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Becoming a better you joel osten pdf

I think there are a handful of people who would benefit from reading this book - truly broken people, not just people suffering from anxiety, depression or other problems in life. But I think Osteen is offering a message that could hurt a lot of people, seriously, in the long run. Despite the fact that making the connection between someone who spent 40 days in the desert was destitute and itinerant, and seemed to hate wealth and religious people who made money in God's name - and I think there are a handful of people who would benefit from reading this book - truly broken people, not just people suffering from anxiety, depression or other problems in life. But I think Osteen is offering a message that could hurt a lot of people, seriously, in the long run. Despite the fact that making the connection between someone who spent 40 days in the desert was destitute and itinerant, and seemed to hate wealth and religious people who made money in God's name - anyone who has lived and met people has probably seen, firsthand, someone who is religiously devoted and dies loving a disease. I find it hard to accept the idea that if they prayed harder they would have gotten better, which is essentially what Osteen offers here. Well, more or less, because he plays on both sides, saying that a God has a plan or that he's The Enemy. Except when he says buying flu medicine doesn't trust God enough. Except when he says buuuttt he personally keeps medicine for preparation, so that's fine. When he doesn't talk about how much he showed all the detractors when he built his megachurch, he does every couple of pages or so. This is not a very convincing or convincing philosophy. Osteen talks - a lot - about how negative thinking hurts people a lot. Not bad. Spend much less time explaining good ways to go beyond this in any meaningful way. Anyone who tells someone with depression that they need to change their mindset, and thinks it's useful information, is theologically and psychologically atrocious. I am not convinced that personal happiness and success were things that Jesus was very concerned about. Osteen splashes his books with many more anecdotes of Chicken Soup for the Soul than biblical references or even meaningful stories. He knows about marital conflicts because ... This time... his wife said he should turn left and turned right and boy oh boy. I should have stopped reading when he suggested that praying hard might stop someone from getting diabetes. Jesus prayed as much as he could in Gethsemane that his life might be saved, that the cup might pass from him. He didn't. That should be enough of a warning to anyone who believes in the gospel of Prosperity there - it didn't even work for Christ. And if you think Christ died so you could be rich, then that's a wrapper. More Become a Better You Quotes Showing 1-30 out of 35 At the beginning of each new day, remember: I'm talented. I'm creative. I'm fine. Jesus. I'm equipped. I'm capable. I'm going to see my dreams happen. Declare these statements by faith and in a short time, you will begin to see them in reality. - Joel Osteen, Become a Better You: 7 Keys to Improving Your Life Every Day Page 2 All Quotes Quotes By Joel Osteen You has immeasurable potential. You are one of God's children and, as such, you can accomplish wonderful things. The only limits you have to overcome are the limits you put on yourself. You can go as high as your dreams take you. For guidance, follow the following seven principles. One key - Keep pressing forward Don't get starned and mediocre. Don't settle for what you've got, believing there's nothing better. Instead, try to improve mentally, physically, and spiritually every day. Resist the limitations of other people's lives and negativity, and fight for new heights in your skills, monetary success, career and relationships. Learn to trust in God's plan for you. He will always guide you and guide you in the way that best suits you. With your belief and His help, you will reach your full potential. The past is gone. All you have about power is your future. Don't let the mistakes or failures of the past queer your dreams. God wants you to start each day again and refresh. The first step in swaying your past is to change your thinking. Say hello every morning saying to yourself: I am talented. I... Stimulus. INTRODUCTION If life is going well for you or collapsing before your eyes, we all want to be better. We want to be more effective in our lives. We want to know God better; we want to be better spouses and parents, better lovers, better animators, better community leaders, better employees and better bosses and managers. God put something deep within us that evokes the desire to be more like Him. In our inner being, we hear a voice that says, You were born for something better than this; you are destined to live on a higher level than you are currently. Don't be less loved. You can be better. The question is: How? What do I have to do to become a better me? In my first book, Your Best Life Now, I presented seven steps to live to your full potential. Today, many people are developing a greater vision for their future and are experiencing more of God's blessings and favor. But even if you're living your best life now, it's important not to get stan. God always wants to increase us, to do more in and through us. He always wants to lead us deeper into self-discovery and then he wants to elevate us to a higher standard of living. He didn't create us to be normal. He doesn't want us to settle for it enough. He wants us to keep stretching, keep moving to the next level. Now, at Become a Better You, I want to help you do just that. I want to take you deeper; I hope to help you look of yourself and discover the priceless seeds of the greatness that God has placed within you. In this book, I'm going to reveal you seven keys that you can use to unlock these seeds of greatness, allowing them to burst into an abundantly blessed life. These keys are neither complicated nor difficult; in fact, their sheer simplicity often causes them to elude the warning of many people. However, these are seven key principles that have helped me shape and continue to keep me expecting good things in my personal life, in my family, and in my career. I know these principles work, because I have experienced them firsthand in my own life. Too many people settle for mediocrity in their thoughts, attitudes, or actions. It's time to postpone those negative mindsets and climb higher. Remember, God has given you everything you need to live a victorious life. Now, it's up to you to get him in. We cannot let the wrong mindsets, a negative past, or other opinions discourage us or make us give up and stop moving on. People who want to live to their full potential have discovered that good can often be the enemy of the best. Have you ever noticed a person and thought, what a great attitude! She's a great mother, or she's a tremendous employee. Chances are that person you admired was an example of walking and talking about someone who's becoming a better person. What does it mean to be a better you? First, you understand that God wants you to become everything He created you to be. Second, it is imperative that you realize that God will do His part, but you must do your part as well. To become a better you, you must: 1. Keep pressing forward. 2. Be positive with yourself. 3. Develop better relationships. 4. Form better habits. 5. Embrace where you are. 6. Develop your inner life. 7. Stay passionate about life. Most of us make some efforts to improve in these areas, but to really see the kind of marked improvement we want, we need to start focusing on them more deliberately. In the pages ahead, I will explain each of these principles in depth: how they work and how you can use them to improve your life and affect generations to come. I'll help you see where you are, where you've been and where you're going. As we grow together, God will continue to pour good things into our lives, and indeed take us to places we never possibly dream of. If you're going through a difficult time, take your heart. There are better days ahead! God wants to bring you through, to get you even better, and restore everything you've lost, plus give you more! If you are thriving and enjoying life, you can use these principles to help protect your heart and mind, and to maintain an attitude and lifestyle that is pleasing to God. Be quick to recognize God's goodness in your life, considering that it is His blessing that you are enjoying who are blessed to be a blessing to another person, and he will continue to fill his life with immeasurable love, joy, and peace. Prepare! You're about to embark on an inner journey through which explore parts of yourself that you may have tried rarely or never before. Every step has to see how your inner journey influences your outside life, producing better quality relationships, a more productive use of your gifts and talents, and ultimately a totally better life. I must warn you: Practicing the seven keys to this book could be a potentially changing process! And while I can't guarantee you'll become rich or famous, I can assure you that if you follow this plan, you'll live a more fulfilled life. Becoming a better one is about growing, learning and improving. The more you learn to trust in God, the better you will be. He will continually expand your horizons, and you can become a better you! PART ONE KEEP PRESSING FORWARD CAPITULO 1 Stretching to the next level The famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed many beautiful buildings, houses and other magnificent structures. Towards the end of his career, a reporter asked him, of his many beautiful designs, which is his favorite? Without losing a beat, Frank Lloyd Wright replied, the next one. Frank Lloyd Wright understood the principle of stretching, continuing to move forward constantly, never being satisfied simply with past successes. The whole world is waiting for your next adventure. Too many people live well below their potential. They have many gifts and talents, and much more for them. But they've become comfortable, settled where they are, and lately they've become too easy to satisfy. I often hear people making excuses to stagnate in their personal growth: I've achieved as much as possible. Compared to other people, I do pretty well in my career. I've come far as my parents. That's great, but God wants you to go further. He is a progressive God, and he wants each generation to increase in happiness, success, and meaning. No matter where we are in life, God has more cure. He never wants us to stop growing. We must always be reaching new heights in our skills, in our finances, careers, and personal relationships. We all have areas where we can climb higher. We may have achieved a certain level of success, but there are always new challenges, other mountains to climb. There are new dreams and goals we can pursue. No doubt God has done much in your past. He opened the doors for you that no one else could open. Maybe he's given you a wonderful family and home. Maybe it's caused you to be promoted, you've given your employer or supervisors a favor. That's wonderful, and you must thank God for all he's done for you. But be careful. Sometimes, when you're enjoying life, it's easy to be complacent, be satisfied and think, yes, God has been good to me. I can't complain. I have achieved my goals; I've reached my limits. But God performs His greatest feats in his yesterdays. Maybe he did, in the past, but you haven't seen anything yet! The best is coming. Don't let your life get boring. Keep dreaming, waiting and planning new projects, experiences and adventures with God. I've discovered that God likes to outdo himself. He wants to show His favor in his life in ways greater than yesterday. He wants you to be more blessed tomorrow than today. Pretend to have a greater impact on the world than you've ever had. That means if you're a teacher, you haven't taught your best lesson yet. If you're a builder, you haven't built your best home yet. If you're a businessman, you haven't negotiated your best deal yet. It is time to raise your hopes, expand your vision, and prepare for the new things God has on the horizon. Your best days aren't behind you. They're right in front of you. But if this is going to happen, we have to keep moving forward, stretching. Get rid of low expectations. Don't make small plans for your life. I don't have little dreams. Don't go around thinking, everybody has good breaks except me. I've reached my limit. I'll probably never get this promotion. I don't know why I'm not promoted as that other person. No, get rid of that defeated mindset. You are a son of the Most High God. God has breathed His life in you. He planted seeds of greatness in you. You have everything you need to fulfill your God-given destiny. God has already put talent, creativity, discipline, wisdom, and determination into it. It's all in you. You're full of potential. But you have to do your part and start taking advantage of it. You have to make better use of the gifts and talents God has given you. Scripture teaches that we have a precious treasure within us. You have a gift. You have something to offer that no one else has. You didn't just show up on planet Earth by accident. You were chosen by Almighty God. He saw you before you formed in your mother's womb and put you here for a reason. You have a mission. There's something God wants you to get. Someone needs your touch. Somebody needs what you got. Don't live with that uncovered treasure, and don't die with the treasure still in you. Press forward. Give birth to the dreams and desires that God has placed in his heart. Neurologists have found that the average person uses less than 10 percent of their mind. That means more than 90 percent of the mind's capacity is dormant. He never takes advantage. But if we could understand what we have: God has placed a part of Himself in you. When it came time for you to be born, God said, Let me give you some of this gift; some of this talent; part of this creativity. You have the seed of Almighty God within you. You were never created to be normal. You were never created to reach a certain level and then plateau. You were created to excel. There's no limit to how high you can get in life. there's no limit to what you can achieve, if you just learn to shake your complacency and keep stretching to the next level. But it all starts in our hearts and minds. We have to believe we have what it takes. We have to believe that we have a gift, a treasure inside. People may have tried to push you down. Circumstances may have soured your outlook on life. Maybe you've tried to succeed in life, but you've crashed into a brick wall over and over again. Try again. Someone may have told you not to thousands times; ask again. Keep asking until you get the yes you've been waiting to hear. You have to keep pushing. Too many people grow up satisfied with far less than God's best for their lives. Sometimes they get discouraged, but all too often, they just feel comfortable. They stop stretching; they are not exercising their faith, and as a once muscular, toned body that no longer exercises, they become flabby. One of the main reasons for this kind of complacency is that people don't really understand what they have inside. They don't understand their God-given potential. Years ago, a friend of mine and a passenger were in Europe driving in the Autobahn, the supercarter across Germany. Unlike American motorways, the Autobahn has no speed limits. You can travel as fast as you want to drive. My friend was so excited as he pressed the accelerator and took the car up to 80 miles an hour, then 90, 100, 110. He felt like the king of the road, zooming past the people to the right. A few minutes later, another car spread across the highway. This car was exactly the same model as my friend's car, but it exploded for him as if he were still. That second car must have gone to 170 an hour. The passenger traveling with my friend laughed and said, Look, you're not going as fast as you can. You're going as fast as you want. Think about it: My friend's car had enormous potential. He was also able to go 180 miles an hour. The manufacturer put in the potential. The speed my friend was driving with had nothing to do with the capacity of the car. In other words, the potential wasn't told just because he decided not to use it. And simply having the potential on board didn't affect your future. It's the same with us. Our potential has been placed in us by our Manufacturer, our Creator, Almighty God. Whether or not we use it diminishes it, but it does affect our future. Events from your past don't reduce your potential. The way someone has treated you or what they said about you doesn't change your potential. Maybe you've been through some disappointments. Maybe you've been through some disappointments. Or you've had some unfair things happening in life. None of that affects your potential. It has been permanently placed in you by the Creator of the Universe. When we believe, we take a step of faith and stretch; There when we started to take advantage of it. That's when we'll climb higher. The capacity is in you. The real question is: Are you willing to free yourself your self-imposed limitations and start stretching to the next level? Too often, we allow past experiences to prevent us from moving forward. Maybe a business partner, a coach, a relative or a friend said, Hey, do you really think you can do that? Maybe that opportunity isn't right for you. What if you try to fail? What if it doesn't work? These negative words can haunt you and hinder your progress in moving forward. Understand that none of these statements can change their potential inside. It's still in you. Don't let others talk to you about using what God has given you and doing what you know God wants you to do. Many people have had negative comments spoken about them, as you don't have what it takes. You're not very talented. I don't think you're successful. If we are not careful, we will allow those negative words to reproduce over and over in our minds. They can create a fortress. A young woman named Sherry came to me on advice. She had tolerated an abusive relationship for years in which she was repeatedly told: Nothing can be done right. You're so slow. You're not attractive. After hearing that for so long, he had beaten her totally physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She had no joy, little confidence, and extremely low self-esteem. I said unto him what I say unto you, Thy courage, thy gifts and talents have been placed in thee by Almighty God. And it doesn't matter what anyone else has spoken for you. The good news is that God has the final authority. He says you have a treasure inside. He says you have a gift. He says you're valuable. You have to stop playing that old tune and put on a new one. You have to be thinking like: I'm creative. I'm talented. I'm valuable. I have a bright future. My best days are still in front of me. You have to put your mind in this new direction. Because dwelling in negative thoughts about yourself will prevent you from becoming all that God has created you to be. Regardless of who said negative words in your life (a parent, spouse, coach, or teacher), you should discard those words. Words are powerful. They can create barriers in the heart and mind. Sometimes a small sentence can hold us back for years. A friend of mine used to travel as an assistant with a well-known minister. One day, a man came to the hotel and wanted the minister to pray for him. The partner told the man, I'm sorry, but the minister can't be disturbed. He's resting and getting ready for tonight's meeting. But this man refused to take no for an answer. He was extremely aggressive and determined. My friend remained kind and courteous, trying to placate the unexpected visitor. But the caller kept pushing. Finally, my friend said, What do you think of this? I'll pray for you. I work with the minister every day. I'll be happy to pray for you. In that, the man raised his nose. I don't think so. You're not going to do it. Words stinged: You Do. The implicit message was that you're not good enough. Your prayers can't do the job. My friend later told how those words were sealed through his heart and mind day after day. You won't. Lying in bed at night, he'd think, you don't have what it takes. You're not anointed like the famous preacher. You can't help a soul. The young man already struggled with his confidence, but now he was allowing these negative words to play repeatedly in his subconscious mind. He could not shake them, and instead allowed those negative words to suppress him for years. Too many people don't have the confidence and self-esteem they should because they're constantly thinking about themselves. I don't mean it arrogantly, but in my mind, all day long I try to remember myself: I'm anointed. I'm creative. I'm talented. I'm successful. I have God's favor. People like me. I'm a victor and not a victim. Try! If you go around thinking about those kinds of thoughts, low self-esteem, lack of confidence or inferiority you won't have a chance with you. Pull your shoulders back, put a smile on your face, and be looking for opportunities to stretch on the next level. Back in the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they hid. In the fresco of the day, God came to them and said, Adam, Eve, where are you? They said, God, we're hiding because we're naked. I love the way God answered them. He said, Adam, who told you you were naked? In other words, who told you something was wrong with you? God immediately knew that the enemy had been talking to them. God is telling you today, who told you you don't have what it takes to succeed? Who told you the best grades you could do at school would be C's instead of A's? Who told you you're not attractive enough to succeed in your personal relationships or talented enough to flourish in your career? Who told you your marriage is never going to last? Those are lies of the enemy. You have to reject those ideas and find out what God says about you. Well, I don't think I can get this promotion, Joel. Who told you that? God said, There is nothing good to hold back when you walk righteously. Well, I don't think I'll ever get married. Joel, I haven't had a date in so long that I don't think I'll find someone who wants me for who I am and who I would be compatible with. Who told you that? God said, When you delight in Him, He will give you the desires of your heart. Well, I don't think I can be in management. I don't think I can be a leader. Who told you that? God says: You can do all things through Christ. The potential is within you. I doesn't change just because you don't believe it or just because you've been through some negative experiences in the past. It has been permanently deposited in you by the Creator of the Universe. The says, God's gifts and His callings are irrevocable. 1 That means God will never take the potential it has poured out on you. He's never going to say I'm tired of dealing with you. You've tried and failed too many times. You've made a lot of mistakes. Let me get the presents back. No, those gifts, and the call in your life, will be with you until the day you leave this earth. But it's up to you to decide whether you take them in them and use them or not. If you only knew it in John 4, Jesus met a woman in a well in Samaria, and asked for a drink of water. I was surprised, because back then, the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans. She said, How can you ask me for a drink? Jesus said, If you knew who I am, you would ask me for a drink, and I would give you living water. The woman thought Jesus was talking about literal water. She said, sir, she doesn't even have anything to draw water with. You don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. How can you give me some water? I wonder how many times God tells us that He wants to do something great in our lives, that we will be healthy and well; we're going to get out of debt. We feel it strongly, but as the woman in the well, we begin to think about what we do not have, and all the obstacles in our way, and in a short time, we have become convinced of the best of God. That could never happen to me. I don't have the education; I don't have the talent; I don't have the discipline. I will never break this addiction; I'll never fulfill my dreams. No, you have to stop looking at what you don't have, and start believing that all things are possible. I never dreamed I'd be doing what I'm doing today, cheering people all over the world. For seventeen years, my father tried to make me speak in our native church, but I had no desire. I am naturally quiet and reserved and would rather work behind the scenes. But when my father went to be with the Lord, I knew I had to step forward. Although I had never preached before, I had never been to seminary and had no formal training. I said, God, I'm not going to look at what I don't have. I'm looking at you. I know that in my weakness, you appear as the strongest. I took that passage of faith, and God has taken me to places I never dreamed of. He can do the same for you. Don't get stuck in your attitude, your career or your marriage. You have incredible potential within you, much more than you realize! God is not limited to the laws of nature. He can do what human beings can't. The key is to take your eyes off your problems and your God. When God puts a dream in your heart, it may seem natural. Every voice can tell you it's never going to happen. You'll never break that addiction. You'll never achieve your dreams. You'll never be happy. But if you believe and stay in faith, and expect good things, you can also challenge the odds. I spoke to a famous tightrope walker who comes from a family of seven generations of circus performers. I asked him: What is the key to walking Tightropes? You make it look so easy. He said, Joel, the secret is to keep your eyes fixed where you're going. You never look down. When your head goes, that's where your body goes too. If you look down, chances are you'll fall. So you always have to look where you want to be. It's the same principle in life. Some people always look back, focus on their wounds and pains. Other people are looking down, living in self-pity, and complaining that life is not just. The key to becoming higher is to keep looking where you want to go. Dream big dreams! Don't focus on where you are today; maintain a positive vision and see yourself achieving your goals and fulfilling your destiny. When I was young, growing up, he loved playing baseball. That was his passion. But when he tried for the team, the coach didn't even give him a chance. He said, I'm sorry, son; you're too small. You'll never be able to play on this team. I was devastated. His heart was set on playing baseball. His mother picked him up from school, and he and his best friend got in the back seat of the car. The poor man was doing everything he could to keep his composure, trying not to cry, and then his friend, who was much bigger than, he said, Hey, did you tell your mom you didn't make the equipment because you're so small? The friend's words pierced the heart of. I hated being hated. He went home feeling low and despondent. Later that week, however, the school made a special announcement: Since many kids tried it for the team, let's create a second team; a B team tested and made Team B. That season, those two teams finished in a play-off for the championship, and the second team, Team B, beat Team A. Guess who was the winning pitcher. That's right; Team B won the championship thanks to the great pitching capacity. Now, consider this question: How much potential did it have when it was rejected for Team A? Was his potential different when he started pitching for Team B? The point is: Other people's opinions don't determine their potential. What they said or what they think of you does not change what God has put in you. Don't let negative words or attitudes take root and prevent you from moving forward. God may be asking you today, who told you you were too small? Who told you you're not smart? Who told you you don't have the talent you need? God wouldn't have put the dream in your heart if He hadn't already given you everything you need to fulfill it. That means if I have a dream or a wish, and I know it's God's, I don't have to worry if I have what it takes to see that dream fulfilled. I know God doesn't make mistakes. He doesn't call us to do anything without giving us the ability or the means to do it. You have to realize that God has matched you to your world. In other words, although sometimes you don't you're able to achieve dreams, you have to go beyond those feelings and know deep down, I have the seed of Almighty God in me. Understand, God will never put a dream in your heart without first equipping you with everything you need to achieve it. If you feel that you do not have the necessary wisdom, talent, skill, or resources, simply remind yourself that God has paired you with what you need. He's already put what you need. A minister once handed a man a twenty-dollar bill and asked him to quietly hide it in his wife's Bible. Make sure he doesn't see you do it, he emphasized. Later, during the sermon, the minister asked the woman to get up. Do you trust me, ma'am? Asked. Yes, of course, she answered. Will you do what I ask you to do? Yes, I will, she replied. Well, then please open your Bible, and give me the twenty-dollar bill inside. The woman shrugged, as she said, Oh, I'm sorry, I don't have a twenty-dollar bill. Did I think you said you trusted me? The minister asked with fake disbelief. Yes, I know, the woman replied. Then please open your Bible and give me the twenty-dollar bill. The woman opened her Bible without a small measure of reluctance, and to her complete surprise, discovered a twenty-dollar bill inside the pages. His eyes lit up as he looked at the minister and he asked, But how did he get there? I gave it to you, the minister said with a smile, and now I'm just asking you to take out the gift I've already given, and use those twenty bucks for something good. Similarly, God will never ask you for anything without first depositing it inside you. If you dare to take a step of faith, you will discover gifts within those you have never realized before that they were there. Some people almost miss the great things God wants to do in and through them because they talk about believing in better things. In the Old Testament, when God told Moses to confront Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, and order him to deliver the people of God who had been living in slavery, Moses refused. God, I can't do such a thing, Moses said. Stuttering and stuttering. I'm not a good speaker. I love how God responded to Moses' protests and excuses. God asked, Moses, who made your tongue? Who made your voice? With these touching questions, God was reminding His man, Moses, that I have already given you exactly what you need. Now take out what I've given you, and use it for my honor, for the sake of your family and friends, and your own good. God said something similar to Gideon, another hero of the Old Testament. God told Gideon that He would free the Hebrew people from oppression. God even called Gideon a powerful man of courage. However, Gideon covered with fear and insecurity. No, I didn't, God, he got restless. I'm the least of my family. Everyone around me is more talented than I am. However, God to Gideon exactly what he needed to do what God had asked him to do. Don't let the size of your dreams or the immensity of God's calling in your life intimidate you. In addition, do not allow on your way to prevent you from pressing forward. When people tried to discourage the Apostle Paul, trying to convince him not to be of his dreams, telling him what he could not do, Paul replied, What if they do not believe? Will your disbelief make God's promise have no effect on my life? Paul said, If other people do not want to believe God for better things in their lives, well; but that won't stop me from believing. I know God's promises are in me. That's the attitude we need to have to do. What if other people say I can't succeed? So what if someone tries to pull me down? What if a person doesn't believe? I will not allow your actions, attitudes or comments to make me give up my God-given dreams. I will not allow your disbelief to influence my faith. Don't let rejection keep you depressed too long. When we suffer some kind of rejection or disappointment, we get so discouraged that we settle right where we are. I guess it wasn't meant to be, we rationalized. Or I thought I might date that attractive person, but maybe I'm not pretty enough. Or I thought I could get the promotion, but I tried and failed. Maybe I don't have the talent. It didn't work. When disappointment or rejection knocks you down, get back up and go again. We look around very easily in our dreams. We need to understand that just as God opens doors supernaturally, sometimes God closes doors supernaturally. And when God closes a door, it's always because he's got something better in the store. So just because you've reached a dead end, that's not the time to give up. Find a different route and keep pressing forward. Often, from our greatest rejection comes our greatest direction. When you get to a closed door, or something doesn't work in your life, instead of seeing that as the end, consider that as God pushes you in a better direction. Yes, sometimes it is uncomfortable; sometimes we may like it. But we can't make the mistake of sitting down and settling where we are. In 1959, my father was the pastor of a successful church with a thriving congregation. They had just built a beautiful new sanctuary and my father had a bright future. At the time, my sister Lisa was born with something like cerebral palsy. Hungry for a new touch of God, my father left for a while and alone with God. He searched the scriptures in a new way, and began to see how God was a good God, a healing God, and that God could still perform miracles today. My father returned to his church and preached with a new fire, a new enthusiasm. He thought everyone would be delighted, but the congregation's reaction was just the opposite. They didn't like your new message. It didn't fit his tradition. After suffering much persecution, anguish, and pain, my father knew that the best thing I had to do was leave that church. Naturally, my I was disappointed. I didn't understand why something like this should happen. But remember, outside of comes in the direction. When a door closes, God is about to open a bigger, better door. My father went down the street to an abandoned feed shop. There, he and ninety others formed Lakewood Church on Mother's Day, 1959. Critics said it would never last, but today, nearly fifty years later, Lakewood Church has grown into one of America's largest churches and remains strong. I don't think my father would have enjoyed the ministry he had, and I don't think he would have become everything God would have created him to be, if he had stayed in that limited environment. Here's a key. Sleep in your heart can be bigger than the environment you're in. Sometimes you have to get out of that environment to see that dream fulfilled. Consider an oak tree. If you plant it in a pot, its growth will be limited. Once your roots fill that pot, it can't grow any bigger. The problem is not with the tree; it's with the environment. It's sweltering growth. Perhaps you have bigger things at your heart than your current environment can facilitate. That's why Sometimes God will get you out of a comfortable situation. When you go through persecution and rejection, it's not always because someone has it for you. Sometimes that is God's way of directing you to His perfect will. He's trying to get you out of the hole. He knows you're not going to get out of the hole. He knows you're not going to get out of the hole. He knows you're not going to get out of the hole. He knows you're not going to get out of the hole. A few years ago, Lakewood Church was trying to buy a property where we could build a new sanctuary. We had searched for months, and had finally found a wonderful expanse of a hundred acres of land. We were so excited. However, the day we were going to close the deal, people sold the land from beneath us. I was terribly disappointed, and I had to tell myself, Joel, God has closed this door for a reason. He's got something better in the store. Sure, I was downstairs, and I admit I was discouraged, but I had to shake that and say, No, I'm not settling here. I'm going to keep moving forward. A few months later, we found another good property. It would have worked too, but a similar series of events took place and the owner refused to sell it to us. Another disappointment. I didn't get it, but I said, God, I trust you. I know your ways aren't my ways. This doesn't seem right. I don't think that's fair. But I'll stay in an attitude of faith and keep expecting good things. Shortly after that, the door to the Compac Center, a sixteen,000-seat sports stadium, opened in downtown Houston, right in the middle of one of the busiest sections of the city. Then it became clear why God had the other doors. If we had bought any of those properties, those options could have kept us away from the Throughout life, we're not always going to understand everything that happens along the way. But we have to learn to trust in God. We have to believe that He has us in the palm of His hand, that He is guiding and guiding us, that He always has our best interests in our hearts. I know people who have experienced rejection in their personal relationships. Maybe their marriage didn't work. They put all those years into it and now they're hurt, dejected, going around defeated and expecting nothing good. I don't think divorce is god's best. Unfortunately, sometimes it's inevitable. If you've been through a divorce, understand that God still has another plan for your life. Just because someone turned you down or left your life and left you hurt, doesn't mean you have to retire and settle where you are. That rejection did not change what God put within you. Doesn't mean you still can't be happy. When a door closes, if you maintain the right attitude, God will open another door. But you have to do your part and move on. Too many people get bitter, get angry and start blaming God. Instead, let that go. They may not understand, but trust in God and move on with his life. Don't look at it as a new beginning. Someone may have rejected you, but you can raise your head knowing this: God accepts you. God approves you. And he's got something better in the store. Dude, don't die with the treasure still inside you. Keep pushing forward. It's still reaching new heights. Give birth to what God has put in her heart. Don't let other people tell you about your dreams. Listen to what God says about you, not all negative voices. When faced with rejection and disappointment, don't stay there. Know that God has another plan. That closed door simply means that God has something better in the store. You may not have experienced God's favor in the past, but this is a new day. You have not seen, heard, or imagined the wonderful things God has in store for you. Don't be overwhelmed by distractions and disappointments in life; instead, keep stretching to the next level, reaching its greatest potential. If you do that, I can confidently tell you that your best days are in front of you. God goes

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