

Contents

PREFACE	3
ODE TO OPRAH	5
PUBLIC SUCCESS...PRIVATE FAILURE	6
RAINY DAY'S END	7
THE HARDEST THING IN LIFE	8
REVELATION AND REFLECTION	9
TO WAIT, MEDICATE OR OPERATE	10
AUTHOR'S MISSION STATEMENT	12



John 3:16 (KJV) **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**


John 10:10 (KJV) **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

Rom 8:2 & 6 (KJV) **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

PREFACE

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

- Proverbs 3:27 (KJV)

 Our societal existence, standard of living and survival hinges upon two equally important, yet basic acts: 1. asking and 2. giving. Just as it is a person's responsibility to ask for help when in need, there is an equal responsibility of the one asked to give the needed resource to the qualified request...if possible. It is through this act of obedience that we please God and serve as His thermostat to both affect and measure our social climate in regards to the coldness (failure) or warmth (success) of our humanity and common exchange in our households, community, state and country. So, whenever you are able and the power is in your hands, do good and give to those who both need and request your help. After all, God has allowed, given and supplied you – *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.*

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. - Matthew 7:7-12 (KJV)

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. - I John 3:17-18 (KJV)

...And every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. - 1 Corinthians 3:8-9 (KJV)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV)

Do not fear to give! Be not afraid of sharing in any capacity. Giving and sharing, although important parts, are only portions of our duty. Our whole duty is to fear (love and revere) God and keep His commandments. God holds us accountable for all deeds we commit or even omit...especially when prior instruction or knowledge has been given. Great maturity is exemplified of those who adhere. Those who practice a lifestyle of perfected giving (willfully with a glad heart) receive residual rewards of often-exponential proportions that transcend even unto their children's children. There are experiences of growth in faith, passing along inspiration, renewal of hope, sharing of joy, simple pleasures of evoking smiles and euphoria.

We must not live our lives in the spirit of greed and selfishness, nor operate in fear. Rather, we should live life balanced and maturely. We should clearly and precisely know when our individual or family needs are truly met and where abundance in our lives begins. We are all where we are and have what we have today because of someone else's benevolence, love, moderation and/or sacrifice. No one person has given birth to him or herself, nor created totally autonomous success. We must dwell together in the spirit of love, be moved with compassion, learn to share and respond with urgency in order to successfully survive. Benevolently speaking, we must think less and give more with immediacy having a sense of passion, purpose and urgency.

And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

- Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 (KJV)

God has given us *Life*, granted *Liberty* and allowed each a personal *Pursuit of Happiness*. Therefore, I am admonished and compelled as a 'master of assembly' commissioned by our 'one Shepherd' to dispense and drive my 'nails' of acceptable, upright, true words of wisdom into many book formats of various styles. I praise God and give Him glory for endowing me with and allowing me to recognize abundance in many areas: compassion, family, friends, health, knowledge, love, wisdom and especially understanding. Some of which I now share with you through this publication - words of comfort, confirmation, edification, imagination, joy, love, pain and romance through inspired passages and poems.

Nothing Good Withheld...[™] has treasures of a peculiar prose and its doggerel is inundated with syncopated rhythms and varied themes found in experiencing and living life. I pray that you enjoy its reading and glean all that is good, as I now withhold nothing.