

EXCERPT

FIRE FAITH & FAVOR

Write the vision and make it plain.

I read the books I was buying and expanded my mind. I study the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post and any other news that was relevant then turn it off when I have the necessary information. There is no need to watch hours and hours of hurricane, fire, crime, national disasters. The news will not change and I am losing irreplaceable time soaking my brain, heart and spirit in something I cannot fix. Once I become aware, I need to focus on what I am becoming.

Time spent on that is time lost from my purpose.

It is okay to tell friends and family to wait because I have something else to do.

When I started respecting my time, others did too.

When I started planning my life and sticking to my schedule, others did too.

I didn't become cold, cruel and heartless, but stopped obsessing about two things.

1. What will happen to them if I don't help them?
2. What will happen to me if they are no longer in my life?

It doesn't matter. They will manage and if they are no longer in my life, it is what God wanted and we will make it without each other.

I could not continue waiting for my big break from someone else. What if the solution or the person I am expecting and hoping for doesn't come? Then what? I have to be a self-starter. I have to bear my responsibility based on my faith that is burning inside of me.

Money is my servant not my master. That means it won't jump out of my hands.

I learned to budget not try to stretch money.

I paid attention to what my life will be like if I don't accomplish my goals and do better. I will be:

- Living where I don't want to live
- Driving what I don't want to drive
- Going to the doctor I don't want to go to
- Eating what I don't want to eat
- Wearing what I don't want to wear, if I don't take control.

The bottom is always going to be there it just keeps getting slimmer and less every day.

I was relying on government assistance on one level or another:

- Unemployment
- Social Security
- Food Stamps
- Utility Assistance

all of which could and were cut at the whim of elected officials who don't know me and don't care and I had to take control.

So I did small celebrations and invested it in me.

People were telling me it would take 6 months, 5 years, I don't have that kind of time. I am desperate now and the only one who understood my level of desperation and need for success was me so I had to act like it.

I changed it all!!!

I had to change.

I had to stop the habit of letting my house get messed up so I could procrastinate using the excuse that I had to clean up or I could not find something so I could not work on the book, CD, website, grant, class or whatever it was.

I had to stop letting my house get messed up because I would always have something to do.

I had to stop talking myself out of blessings and move forward and take risk.

It was important to get out, network and meet other people but not begging and asking for a favor.

I had to learn and recognize that I had something to offer and God would, could, has, can only bless what I give Him to work with.

I had the faith! I have the faith! But that same bible that says I need faith as a grain of mustard seed said I must have works with my faith. That means, I had to enter the contests, finish the books, put them on Amazon, get my website redone, get the app created, market the book.

Even my writing changed.

My first novel One Bad Decision was written from my heart to tell my story and help somebody else who may be going through that same torment. The sequel, One Million Seconds took so long because I started listening to people who said, I had to learn how to write a best seller.

I became horribly conflicted because I was reading the tips, tricks, words, podcasts, and more about how to write a best seller.

The shift to my original style and desire to write the story was finished in less than 5 days after I started writing again from my heart the original story.

I rely on God to make it a bestseller.

Yes, I absolutely will market and sell it, but I will not hold it up and make it conform to the standards and opinions of experts.

With this book, I was trying to write what would sell. God took the time to show me that all I am required to do is write what happened, how it happened, when it happened, how I felt, where I was, where I am and how He is getting the glory.

I learned to use and apply the scripture:

. . . Those who honor me, I will honor. 1 Samuel 3:30

What God did not remove when I thought He should, He continually gave me the strength to bear it until He moved it.

Paul was given a thorn and there is no Historian, Bible Scholar, Pastor, Preacher, Writer, Research Expert that I have seen who has given the accurate, fully supported name and description of what the thorn was. Nobody knows.

I am so glad.

The message in that passage of scripture is that God told Paul, “My Grace is sufficient for thee,” And the thorn was never removed.

I am so glad.

If it had been a thorn of sickness, I could not say God’s grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of sickness.

If it had been a thorn of depression, I could not say God’s grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of depression.

If it had been a thorn of debt, I could not say God’s grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of debt.

If it had been a thorn of grief, I could not say God’s grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of grief.

If it had been a thorn of enemies, I could not say God’s grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of enemies.

If it had been a thorn of a broken heart, I could not say God's grace is sufficient if I am not bearing a thorn of a broken heart.

But because I don't know what Paul's thorn was, I can say God's Grace is sufficient for whatever I am going through!

I had to change. I had to change.

It is okay that there are some things about my Mother and Father that I don't like, and don't want to copy. I have to do with them what I do with food. Take what I want and leave the rest.

They were good parents.

I am glad I had Maude Inez Dunklin-McGruder and Dorman McGruder, Jr., for my parents.

They taught me some amazing things that have helped me become better.

It will never be perfect the first time.

If I slow down it will never get better.

If I quit, it will never be it's best.

But if I don't start, it will never even be born.

I'm 60 years old at the time of publication of this book.

I am not too old and neither are you.