can learn from them.

In my eagerness to rectify a situation, and because I did not fully understand how the process worked, I made a decision to delete some content and this turned out to be the wrong move.

This goes back to making emotional decisions. Eagerness (or being anxious to complete a task) can contribute to loss of precious time, having to correct mistakes that should never have occurred.

When we make emotional decisions, it can lead us to overlook big clues--usually referred to as “red flags”.

In the Biblical story of the resurrection of Jesus recorded in John Chapter 20, the women went to the sepulcher on Sunday morning to anoint the body of Jesus with more

spices. In verses 11-14, we see Mary in an emotional state – weeping because she believed that someone had stolen Jesus’ body. In verse 12, on looking into the tomb, she sees two angels who spoke to her (verse 13). She *saw* angels. Heavenly beings! Sitting where Jesus had laid. That was Clue #1.

Clue #2, they spoke to her, and she answered them. Verse 14 says, “*After saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.*”

Clue #3 – She *saw* Jesus. Clue #4 – He spoke to her.

Whereas we might all agree that Mary had good reason to be upset, it nonetheless blurred her thinking. In her emotional state, her thinking was off and she “supposed that Jesus was the gardener.” She made an incorrect assumption.

Our emotions can cause us to make some disastrous mistakes. Maybe we might have a chance to recover, and maybe we might not.

Do not be overly concerned about any situation. Be anxious for nothing. Let the peace of God rule your hearts this day.

EMOTIONS CLOUD OUR **VISION**,
OUR **HEARING** AND OUR **THINKING**.

DAY 19

BIBLE READING

Luke 21:19

THE VALUE OF PATIENCE

I am continuing to learn to develop patience in my everyday life.

Patience is required in all that we do. Not only in our dealings with people, but in the little mundane activities we face each day in business.

I had an opportunity to learn the importance of patience a little while ago while working on a book for a client. The book was completed, and ready to be uploaded to the printer. In my desire to have the book ready for the anxious, excited author, I hastily click on a button that should not have been clicked, and that triggered a series of events that should not have occurred.

Had I exercised patience by taking my time and reviewing my actions, I would have realized the error, and it could have been corrected immediately.

Another lesson I learnt from this event is that it is important to be agents of integrity by correcting the mistakes we make. As I went about to rectify the situation, I was able to enrich my knowledge of how the entire process worked, and this knowledge enable me to move forward on future projects with more confidence.

When scripture says, “in your patience possess ye your souls,” it means that your mind will be at peace when you exercise patience and endurance. While my story merely revolved around computer work, in other circumstances a lack of patience could have even more tragic results. Patience leads to less stress, and hence, to less physical illness. A state of peace can actually save your life.

Another important lesson for us is to **become familiar with the process**. Knowing the process involved eliminates guesswork and mistakes. When a person is unfamiliar with the process of something, he or she will make irrational, emotional decisions that are often in error.

VALUE PATIENCE DURING THE PROCESS.

DAY 20

BIBLE READING

Genesis 17:1

THE POWER OF INTEGRITY

Today's devotion came as an answer from my Partner when I was struggling to make a decision as to what my response should be to someone who had not acted with integrity.

As we grow in God, He trusts us to make decisions. The Apostle Paul said, "When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

We, too, need to put away childish behavior as we grow up in God, remembering that we are expected to grow into the 'fullness of the stature of Christ.'

Maturity brings with it a greater responsibility to make wise decisions and not to react with base feelings. This is sometimes a hard thing to do when someone has done us wrong, but we must remember that we were created on a higher level than animals, and therefore must be careful not to cut down each other for our own survival.

We would hope that Christian brothers and sisters would conduct business with you with honesty and integrity, but that is not always the case. Our guide, therefore, in situations like this is: "If anyone takes your coat, let him have your cloak also" (Matt. 5:40).

God's expectation of His mature business people is: "Walk before Me and be perfect." Each person is responsible for his/her own perfection. We cannot live people's lives for them – not even our children.

When our children are young they follow their parents as the parents lead the way. However, there comes a time when the parents say to them, 'go ahead in front of me, I'll be right here behind you.' This is true in a literal sense, and it is also true as it relates to the process of decision-making. Parents sometimes say to a grown child, 'whatever decision you make, I'll support you.' (Obviously meaning among good decisions).

This, I believe, is what our Father, our Partner says to us as we mature. Understandably, He expects us to make decisions that are in line with His written Word.

Let us therefore "render not evil for evil" in our business affairs. Godly Decisions Demonstrate Integrity.

DO NOT DISPLACE THE TRUST GOD HAS INVESTED IN YOU.

DAY 21

BIBLE READING

Luke 1:37

FACING CONFRONTATION

Face confrontation with the peace of God.

A very powerful verse of scripture that continues to inspire me when I need to confront a business owner regarding an issue, is Proverbs 21:1. It reads, “The heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord and He turns it whithersoever He wills.”

I draw courage from the example of Moses when he had to confront Pharaoh on behalf of the children of Israel. (Exodus 4:10).

Moses, because of his speech impediment was apprehensive and a little intimidated of Pharaoh’s power and authority, knowing that he did not have the right words and was not very articulate. God solved that problem immediately by giving him someone who could speak for him.

Our limitations do not move God to sympathy and will not excuse our disobedience to His commands. This is a God who knows all things. He removed the stumbling blocks that Moses had presented to Him, and instead, resolved that issue.

Sometimes our lack of experience, qualifications and/or knowledge causes us to be timid about taking the necessary step to correct a situation, but **nothing** we can imagine is

impossible for God to fix. Just as Moses told God what he perceived to be a big problem for him, we can also ask God for His assistance in our area of weakness or lack, and He will empower us to do exploits. This is known as overcoming our inhibitions and any perceived hindrances.

BE AN OVERCOMER! IN JESUS' NAME.

DAY 22

BIBLE READING

Matthew 6:22

BE SINGLE-MINDED

To be single-minded means to concentrate on one thing while keeping other things in your peripheral vision.

Sometimes God gives us a vision to do several things, and sometimes we try to do all these things at the same time, with the result that no one thing gets accomplished satisfactorily.

The Lord has taught me that it is necessary to focus my energy on one thing/idea/vision and bring that to a point where it is working, before moving on to the second item. Doing this will prevent us from becoming overwhelmed and/or incomplete in our tasks.

There are several business ideas that I strongly believe are from the Lord, because when God says, “I will bless your baskets and storehouses (Deut. 28:8) He made it plural. I therefore believe that he intends for us to have more than one business, and each business represents a storehouse that He can fill. The number of storehouses we present to Him is the number He will fill.

Do you also remember when our Lord told Peter to let down the nets for a drought? Peter let down *one* net and it was too small to receive what God had in store for him. We must have multiple “nets” for our Lord to fill.

However, we need to set up each business properly, by singularly focusing on one business at a time, and developing each business into a basket without holes.

Therefore, if your eye is single, (if you are focused), your whole body is full of light (your mind can think clearly).

BE SINGLE-MINDED – STAY FOCUSED!

DAY 23

BIBLE READING

John 6:1-14

LET NOTHING BE WASTED

When I look at Jesus I see a great economist. I see an appreciation for the things that God has done, for His demonstration of power, and for His provision.

Contrast this with the attitude of today's society. We are fortunate in American society to be abundantly blessed with food and other essentials. If people do not have their own supply, there is generally a place where they can go either to have a decent meal, or to obtain a lodging. Too often we see much waste in food and other commodities.

When Jesus told His disciples to gather the fragments, let nothing be wasted, I believe it was a lesson for us -- His disciples.

When this truth was brought home to me, I made a decision not to discount even a penny. I began collecting the leftover change in my purse, taking particular care not to discard a penny. I decided that any accumulation of pennies would be given to my grandchildren. When I had an opportunity to give them the money, it came to a total of \$87.00. They were able to shop!

This was a great lesson for me, and I transferred this same principle to other areas of life and business. I am diligent not to waste my time, not to waste an opportunity (still

working on this), and most of all not to waste a blessing from the Lord.

God does not waste anything. He picks up the fragments of a broken life and creates a blessing for someone else.

LET NOTHING BE WASTED IN YOUR LIFE!

DAY 24

BIBLE READING

Matthew 18:19

THE ULTIMATE BOARD MEETING

I am always seeking to be in a listening mode, because you never know what you will hear. It has been my experience that we do not always have to initiate a conversation with our Partner and Friend, sometimes He initiates the conversation.

On one such occasion, I distinctly heard Him say that a prayer meeting is like a board meeting. I understood why He would tell me this, because I have been leader of the prayer group at my local church. I like, however, to apply whatever I hear to all aspects of my life; and so, as an entrepreneur I can clearly see how this nugget can be applied.

In a board meeting (or a meeting of any sort), participants lay the issues on the table, and each issue is discussed by the group with the hope that issues would be resolved and decisions reached.

Similarly, a ‘brain-storming session’ with prayer included can be an effective way of coming up with answers to questions. What is special about having prayer is that the presence of your ‘unseen partner’ is there. As issues are placed ‘on the table’ and decisions are reached, our Partner is listening for further instructions.

Further instructions come when we pray. When Godly decisions are made in the best interest of the business and our Partner's involvement is requested, He sanctions and guarantees the outcome. In fact, He is involved even before the end, because it is He who disseminates ideas among the group, and when the group comes into agreement, He then can deliver.

So, as we come together to brainstorm, do not forget to invite and include the presence of our Partner, the Holy Spirit. It is He who causes things to prosper on our behalf.

HE GIVES US THE POWER TO GET WEALTH

DAY 25

BIBLE READING

Hebrews 5:8

THE LEARNING PROCESS

Don't sidestep the learning process. Your learning process is a time of preparation. Jesus could not have successfully completed His mission without facing ridicule, abuse, and criticism. Of course, *His* process included death. He could not have fulfilled His purpose without being obedient to death. When death came, He had to say okay.

Most of us will not have to face death in order to achieve our business goals, but we do have to go through a process. A process of learning, making mistakes, being disappointed, and being criticized. It is not easy while we are going through, but it teaches us how to be strong, and what actions we should take when we are faced with decisions.

I observe the learning process of an eagle. Eagles have to be taught; and, like humans, the eaglet learns by observing its parents.

After the birth of the eaglets, the parents care for them by providing them with food, warmth and security – much like a human parent. Its natural instinct causes the eagle to hunt for food, and to bring that food back in a form that the young eaglets can handle, and then shows the young how to eat.

This is much like the process of creating a new business. We do not sign up on Day 1 and achieve greatness on Day 2. We must go through the process of learning what is right for us

to do, and how to do it. Once we have mastered one lesson and have practiced doing its principles, we can then move on to another lesson. If, for any reason, we miss an important point, we could possibly “choke” on the “food” that has been given to us. We must learn how to tear the “meat” apart and digest the lesson properly in order for us to achieve a level of success.

The next lesson the eaglet learns from its parents is how to fly. It becomes necessary for the eagle to move away from its nest after a time and live life on its own. First, an eagle must observe what its mother or father does. The eaglet notices that the mother first spreads its wings. The eaglet then observes that the mother lifts itself up from the branch. The young eagle follows the example given and does the same thing. In the beginning, the eaglet is only able to jump from one branch to another branch, but it grasps the idea by doing. It finally gets a feel for ‘this flying thing’ until, eventually, after much practice, the eagle takes off on its own. However, this process takes about 10 to 12 weeks. Again, it is not instantaneous.

To be a good businessperson you must also prepare yourself educationally. It takes time to learn all there is to know about marketing, about advertising, about computer skills, about your particular area or niche. Take the time to do what is necessary to acquire or hone those skills. It’s all part of the process.

Life experiences should not be discounted. It’s all part of the process. Remember David tended his father’s sheep and killed a bear and a lion before he was able to kill Goliath. He trained how to manage sheep as a preparation for managing people.

Where are *you* now? What skills can *you* learn from where you are? Like the eagle, success may not happen when you think it should, but rest assured every step you take towards your goal will eventually lead you to your final destination.

See setbacks as opportunities to learn, because at some point in the future you will find yourself looking back and remembering how you handled certain situations.

THE LEARNING PROCESS IS THE KEY
TO FUTURE GREATNESS

DAY 26

BIBLE READING

Genesis 41:14-37

STRATEGIZE

One of my favorite Bible characters is Joseph, Jacob's son. After going through many hardships and finally proving himself to be worthy of great responsibility, Joseph was given the task of running the country.

Joseph knew that all wisdom and knowledge comes from God, and he attributed the answer to Pharaoh's problem to God, even before He heard the problem. That's what it means to have a Partner superior in knowledge and wisdom.

It is a very good idea for you as an entrepreneur to have people around you who are superior to you in knowledge and information. Be aware of people who selfishly take all the credit for themselves.

Joseph did not only hear the problem, but he also came up with the solution. His solution included a systematic outline of the program he would implement. This is important for us as entrepreneurs to emulate.

Many people set goals for their businesses but forget to strategize as to how those goals will be carried out. It is necessary to devise a plan to achieve goals and objectives. That is where the foresight and wisdom of our Partner comes in. Joseph was wise enough to know where the answers came from.

Another lesson we can draw from this scripture is that Pharaoh could not accomplish his vision by himself. He needed the advice and labor of others. God will give a vision to a leader, a manager, a director, but that leader should understand that he/she needs others to bring that vision to fruition. That leader then should be willing to release the vision into the hands of capable men/women for completion.

Joseph was a man of integrity. He kept his word and did everything in excellence. Pharaoh recognized this, and had no problem putting confidence in him. There was no need for him to oversee the activities of Joseph.

As business owners, we should hire competent managers and workers initially, so that it is not necessary to ‘micro-manage.’ Micro management may show others a lack of confidence and/or an irresistible need to control.

Men and women of God should conduct themselves in a manner that pleases God. When God is pleased, man will also be pleased.

DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR YOUR BUSINESS

DAY 27

BIBLE READING

Psalm 23:5-6

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

Expect Good Things to Happen. Evangelist Oral Roberts always used to say: “Something good is going to happen to you today!” This should be our expectation as we begin each day.

“Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” This was the expectation of a simple shepherd boy, and because of this expectation, he became a powerful king.

As we set our goals each day, let us set the goal of expecting and accepting the good things life offers us. It may be a simple gesture on someone’s part, but when it is done from the heart, its worth far outweighs its simplicity.

Be thankful for small favors and bigger ones will be granted. Show appreciation to those who genuinely extend acts of love and kindness to you, not expecting anything in return. The more thankful we are, the more blessings we receive.

An attitude of positive expectation is the mark of the superior personality.” – Brian Tracy

Expect goodness and mercy to follow you throughout the year!

In addition to this, expect that what you say will come to pass. In the Gospel of when Jesus cursed the fig tree, He

expected that it would decline. The disciples, on the other hand, were sooooo surprised when they realized that the tree had dried up. They must have taken Jesus' words very casually. He therefore had to teach them that they (and subsequently we) are no different.

Whatever we say, we should expect. Therefore, it should be no surprise when it happens.

EXPECT YOUR BUSINESS TO SUCCEED.

DAY 28

BIBLE READING

2 Timothy 4:7

HOW TO MEASURE SUCCESS

Some people measure success by the amount of money they accumulate; but there is another definition of success. The dictionary also defines success as:

the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors; the accomplishment of one's goals.

This, in my mind, is the true meaning of success. If you have done what you set out to do, then you are successful. It may result in the accumulation of lots of money, or it may culminate in an inner satisfaction that money cannot buy.

Paul said, *"I have finished my course."* That is all anyone is expected to do.

I was listening to an old message by Pastor TD Jakes, and my takeaway from it, in essence, is that a person's vision can be so large that it cannot be accomplished in one person's lifetime; therefore, it will need to be completed in phases. Sometimes it is necessary for a person to begin the work, bring it up to a point, and then pass on the baton to another runner.

You may be called to be the trailblazer. You get the vision for the business/nonprofit organization, you implement it, and then you teach a successor and pass it on.

Success is completing your portion of the vision.

This knowledge can truly be liberating, as it can take the pressure off many individuals (including myself) who may have started later in life, without support—and who may not be able to visualize the method for bringing the full vision to fruition.

Paul did everything he was supposed to do, and he did it faithfully. He then gave instruction to Timothy, Philemon and others, and admonished them to continue in the work of the Lord.

Therefore, it is important for entrepreneurs to understand their part in the vision, so that they will know how to appreciate what they have accomplished and would not see themselves as failures.

It also helps to remember that it is not about us—but about the greater purpose.

May we all run our own race and finish our own course.

CELEBRATE EACH ACCOMPLISHMENT YOU MAKE

DAY 29

BIBLE READING

Ecclesiastes 5:19

WHAT IF YOU BECOME WEALTHY?

Ecclesiastes displays the gift of wisdom which God had given to Solomon. The above scripture says,

Also, every man to whom God has given riches and possessions, He has also given the power and ability to enjoy them and to receive this as his allotted portion and to rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God to him. AMP

We see then, that God grants us the ability, first to create wealth, and secondly to enjoy the wealth we accumulate. It is all a gift from Him.

Of course, wealth can come in all forms. We may have been given a wealth of knowledge and/or wisdom; a wealth of health; a wealth of favor, and so on, so we should never discount the blessings of God.

However, let us talk for a moment about financial wealth. What if you and I became financially wealthy? How would we handle it? What would we do with it?

We can answer this question by remembering why we become wealthy. Our Partner reminds us:

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he

may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

This tell us we do not accumulate wealth so that we can lavish it on ourselves. Whereas we should also enjoy the blessing we have received, we must also remember others because that is the heart of God.

We see this throughout scripture in various examples of the manner in which God blesses His people. Earlier in the book, we covered the story in 2 Kings, Chapter 7 of the four lepers who came into wealth beyond their ability to consume. We can also relate this to the story in the New Testament of Jesus feeding the multitudes; and of course, there are many more.

Suffice it to say that when God provides, He provides in abundance. He provides, not only for you, but for others to be blessed through you.

This principle should stay with us in our business endeavors. We should never seek to amass wealth for ourselves, there is always a greater purpose. As you grow in business, remember the word of the Lord. Remember the greater vision that He placed within you. You may not know *how* it can possibly happen, situations may seem stressful and there may be no obvious way out, but God's move brings about the miraculous.

God's hands are HUGE. There is no way that He can give little—a handful from God will overwhelm most of us.

LEAVE A LEGACY

DAY 30

BIBLE READING

John 6:6

BEING ON THE SAME PAGE

When we have been working together with someone for a while, it is incumbent upon us to become familiar with their way of thinking and the procedures they follow.

When Jesus questioned Philip about their ability to provide for such a large crowd, He was not asking the question merely to discover an answer. He already had the answer, but He wanted to see whether Philip was on the same page with Him and knew His thoughts.

This can easily happen in business situations both from a managerial viewpoint as well as from an employee standpoint. The important lesson here is that the lesser should be paying attention to the greater so that at any given point in time he would know how to proceed if the greater one is not around.

Scripture tells us “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus*” -- Philippians 2:5. In a previous passage of scripture another prophet queried, “*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*” Amos 3:3

A meeting of the minds is necessary for the successful accomplishment of any task. “*if two of you shall agree on earth concerning anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in Heaven—Matthew 18:19.*”

This is very powerful!

now nothing will be withheld from them which they have imagined to do (Genesis 11:6)

When God spoke these words concerning the people who were contemplating building a tower to reach to heaven, He spoke volumes.

Agreement is Power!!

Let us agree with what our Partner says. His mind and thoughts are higher than ours are. If we do not have an answer to a problem, rest assured He does.

STAY IN AGREEMENT

DAY 31

BIBLE READING

Ecclesiastes 11:6

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

What is the entrepreneurial spirit?

I believe that the entrepreneurial spirit is the person who has a desire to fill many needs.

The Bible Reading for today encapsulates this type of spirit, and is actually very good advice for everyone to follow.

The entrepreneurial spirit is a spirit that drives a person to create something from nothing.

It is not a lazy spirit. It is a spirit of ambition, but not for oneself.

It is a spirit that embraces diversity. While many people are “sticking to one thing”, the entrepreneurial spirit diversifies (*sow, because you do not know which one will prosper or if they will **all** prosper*).

As our children grow, we should not limit them to ‘sticking with one thing only’ because we do not know what God has placed inside of them. Watch out for children who get involved in many activities.

After all, God is a God of variety.

He created about 32,000 species of fish
He created 400,000 species of flowers”

He created 8.7 million species of animals
He created 60,000 species of trees
He created four seasons

When He created mankind, however, even though He created only one of each kind, He subsequently created millions of people, each with his/her own identifiable fingerprints and personality characteristics.

God is our ultimate model of an entrepreneur. It is no wonder then, that this same entrepreneurial spirit dwells in many of His creations.

We **all** have His creative ability—whether it is to create *one* thing (the one-talent guy) or to create multiple businesses.

Examples of successful entrepreneurs include Richard Branson (the Virgin Group that controls over 400 companies); Jeff Bezos (CEO of Amazon) and Debbi Fields (founder of Mrs. Fields Bakeries).

An entrepreneurial spirit does not consider his/her ventures as work, but as a purpose – a calling.

Follow your vision. Do not be deterred by anyone. Remember, the person who did not invest his one talent had that talent taken away from him.

YOU HAVE GOD’S ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
USE IT EFFECTIVELY

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