

JOHN MASON

Author of Bestselling

Imitation Is Limitation



The Impossible is Possible

DOING WHAT OTHERS SAY
CAN'T BE DONE

The Impossible Is Possible
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INTRODUCTION

ALMOST EVERYTHING WE ENJOY TODAY was impossible yesterday. So what transforms an impossibility into a possibility, a possibility into a probability, and a probability into a fact?

Deep inside you lives an impossible thought. A dream longing to come true. There's a mission residing in you, put there by your heavenly Father. You see, He specializes in the impossible. That's where He is at His best. He is able to do more than we can ask or think.

Life can be a perpetual barrage of "things" coming at us, beside us, and past us. Fear, faith, friends, envy, the past, greed, giving, serving, mistakes, anger, peace, indecision, and love ask for our time and demand our attention. What they can leave is an impression that everything is impossible, or at least very difficult.

The good news is that God wants to do more than we can imagine. He longs to take our impossibilities and turn them into possibilities. In this book I want to introduce you to God's view of our life. When a mistake makes a situation impossible, God can turn it around. When worry wants to paralyze us, God wants to bring us freedom. When confusion seems to be the only answer, God wants to shed light on His path for us.

Perhaps there is no greater truth than that "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26 NASB).



SAFETY LAST!

FOR MANY YEARS, “‘Safety first’ has been the motto of the human race . . . but it has never been the motto of leaders. A leader must face danger. He must take the risk and the blame and the brunt of the storm” (Herbert Casson). If you want to be successful, you must either have a chance or take one. You can’t get your head above water if you never stick your neck out.

A dream that does not include risk is not truly worthy of being called a dream. Lord Halifax said,

*The man who leaves nothing to chance will do
few things [badly], but he will do very few things.*

If you never take risks, you’ll never accomplish great things. Everybody dies, but not everyone has lived.

C. S. Lewis said,

*The safest road to hell is a gradual one—
the gentle slope, soft under foot, without sudden
turnings, without milestones, without sign posts.*

Elizabeth Kenny reflected, “It is better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.” If you dare for nothing, you need hope for nothing.

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If you don't risk anything, you risk even more. John Newman wrote, "Calculation never made a hero." Every person has a chance to improve himself, but some just don't believe in taking chances. I agree with Lois Platford, who said, "You have all eternity to be cautious and then you're dead." Being destined for greatness requires that you take risks and confront great hazards.

You'll always miss 100 percent of the shots that you don't take. I agree with John Stemmons:

*When your chances are slim and none . . .
go with slim.*

Morris West said, "If you spend your whole life inside waiting for the storms, you'll never enjoy the sunshine." No one reaches the top without daring.

Listen to Conrad Hilton:

*I encourage boldness because the danger of
seniority and pension plans tempt a young man to
settle in a rut named security rather than
find his own rainbow.*

Chuck Yeager remarked, "You don't concentrate on risk. You concentrate on results. No risk is too great to prevent the necessary job from getting done."

Whenever you see a successful person, I guarantee he or she took risks and made courageous decisions. Success favors the bold. The world is a book where those who do not take risks read only one page. David Mahoney said, "Refuse to join the cautious crowd that plays not to lose. Play to win."

Pietro Metastasio observed,

*Every noble acquisition is attended with its risk;
he who fears to encounter the one must not
expect to obtain the other.*

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Listen to Tommy Barnett: "Many people believe that you are really walking by faith when there is no risk, but the truth is the longer you walk with God ... the greater the risk." If you have found yourself throughout life never scared, embarrassed, disappointed, or hurt, it means you have never taken any chances.

David Viscot wrote, "If your life is ever going to get better, you'll have to take risks. There is simply no way you can grow without taking chances." You have a chance to improve yourself. Just believe in taking chances.



IF GOD IS YOUR FATHER, PLEASE CALL HOME

PRAYER BRINGS MOMENTUM. It lifts the heart above the challenges of life and gives it a view of God's resources of victory and hope. Prayer provides power, poise, peace, and purpose for a person's purpose, plans, and pursuits. The most powerful energy anyone can generate is prayer energy.

*The devil smiles when we make plans.
He laughs when we get too busy.
But he trembles when we pray.*

—CORRIE TEN BOOM

*Don't worry about anything; instead,
pray about everything; tell God your needs
and don't forget to thank Him for his answers.
If you do this, you will experience God's peace,
which is far more wonderful than
the human mind can understand.*

—PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7 TLB

Whatever is worth worrying about is certainly worth praying about. God is never more than a prayer away from you. When you feel swept off your feet, get back to your knees.

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*If I could hear Christ praying for me
in the next room, I would not fear a million
enemies. Yet distance makes no difference.
He is praying for me.*

—ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE

Heaven is ready to receive you when you pray. "Time spent in communion with God is never lost" (Gordon Lindsay).

*I have so much to do today that I shall
spend the first three hours in prayer.*

—MARTIN LUTHER

Common people do not pray, they only beg. So pray, don't beg. When we pray, we link ourselves with God's inexhaustible power and insight. "Wishing will never be a substitute for prayer" (Edwin Louis Cole).

Remember that prayers can't be answered until they are prayed. "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24 NKJV).

A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel.

—ANONYMOUS

When we pray, we must simultaneously position ourselves to be willing to take the action that God requires as answers to our prayer because "prayer is not monologue but dialogue; God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part" (Andrew Murray). The prayers a person lives on his feet are no less important than those he says on his knees.

*Practical prayer is harder on the soles of your shoes
than on the knees of your trousers.*

—OSTEN O'MALLEY

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The strongest action that you can take in any situation is to go to your knees and ask God for help. The highest purpose of faith or prayer is not to change my circumstances but to change me. Pray to do the will of God in every situation—nothing else is worth praying for.

*Do not have your concert and
tune your instruments afterwards.
Begin the day with God.*

—JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR

Prayer may not change all things for you, but it sure changes you for all things. Prayer is the stop that keeps you going. If God is your Father, please call home.





FEAR WANTS YOU TO RUN FROM SOMETHING THAT ISN'T AFTER YOU

THE GREAT EVANGELIST BILLY SUNDAY once said,

*Fear knocked at my door. Faith answered . . .
and there was no one there.*

Now, that's the proper response to fear. Fears, like babies, grow larger by nursing them. Benjamin Disraeli offered, "Nothing in life is more remarkable than the unnecessary anxiety which we endure, and generally create ourselves." We must act in spite of fear . . . not because of it. If you are afraid to step up to the plate, you will never hit a home run.

Lucy Montgomery said, "It only seems as if you are doing something when you are worrying." Worry doesn't help tomorrow's troubles, but it does ruin today's happiness.

*A day of worry is more exhausting
than a day of work.*

—JOHN LUBBOCK

When you worry about the future, there will soon be no future for

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you to worry about. No matter how much a person dreads the future, he usually wants to be around to see it. Unfortunately, more people worry about the future than prepare for it.

Never trouble trouble until trouble troubles you. Arthur Roche said,

Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

Sister Mary Tricky observed, "Fear is faith that it won't work out." Instead, do what the book of 1 Peter admonishes:

Let him (God) have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.

Rob Gilbert advised, "It's all right to have butterflies in your stomach. Just get them to fly in formation."

Fear holds you back from flexing your risk muscle, so consider this: What you fear about tomorrow is not here yet. George Porter warned, "Always be on guard against your imagination. How many lions it creates in our paths, and so easily! And we suffer so much if we do not turn a deaf ear to its tales and suggestions."

Worry is like a darkroom, because darkrooms are where negatives are developed. If you can't help worrying, remember worrying can't help you either. Worry is like a rocking chair: It keeps you going but you don't get anywhere. A friend of mine said, "Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about don't happen."

Worry never fixes anything. Shakespeare wrote, "Our doubts are traitors, and they make us lose what we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

Emanuel Celler says, "Don't roll up your pant legs before you get to the stream."

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Most of our fears can be traced back to a fear of man. However, the Bible says that “fear of man brings a snare” (Proverbs 29:25 NKJV).

*The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

—PSALM 27:1

*In God I trust; I will not be afraid.
What can mortal man do to me?*

—PSALM 56:4 NIV

People would worry less about what others think of them if they only realized how seldom they do. They're not thinking about you—they're wondering what you're thinking about them.

Fear can keep you from going where you could have won. Don't let your fears steal from you and prevent you from pursuing your dream. Most people believe their doubts and doubt their beliefs. So do like the old saying: “Feed your faith and watch your doubts starve to death.” Worry is a route that leads from somewhere to nowhere; never let it direct your life. Fear of the future is a waste of the present. Fear not tomorrow . . . God is already there!

*Never be afraid to trust an unknown future
to a known God.*

—CORRIE TEN BOOM

A famous poem says it best:

*Said the robin to the sparrow,
I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.*

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*Said the sparrow to the robin,
I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.*





GET UP ONE MORE TIME THAN YOU'VE FALLEN DOWN

HAVE YOU EVER FAILED or made a mistake? Good, then this nugget is for you. The fact that you've failed is proof that you're not finished. Failures and mistakes can be a bridge, not a barricade, to success.

Psalm 37:23–24 says,

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord:
and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall,
he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord
upholdeth him with his hand.*

Failure may look like a fact, but it's only an opinion. Successful people believe that mistakes are just feedback. It's not how far you fall but how high you bounce that makes all the difference.

Theodore Roosevelt said,

*Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win
glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure,
than to rank with those poor spirits who neither
enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the
great twilight that knows not victory or defeat.*

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One of the riskiest things you can do in life is to take too many precautions and never have any failures or mistakes. Failure is the opportunity to start over more intelligently.

No one has ever achieved genuine success who did not, at one time or another, teeter on the edge of disaster. If you have tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded. The person who never makes a mistake must get awfully tired of doing nothing. If you're not making mistakes, you're not risking enough.

Vernon Sanders observes,

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.

Experience is what you get when you are looking for something else.

Success consists of getting up just one time more than you fall down. So get up and go on.

"You don't drown by falling in the water, you drown by staying there," said author Ed Cole.

Proverbs 28:13 (TLB) reminds,

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

The death of your dream will not happen because of a failure; its death will come from indifference and apathy. The best way to go on after a failure is to learn the lesson and forget the details. If you don't, you'll become like the scalded dog that fears hot water and, afterward, fears cold as well.

Failure can become a weight, or it can give you wings. The only way to make a comeback is to go on. If the truth were known, 99 percent of success is built on former failure. A mistake usually proves somebody stopped talking long enough to do something.

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You're like a tea bag: not worth much until you've been through
some hot water.

Remember the old poem:

*Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are;
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit;
It's when things seem worse
that you must not quit.*

—UNKNOWN



EVEN POSTAGE STAMPS BECOME USELESS WHEN THEY GET STUCK ON THEMSELVES

IF YOU ARE ONLY LOOKING OUT FOR YOURSELF, look out! Wesley Huber said, "There is nothing quite so dead as a self-centered man—a man who holds himself up as a self-made success, and measures himself by himself and is pleased with the result." Is your favorite letter "I"? Listen:

The core of sin is "I" no matter how you spell it.

—ED COLE

The only reason pride lifts you up is to let you down.

Some time ago when I answered the phone, the voice on the other end said, "Bang! You're dead!" I paused. I didn't know what to think about what had been said to me. Then I heard the familiar voice of James Campbell, a client of mine, saying, "John, just calling to remind you that we need to die to ourselves every day."

This is true. There is always room at the top for anyone who is willing to say, "I'll serve," and means it. Several years ago I was listening to Zig Ziglar, whose presentation included the words

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*You'll always have everything in life
that you want if you'll help enough
other people get what they want.*

When I heard this, something went off inside me. I made a conscious decision to incorporate that concept into my life. It has made a tremendous difference.

True leadership always begins with servanthood, while selfishness always ends in self-destruction. John Ruskin said,

*When a man is wrapped up in himself,
he makes a pretty small package.*

Being a servant is not always the most natural thing to do. We are all conditioned to think about ourselves. That is one reason 97 percent of all people will write their own names when they are offered a new pen to try. Despite our tendency toward self-promotion, it is always true that more is accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit.

God has always called us to serve those whom we lead. Be willing to serve without trying to reap the benefits. Before looking for a way to get, look for a way to give. No one is truly a success in life until he or she has learned how to serve. The old saying is true:

*The way to the throne room is
through the servants' quarters.*

One of the most powerful decisions you can make in your life is to do something for someone who does not have the power or resources to return the favor. In Matthew 23:11, our Lord says, "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." And, in Matthew 20:26-27, He declares,

*Whosoever will be great among you, let him
be your minister; and whosoever will be
chief among you, let him be your servant.*

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When you give of yourself to help other people, you cannot help but be abundantly rewarded. Norman Vincent Peale observed, "The man who lives for himself is a failure. Even if he gains much wealth, power or position he is still a failure." Conceit makes us fools:

*Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

—PROVERBS 26:12 NIV

The man who believes in nothing but himself lives in a very small world. The best way to be happy is to forget yourself and focus on other people. Henry Courtney said,

*The bigger a man's head gets,
the easier it is to fill his shoes.*

A swelled head always proves there is plenty of room for improvement.

"The greatest magnifying glasses in the world are a man's own eyes when they look upon his own person" (Alexander Pope). Egotism is the only disease where the patient feels well while making everyone else around him feel sick. Egotism blossoms but bears no fruit. Those who sing their own praises seldom receive an encore. Charles Elliot intones,

*Don't think too much of yourself. Try to cultivate
the habit of thinking of others; this will reward you.
Selfishness always brings its own revenge.*

While gazing upon selfish accomplishments, the arrogant often miss God by failing to see what He is doing. Rick Renner said, "Don't miss the plan of God by self-consumption."

When you are on a high horse, the best thing to do is to



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CLIMB OUT OF THE GRANDSTAND AND ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD

YOU CAN'T FULFILL YOUR DESTINY on a theory ... it takes *work*! None of the secrets of success will work unless you do. You are made for action. Success simply takes good ideas and puts them to work. What the *free enterprise* system really means is that the more enterprising you are, the freer you are. What we all need is less emphasis on *free* and more on *enterprise*.

Listen to Shakespeare: "Nothing can come of nothing." A belief is worthless unless converted into action. The Bible, a book of faith, talks about work over five hundred times. Often, the simple answer to your problems is: *Go to work*.

*Striving for success without hard work is like
trying to harvest where you haven't planted.*

—DAVID BLY

What you believe doesn't amount to very much unless it causes you to wake up from your dream and start working. You cannot just dream yourself into what you could be. The only time a lazy person ever succeeds is when he tries to do nothing. An old saying



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isn't a nuisance to you, it's a sign that you are somewhat of a loafer yourself. I have discovered that an important attribute in successful people is their impatience with people who think and act negatively. Misery wants your company. But you don't have to let it in the door. Proverbs 13:20 tells us,

*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise;
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

We become like those with whom we associate.

We need to be careful of the kind of insulation we use in our lives. We do need to insulate ourselves from negative people and ideas, but we should never insulate ourselves from godly counsel and wisdom.

A number of years ago I found myself at a stagnation point in my life; I was unproductive and unable to see God's direction clearly. One day I noticed that almost all of my friends were in the same situation. When we got together, our problems were what we talked about. As I prayed about this matter, God showed me that I needed "foundation-level" people in my life. Such individuals bring out the best in us and influence us to improve. They cause us to have greater faith and confidence and to see things from God's perspective. After being with them, our spirits and our sights are raised.

The Lord showed me that I needed to change my closest associations and that I needed to have contact with the right people on a regular basis. These were men of strong faith, people who made me a better person when I was around them. They were the ones who saw the gifts in me and could correct me in a constructive, loving way. My choice to change my closest associations was a turning point in my life.

I have found that it is better to be alone than in the wrong company. A single conversation with the right person can be more valuable than years of study.

When you surround yourself with the right kind of people, you



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*Science may have found a cure for most evil; but
it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—
the apathy of human beings.*

Joshua encouraged, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15 NIV). Don't leave a decision for tomorrow that needs to be made today.

Bertrand Russell said, "Nothing is so exhausting as indecision, and nothing is so futile." Likewise, Joseph Newton discerned,

*Not what we have, but what we use,
not what we see, but what we choose—
these are things that mar or bless human happiness.*

Remember, don't be a middle-of-the-roader, because the middle of the road is the worst place to try to go forward. As James Hightower quipped, "There's nothing in the middle of the road but yellow stripes and dead armadillos." You can do everything you ought to do—once you make a decision. Today, decide on your dream.





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PROCRASTINATION IS THE FERTILIZER THAT MAKES DIFFICULTIES GROW

ASK YOURSELF: "IF I DON'T TAKE ACTION NOW, what will it ultimately cost me?" When a procrastinator has finally made up his mind, the opportunity has usually passed by. Edwin Markum said,

*When duty comes a knocking at your gate,
Welcome him in; for if you bid him wait,
He will depart only to come once more
And bring seven other duties to your door.*

What you put off until tomorrow, you'll probably put off tomorrow too. Success comes to the man who does today what others were thinking of doing tomorrow. The lazier a man is, the more he is going to do the next day.

*All problems become smaller if you don't
dodge them, but confront them. Touch a thistle
timidly, and it pricks you; grasp it boldly,
and its spines crumble.*

—WILLIAM HALSEY



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STAY OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY

HERE'S THE FIRST RULE OF WINNING: Don't beat yourself. Your biggest enemy is you. Have you felt like Dwight L. Moody when he said, "I have never met a man who has given me as much trouble as myself"? The first and best victory is to conquer you.

Very often a change of self is needed more than a change of scenery. Here's some good advice: Only you can hold yourself back; only you can stand in your own way. There is no one to stop you but you.

Talk back to your internal critic. "If you want to move your greatest obstacle, realize that your obstacle is yourself—and that the time to act is now" (Nido Cubein).

You must begin to think of yourself as becoming the person you want to be:

*Give the man you'd like to be
a look at the man you are.*

—EDGAR GUEST

Change what you tell yourself, for "no one really knows enough to be a pessimist" (Norman Cousins).

Remember, "One of the nice things about problems is that a



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*Keep your face to the sunshine,
and you cannot see the shadow.*

You will find that smiling is like having a head cold; both are very catchy. A laugh a day will keep negative people away. As enthusiasm increases, stress and fear decrease. The Bible says that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Cranks do not turn the wheels of progress. Tom Walsh says,

*Every minute your mouth is turned down
you lose sixty seconds of happiness.*

Paul Bourge wrote, "Unhappiness indicates wrong thinking, just as ill health indicates a bad regime." It's impossible to smile on the outside without feeling better on the inside. If you can laugh at it, you can live with it.

*It was only a sunny smile,
But it scattered the night.
Though little it cost in giving,
It made the day worth living.*

—ANONYMOUS





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ALWAYS SAY LESS THAN YOU KNOW

RECENTLY I SAW A SIGN under a mounted largemouth bass: "If I had kept my mouth shut I wouldn't be here." How true! Don't jump into trouble mouth-first.

What we say is important. The book of Job reminds us, "How forcible are right words." Let me pose this question for you: What would happen if you changed what you said about your biggest problem, your biggest opportunity?

Our daily commitment ought to be, "Oh, please, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough." The human tongue is only a few inches from the brain, but when you listen to some people talk, mouth and mind seem miles apart. The tongue runs fastest when the brain is in neutral.

A high school track coach was having difficulty motivating his athletes to perform at their best. The team had developed the distinctive reputation of coming in last at every meet they entered. One factor contributing to the coach's less-than-successful program was his pep-talk tactic. His most effective inspiring tool, he thought, was to tell his team, "Keep turning left and hurry back." Would that motivate you? Remember: Your words have the power to start fires or quench passion.



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success. Be thankful for challenges, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job.

"A successful man will never see the day that does not bring a fresh quota of problems, and the mark of success is to deal with them effectively" (Lauris Norstad).

*You will never be the person you can be if pressure,
tension and discipline are taken out of your life.*

—JAMES BILKEY

Refuse to let yourself become discouraged by temporary setbacks. If you are beginning to encounter some hard bumps, don't worry. At least you are out of a rut. Circumstances are not your master.

You can always measure a man by the amount of opposition it takes to discourage him. When the water starts to rise, you can also. You can go over, not under! "Obstacles across our path can be spiritual flat tires—disruptions in our lives seem to be disastrous at the time, but end by redirecting our lives in a meaningful way" (Bernie Siegel).

The truth is, if you find a path with no obstacles, it is most likely a path that doesn't lead anywhere important. Adversity is the mother of invention, and man's adversity is always God's opportunity. Difficulty gives birth to opportunity:

*"In this world you will have trouble. But take
heart! I have overcome the world."*

—JOHN 16:33 NIV

"What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude towards it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity" (J. Sidlow Baxter). "Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity" (Lou Holtz). Many people have good intentions, but when something bad comes their way



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We are tempted to give up and quit trying. Instead, we need to continue to water and fertilize those dreams, nurturing the seeds of the vision God has placed within us. If we do not quit, if we display perseverance and endurance, we will also reap a harvest.

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.

—CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON





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Nothing has separated us from God, but our own will, or rather our own will is our separation from God.

Tommy Barnett reflected, "The deeper I dig, the deeper He digs." To increase value, get to know God. Pray to the Father, "I want to be in your will, not in your way."

Oswald Chambers advises us:

Get into the habit of dealing with God about everything. Unless in the first waking moment of the day you learn to fling the door wide back and let God in, you will work on a wrong level all day; but swing the door wide open and pray to your Father in secret, and every public thing will be stamped with the presence of God.

Stop every day and put Him first.

The Bible finds us where we are, and with our permission it will take us where we ought to go. Other books were given to us for information, but God's Word was given to us for transformation. A person who merely samples the Word of God never acquires much of a taste for it. Instead, choose to be a wholly devoted follower of Him. Our heartfelt cry to God ought to be the same as Isaiah's cry: "Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8 NIV). Consider the words of W. H. Atken:

*Lord, take my lips and speak through them;
take my mind and think through it; take
my heart and set it on fire.*

We must not only give what we have, we must also give what we are to God.



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The Impossible Is Possible

The book of Acts says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (20:36). Giving is always the thermometer of our love for others. Eleanor Roosevelt observed, "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." Getters don't receive happiness. Givers do.

Living for others is the best way to live for yourself. John Wesley advised, "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can." That's an excellent formula for a successful life.

When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing. The trouble with too many people who give until it hurts is that they are so sensitive to pain. Greed always diminishes what has been gained. Mike Murdock states, "Giving is proof that you have conquered greed."

If you have, give. If you lack, give. G. D. Bordmen said, "The law of the harvest is to reap more than you sow." It is true: People who give always receive.

Selfishness continually ends in self-destruction.

Henry Drummond said, "There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving." The test of generosity is not necessarily how much you give but how much you have left. Henry David Thoreau said, "If you give money, spend yourself with it." What you give, lives.



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The Impossible Is Possible

Know that the devil hates this new day because I'm up again.

Die to myself.

Give thanks for my daily bread.

Leave others a little better than I found them.

Observe that every day the earth praises the Lord.

Rise early because no day is long enough for a day's work.

Not be afraid to ask for help.

Give my best time of the day to communion with God.

Live by the Golden Rule so I will never have to apologize for my actions tomorrow.

Do today what I want to put off until tomorrow.

Know that the place to be happy is here—the time to be happy is now.

Take small steps to conquer a bad habit.

Evaluate my actions not by the harvest but by the seeds I plant.



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CONTINUALLY FRUSTRATE TRADITION WITH YOUR CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION

STOP AND DAYDREAM ONCE IN A WHILE. We all need to let our imaginations roam and give them a chance to breathe. It's never too late for you to start thinking more creatively.

Often it is merely a lack of imagination that keeps a person from his potential. Thinking of new ideas is like shaving: If you don't do it every day, you're a bum. Start and maintain a constant flow of new, exciting, and powerful ideas on which you act immediately.

Continually frustrate tradition with your creativity and imagination.

The opportunities of man are limited only by his imagination. But so few have imagination that there are ten thousand fiddlers to one composer.

—CHARLES KETTERING

Your dreams are a preview to your greatness. All men who have achieved great things have been dreamers. It may be that those who do most, dream most. A shallow thinker seldom makes a



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The Impossible Is Possible

- David, a shepherd boy who became a king
- Hosea, a marital failure who prophesied to save Israel
- Joseph, a prisoner who became prime minister
- Esther, an orphan who became a queen
- Elijah, a homely man who became a mighty prophet
- Joshua, an assistant who became a conqueror
- James and John, fishermen who became close disciples of Christ and were known as the "sons of thunder"
- Abraham, a nomad who became the father of many nations
- John the Baptist, a vagabond who became the forerunner of Jesus
- Mary, an unknown virgin who gave birth to the Son of God
- Nehemiah, a cupbearer who built the wall of Jerusalem
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Hebrew exiles who became great leaders in the Babylonian Empire
- Hezekiah, an idolatrous father's son, who became a king renowned for doing right in the sight of the Lord
- Isaiah, a man of unclean lips who prophesied the birth of God's Messiah
- Paul, a self-righteous persecutor who became the greatest missionary in history and the author of two-thirds of the books of the New Testament.

All God needs is all of you!



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John Mason

you think you've arrived with God, beware. There is always room for growth.

We should be known as a people with a mission, not as a people just fishin'. Evangelist R. W. Schambach puts it this way: "Be called and sent, not up and went." We are a people with a purpose, not a problem.

In Colossians 1:12–13, the apostle Paul wrote,

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Be sure to look for areas out of which God is calling you and into which He is calling you. There is a difference between God's will *in* our lives and God's will *for* our lives. God's will *for* our lives includes those things that He intends for every person—salvation, strength, health, peace, joy. But God's will *in* our lives is unique to each individual. One person may be called to live in one place for life while another is called to move six times within ten years.

Never be afraid of the light of God's direction. Maurice Freehill asked,

Who is more foolish, a child afraid of the dark or the man afraid of the light?

Wherever God guides, He provides. And whom God calls, He appoints and anoints to do the work. Lay hold of those persistent directions in your life, and tap into the power of God's will for you.



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BE . . .

BE . . .

- . . . Yourself
- . . . Positive
- . . . Thankful
- . . . Decisive
- . . . Merciful
- . . . Persistent
- . . . Honest
- . . . Excellent
- . . . Confident
- . . . Prayerful
- . . . Faithful
- . . . Committed
- . . . Dedicated
- . . . Focused
- . . . Forgiving



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John Mason

Faith is not a pill you take but a muscle you use. Faith is when your hands and feet keep on working when your head and others say it can't be done. Faith is necessary to victory.

By faith you can be decisive in the absence of certainty or in the presence of indecision. It is not daydreaming; it is decision-making. "Real faith is not the stuff dreams are made of; rather it is tough, practical, and altogether realistic. Faith sees the invisible but it does not see the nonexistent" (A. W. Tozer). The world says, "Seeing is believing." Faith says, "Believing is seeing."

Faith is like a toothbrush. Everyone should have one and use it daily, but you shouldn't try to use someone else's.

*All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator
for all I have not seen.*

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Doubt is the great modern plague. Even so, faith can cure it. Real faith will refuse to see anything that is contrary to the Bible. It won't look at the circumstances or conditions but the promise.



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The Impossible Is Possible

right now. It can also free you to devote the correct amount of attention and effort to God's priorities in your life.

Look at the title of this nugget. Past experiences and present situations probably come to mind. You may recall many situations in which "no" or "not right now" would have been the better answer. Learn from these times and keep yourself from a multitude of mistakes and distractions.

Yes and *no* are the two most important words that you will ever say. These are the two words that determine your destiny in life. How and when you say them affects your entire future.

Saying no to lesser things can mean saying yes to priorities in your life.



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MIRACLES BEGIN IN THE HEART

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A NEW OPPORTUNITY or tough situation, I usually ask myself, "Do I have a pure heart and a right spirit?" The prayer of Psalm 139:23–24 (NIV) is

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me
and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be
any offensive way in me, and lead me
in the way everlasting.*

The weapon of the brave resides in his heart. Horace Rutledge said,

*When you look at the world in a narrow way, how
mean it is! When you look at it selfishly, how selfish
it is! But when you look at it in a broad, generous,
friendly spirit, how wonderful you find it!*

The Bible counsels us to prove all things, holding fast to those that are good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Margaret Mitchell spoke this truth: "There ain't nothing from the outside that can lick any of us." James Allen added, "You will



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NEVER SURRENDER YOUR DREAM TO NOISY NEGATIVES

NOBODY CAN EVER MAKE YOU FEEL AVERAGE without your permission. Ingratitude and criticism are going to come; they are part of the price you pay for leaping past mediocrity.

Jesus himself, after healing ten lepers, was thanked by only one of them (Luke 17:11–19). Learn to expect ingratitude.

If you move with God, you will be critiqued. The only way to avoid criticism is to do nothing and be nothing. Those who do things inevitably stir up criticism.

The Bible offers this great promise concerning criticism: The truth always outlives a lie. This fact is backed by Proverbs 12:19:

*The lip of truth shall be established for ever:
but a lying tongue is but for a moment.*

Also, in Hebrews 13:6, we are told that we may boldly say, “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Never judge people by what is said about them by their enemies. Kenneth Tynan has provided the best description of a critic I have ever heard:



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- ... Complaining to obtaining
- ... Drifting to steering
- ... Being a problem to being an answer
- ... Trying to committing
- ... Being a copy to being an original
- ... Envyng others to serving others
- ... Ingratitude to thanksgiving
- ... Faultfinding to forgiveness
- ... Criticism to compliments
- ... Alibis to action
- ... Procrastination to progress
- ... Hesitation to obedience
- ... Blending in to standing out
- ... Fractured to focused
- ... Taking to giving
- ... Wishing to wisdom
- ... The world to the Word
- ... Being full of pride to being full of God.



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The Impossible Is Possible

Your best friends are those who bring out the best in you. You are better, not worse, after you have been around them.

A good friend never gets in your way unless you're on your way down. He walks in when others walk out. A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be somewhere else.

The right kind of friends are those with whom you can dare to be yourself, people with whom you can dream aloud. Sometimes a single conversation with the right person can be more valuable than many years of study. For me, my best friends are those who understand my past, believe in my future, and accept me today.

The wrong kind of friends, unlike the good kind of friends, bring out the worst in you. You know the kind I'm talking about: They are the persons who absorb sunshine and radiate gloom. There are people who will always come up with reasons why you can't do what you want to ... ignore them! Proverbs says,

*Putting confidence in an unreliable man is like
chewing with a sore tooth, or trying to
run on a broken foot.*

—25:19 TLB

A friend is someone who knows all about you but likes you anyway. "Treat your friends as you do your best pictures, and place them in their best light" (Jennie Churchill). A true friend will see you through when others see that you're through. Friends communicate at a heart level. There are good ships and there are bad ships, but the best ships are friendships.

A day away from the wrong associations is like a day in the country. Never have a companion who casts you in the shade. You should have the kind of friends that if you start to thank each other, it would take all day. Mark Twain wrote,

*Keep away from people who try to belittle your
ambitions. Small people always do that, but
the really great make you feel that you,
too, can become great.*



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Truths to Help You Do More Than You Ever Thought Possible



Bestselling author John Mason captures inspirational truth in bite-sized nuggets, a format easy to remember and apply to life's issues, large and small. Every page is packed with practical wisdom and sound advice. Consider:

- *"You'll always miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."*
- *"Worry is like a dark room, because dark rooms are where negatives are developed."*
- *"In times of adversity, you don't have an obstacle; you have a choice."*
- *"Failure is the opportunity to start over more intelligently."*
- *"In the game of life, nothing is less important than the score at halftime."*
- *"Faith is like a toothbrush. Everyone should have one and use it daily, but you shouldn't try to use someone else's."*

The Impossible Is Possible powerfully shows that the past doesn't equal the future—you can live a fruitful and fulfilling life when you step forward in faith, believing that God will never command what He doesn't provide the wherewithal to accomplish.

JOHN MASON is a bestselling author, minister, and speaker, and the founder and president of Insight International and Insight Publishing Group. These organizations are dedicated to helping people reach their God-given dreams and fulfill their destiny.



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