

# GROWTH SPACE

3 LESSONS TO HELP  
YOU GROW IN LIFE,  
PURPOSE AND THE  
MARKET PLACE

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### NOTHING WASTED

James 1:2-4 - Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow, so let it grow. For when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete needing nothing.

We can not really know the depth of our character until we are challenged with tough times. Being somewhat transparent, from 2013 to 2017 was one of the roughest times of my life. There were many times where I asked God why me? I serve, I give, I try to live right so why then am I going through this? His answer was found in the verse above. I learned that the spiritual, emotional and even the physical endurance of a person are born from tested faith. As I approached the one year anniversary of the passing my son just four days after Christmas 2016, God spoke a word to me that I want to share with you.

Simply put, **THERE WILL BE NOTHING WASTED!** What does that mean exactly? Just that we all have had difficult times and there is nothing to say that we won't experience challenges going forward. But I want you to know that every difficulty, every challenge, everything that the devil and man have tried to throw at you, God is going to use it for your betterment and for HIS glory.

We have to get our mind around the fact that our experiences while we are trying to figure out how to deal with what is going on, the whole while and usually unbeknown to us, give us a foundation to be able to encourage someone else. To tell them if I made it, you can make it, just keep trusting. To allow your faith to be expressed in such a way that it makes someone say who maybe isn't a believer, "I know that this God that you speak of is real."

As we continue to navigate 2020, despite all that has gone on we must remind ourselves that God kept us in spite of it and that my friends is a reason to rejoice. So as the text says continue to keep the faith, let your endurance grow and remember that not one bit of any of it will be wasted. I believe God has great things in store for HIS people this year, so let's focus, pray, live life and Go make God famous.

### The Breakthrough Process

Mark 8:22-25 NIV - They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" 24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." 25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

In the Book of Mark Chapter 8 Jesus performed the miracle of healing a man who was blind. In fact the story goes that Jesus actually touched the man twice before his site was fully restored. This puzzled me because I wondered why did Jesus have to touch the man a second time before he could see clearly? I mean after all He is Jesus right.

No sooner than this question crossed my mind, the answer occurred to me. It was not that the miracle was too difficult for Jesus but rather Jesus simply chose to do it in stages or in other words there was a process. Each step building to the next until finally there is a breakthrough.

Just like the blind man we have to accept and be patient with the process God uses to bring us out of our situations. We must understand first that God never leaves His work undone. We need look no further than the creation story to find evidence of this fact. Simply put God did not rest until everything was "good." Secondly, even when we find ourselves going through the same thing as someone else, our process may be different because there is a different lesson that we are to learn.

Our lesson here, although the process may be slow, there is one thing for certain, if we allow God to lead the way it will always end with us being able to see clearly.

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### A Farmers Life

The life of a farmer I would imagine is very structured. Most likely because they know that not only how they plant is important but what and at what time are equally important. They live a life based on the principle of sowing and reaping. If we think about it, our own lives also operate by this same principle whether we realize it or not. In Galatians 6:7 the bible says "do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

The Apostle Paul here in the first half of the chapter outlines 10 simple rules for our christian duty and guidance for everyday living. Here in verse seven we find something that has been quoted to children by parents for decades or at least it was at my house. It is so simple yet we often find ourselves confused by some of the outcomes we get.

We often fail to realize the results that we got are connected to the seeds we planted.

If a farmer plants melons, they WILL NOT get apples EVER. So if we plant bitterness we can not expect to get love.

We must remember that the bible says that "life and death are in the power of the tongue. So with that being the case let us make a true effort to only plant that which we want to see come back to us.

The key to doing this can be found in the life of the farmer and the principles they live by in order to be successful.

Diligence, hard work and being proactive are all staples that help them position themselves to achieve the desired results and should also be part of our foundation of character. Remember, the outcomes that we get are a direct result of the seeds that do or do not sow.



# Connect with the Author

Brian Fitzpatrick is a native of Columbus, GA, and is CEO and Founder of J330Life. As a Coach, Consultant, Corporate Trainer and Minister, Brian has a passion for seeing others reach their full potential through leadership development and training.

Brian has extensive experience at the professional and senior leadership levels in both non-profit, corporate and ministry environments. His passion allowed him to focus on non-profit operations, program development and measurement, organizational capacity building, leadership development and coaching sales leaders. Brian is a consultant for the Leadership Institute at Columbus State University and holds several certifications including: Licensed Minister, Certified Life Coach, Certified Right Path Facilitator and Certified Facilitator of Scream Free Parenting.

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