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So here I am Jesus, all I have is your
word and your promise to guide me.

Show yourself to me *God* I know
you won't let me down, for I know now that
you are the same *God* who can heal me,
expand me, accelerate me.

You knew my faith was being tested yet you
knew I would seek you out.

I've come too far to give up on you, and I
know that you will never give
up on me!

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Dedicated to: *Maxina*
For being my lighthouse, my beacon
and my rock for which I build my faith upon. Thank
you for seeing past my many flaws and helping me
realize that I am indeed worthy!

FOREWORD

Faith... well the Bible says in Matthew 17: 20 ; *He answered, "Because of your little faith [your lack of trust and confidence in the power of God]; for I assure you most solemnly say to you, if you have [living] faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and [if it is God's will] it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

Faith is not that difficult to obtain, but to keep faith takes a little work. I remember starting my faith journey many years ago. At that time, it was not too hard for me to obtain it, all because my desire to know *God* was great. I wanted to understand my life and how to make it better than it was. So, I began the journey by first asking "*Him*" to forgive me and to come into my life and help me. First, you must be willing to turn over your way of doing things and allow *Him (God)* to guide you. Some people say well I don't understand what you mean. Well to make it simple you have to refrain from things,

places and people and behaviors that don't bring victory to your life.

Then secondly, you must learn how to pray. And what I mean is, you need to set time and make time to include prayer in your daily life. All prayer does is keep you connected to *God*, so that you can learn how he speaks to you. And as you speak to *Him* you will see how to work out your faith. Praying to *God* is similar to having a relationship with others. The only way to get to know someone is by communicating with them. Same thing with *God* but better because *He* is all knowing. *He* knows what is best for our lives. We must be willing to leave things that don't enrich us, they actually bring us down and shred us apart.

For me it has been an honor to watch this author go from no faith or trust in *God* because of what he had experienced in his life. Listening to music that had a negative insight to now putting together music that has slowly begun to create an atmosphere in his own way of reaching to a *God* that would ultimately change his entire world.

Watching someone's faith change from being an enemy of *God* to becoming a child of *God* is absolutely amazing. I encourage you to continue to create the

atmosphere that it will take to reach every area that will change your life.

Glaister is learning how to trust God when things get a little tough. And learning to hear *Him* when He is leading. Sir, I applaud you on your new-found faith journey and I encourage you that no matter what, stay the course. You will learn ways that you have never known before. Sometimes the ideas may seem so far left, but if you continue to look deeper you then see the will of *God* for your existence.

PREFACE

For a huge part of my childhood I was always in 1 of 2 places children's church or Sunday school like clockwork and without fail. When Easter and Christmas arose, I was on stage either reciting a holiday recitation, performing in the holiday play or standing at the pulpit giving a sermon. Church was a huge part of my childhood and makeup. For as long as I could remember that is where I was **EVERY** Sunday come rain or shine. As I got older my time spent in the holy halls of First Wesleyan Methodist Church slowly dwindled. Then before I knew it I had stopped attending church on a regular basis. Soon thereafter I moved to Florida and with a new location came a new church home.

As the old proverb goes: "The more thing change the more they stay the same." Merrell United Methodist Church was the new and performing holiday recitations was the same. Then life evolved and tragedy reared its ugly head and in the blink of an eye I had traded rehearsals for Remy and Tuesday night sermons for tattoo night

sessions. Church was the last place I wanted to be and “*He*” was the absolute last person I wanted to hear or see. But the funny thing, almost ironic in fact was the one that I didn’t want to see was the very same one I called on when I could no longer see. How could I call on “*Him*” now when I had turned my back on him for so many years?

I needed him more than ever and I had no idea how to find him, communicate with him or even establish a connection with “*Him*”. I needed to find a place in his heart to see if I still resided there and if not see if he would take me back. I had to know if he still knew my name. I had to plan my steps and follow a roadmap laden with painful memories, regrets and consolidations. I had to find my way through the shadows, through the hurt, through the pain and through the tears. I had to find my way back to “*Him*”.

Opening Prayer

Father God, we thank you that your amazing unfathomable love has been poured out for us at the cross and poured into us by the Holy Spirit. We pray that God's will be done in all our actions as we bask in your amazing love. Help us to walk by faith, help us to endure in suffering. Father God, as they endeavor to read this book help them on their journey to know you. Help them to fully embrace your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Redeemer. Pour out your love into their hearts, in increasing measure by the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. As I pray that they get closer to you I pray for the forgiveness of their sins and forgive those who have wronged them. Bless their hearts, their minds and allow them to be open and receptive to you. It is in his name that I pray, Amen

Chapter: 1
ACKNOWLEDGE

So here we are folks. I'm about to find myself on the other side of the absolutely darkest chapter of my life...LITERALLY! As I lay on the operating table and the anesthesia began to do its job, I can't but help to think to myself: "God, what if this goes horribly wrong? I have no one to blame but myself, there are so many individuals to apologize to including you. God, if this procedure fails please just allow me to wake up with the strength to say...*I'M SORRY*".

...

[3 Hours Later]

The surgery was a *SUCCESS!* Thank you, God, for guiding Dr. Aran's hands, in giving me back something that was snatched away from me. Yes, the obvious would be the eyesight but returning along with that came something else just as precious, "*clarity*" -clarity of self- to be precise. When I opened my eyes and clearly saw for the 1st time in almost a

year I saw a lot more than just what was before me. I saw “*EVERYTHING*”, every one of my moments, every triumph, every failure, every success, every struggle, every dream that a scrawny 4-eyed kid from Brooklyn once had now manifested into reality. In my seeing of “*Everything*” clearly, I now see that I don't need to apologize for being who or what I am. I don't need to apologize for the creative risks I took or for the overly sensitive people that I offended along the way with my writings. I don't need to apologize for those who I stepped over because they were too afraid to grab their own brass ring. So, this book, is not an apology nor is it a plea for anyone's acceptance! At the end of all of this, this is simply my ode to “*You*” This book is my detailed account of my journey back to “*Him*”.

This is a moment for me to possibly forgive everyone who we wrongfully and willingly stole my joy, my smile, my happiness and my light throughout this life that I now realize I have been blessed to have lived. I've sat here wrestling with myself for far too long on whether or not to reconnect with “*You*”

The word says: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* -

Matthew 6:33

But before I find myself basking in the warmth of *God's* love I must 1st be honest with myself and acknowledge the fact and the truth that I was indeed lost. As the title of this chapter states: *ACKNOWLEDGE*. For me it took quite a while to acknowledge the fact that: Acknowledgement is the 1st step to "*Him*" (40+ years to be exact) I did everything possible to resist, fight and self-sabotage my walk with "*Him*". I essentially tried to walk with both shoelaces tied in multitude of knots to one another and if you've watched enough episodes of the 3 Stooges or Lil' Rascals you know how that scenario plays out. You end up falling flat on your face! And that was exactly what happened to me I had fallen lower than low could get and I needed to make a change.

So, allow me a moment to speak with you honestly and unfiltered, we'll just call this the 1st of 2 public service announcements.

SO, HERE'S IT IS: I don't know how else to stress this point: none of your journey will make any sense unless you first acknowledge a few things much like I had to:

1. I was nowhere close to my walk with "*Him*"
2. There were some much needed steps that I needed to address before I could take that walk.
3. I will come to a point where I will doubt and question my resolve.
4. There will be some things that I don't understand. If there are don't be prideful, don't be afraid to ask someone for help, clarification or guidance.
5. When in doubt turn to the *Bible* and its concordance or a biblical reference website. (speaking from personal experience the concordance really helps!)

So, the acknowledgment part for me was probably one of the most difficult because it forced me to really take a hard look at myself and my actions throughout the duration and totality of my life. I wanted a closer relationship with "*Him*" I just didn't know how to achieve it. I was hell-bent convinced that I had torched that bridge and that there was no chance of walking with the *Father*. Proverbs 3:5-6

states: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”* The meaning behind those 2 verses is pretty cut and dry in that we are to trust *God* with all of our hearts and not depend on what we think we know. At all times under all circumstances, include *God* in everything that you do, and this way, you give *“Him”* a chance to keep you on the right track. You may not always know what lies ahead.

In its general application these verses lend themselves to any given situation, trust *Our Lord* because *“He”* knows what to do. You don’t always know what to do, and relying on your wisdom or your own intelligence will mislead you! When you involve *God* in every action or step you take to rectify a situation, you will arrive at the right solution. The word has taught us that we are very capable of handling anything that comes our way. Many of the methods don’t include the power of *God*, but that of man. *“As a child of God, put*

your trust in “Him” instead of the many ways of the world.” -Psalm 20:7

So, as I embark on this walk I place my trust in the *Lord* to guide my steps. Although I know where I want to head I know not the correct path to get there. My understanding to this point has led me astray and I need his help show me the correct path. As the cliché goes *Jesus take the wheel and be my co-pilot.*

Chapter: 2
FULL CIRCLE

June 5, 2023 (23 days away) from the biggest weekend of my career and I can't help but be reflectful. Reflectful and appreciative of all that has been afforded me. It is no longer lost on me how, why and more importantly by who all these 3,650+ days of success have been given. In the midst of my reflection I had the ultimate epiphany: *the one that granted me success also granted me life. Life after death, light after darkness, love after and after and after again.* Despite turning my back on "Him" time after time after time. "HE" has NEVER turned his back on me despite every vial of vile, venomous vitriol I spewed in his heavenly vicinity. Now I can admit that I was eternally wrong for all of it but in my insecurity of my faith I was afraid to come before "Him" with both my heart and arms opened.

On this fateful morning while walking through the parking lot I noticed a young mother. She was struggling with her son's necktie. "Excuse me Sir, are you familiar with neckties? Do you know how

to tie a tie? If so can you please help my son? He's getting ready for his graduation." I instantly agreed and showed the young man how to tie his Red tie. The 5th grader's mother explained that he was inducted into the 5,000 Young Men Association and that the commemorative Red tie was symbolic of his accomplishment. I congratulated the young man and explained to him that as an African-American business owner but more importantly an African-American male it does my heart proud to see the success and promise of this younger generation. I asked him what his career goals and dreams were and he replied: "something in gaming maybe." I took the time out of my morning to support, assist and mentor the young man who was extremely receptive and attentive. "Don't allow the world to dictate who and what you are supposed to be because of the color of your skin." I explained. ***DO NOT LET YOUR SKIN COLOR BE YOUR DETRIMENT!*** Young man, you are a "Prince" you come from royalty, you come from Kings and you are destined and capable of great things!"

I was battling with myself for the past couple of days on whether or not I had made a mark on this Earth with this little life of mine and the life that I have lived. This faithful moment was the answer that I was searching for. There come moments when you question who? why? and how? even when? The question may be present but the answer doesn't always manifest itself at the same time. Sometimes *God* sends you the answer you need in the time most suited and in those moments your testimony is sometimes formed and found when your life comes full circle.

Angels come in many different shapes and sizes. In this particular situation that young man was my angel. He was placed in my path when I needed a moment of affirmation. *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.* - *Hebrews 13:2* Before anything can be accomplished I have to be able and willing to see the forest from the trees.