

# “Do Your Best, and God Will Do the Rest”

By McKade Marshall

One of our primary purposes in life is to grow. No matter where you were born, what family you were born into, or how old you are, you were created by God to excel in this world. Throughout the different stages of life we are going to experience all sorts of trials and victories. Some days are going to be better than others. While we cannot dictate the future, we can control our attitude. Your state of mind plays a powerful role in how far you can go in what God has called you to do.

The Scriptures tell us when we honor God and His Word to the best of our abilities then we are going to rise higher in life. **Deuteronomy 28:13 (ESV)** says, “**The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them.**” Obeying God and honoring His Word is what sets you apart from the rest of the world and causes you to thrive far beyond status quo. When you seek God, you have His anointing and His favor on your life to accomplish things that would be impossible otherwise.

God expects us to be doers of His Word and not just hearers. Going to church is a wonderful act of service. Singing God’s praises is awesome. However, if we only attend church gatherings and listen to great Christian sermons but do not put into practice what we are learning, then our faith is not of much use. This was an issue when the Apostle James wrote the early church in the book of James. He says in *James 1:22-24 (NLT)*, “*But don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.*”

Can you imagine forgetting what you look like every time you signed on to Facebook? You sign in to your account, but when you see your profile picture you cannot recognize if the picture is you or not! The Apostle James uses this analogy of the mirror because he is trying to make a point: if you say you are a Christian - attending church, singing hymns and beautiful praise songs, listening to a great sermon - but walk out the door and act just like the rest of the world then you are hardly living the incredible, faith-filled life God has called for you to have.

For the past few weeks I’ve heard down in my spirit God saying, “Do your best, McKade, and I will do the rest.” I kept hearing this expression over and over in my mind. I believe one reason God was telling me this is because He knew I was trying to force things to happen. The pressure I was putting on myself was unnecessary. Likewise, the pressure to live up to God’s Word is not one that should be heavy. On the contrary, following God should be enlightening and relieving to the soul. Jesus tells us His yoke is easy and His burdens are light (see Matthew 11:30). His commandments are not there to weigh us down but rather to raise us up and to give us victory! (1 John 5:3-4)

When you put your best foot forward, giving it your best day in and day out, God is going to honor your efforts with increase and with success. **When you do your best, God will do the rest.** In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul was a very hard worker for the gospel. He suffered many hardships, taking heat from Jewish leaders, Gentile rulers, and even his own churches. He was beaten, shipwrecked, bad-mouthed, imprisoned, stoned (almost to death), and worked building tents for money so he would not be a financial imposition on the ones he preached to. However, even with his incredible work ethic and spiritual stamina, Paul still knew it was only God that could cause his ministry to expand across the globe. Paul tells the church in *1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NKJV)*, “*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*”

The key to seeing increase is you must be planting and watering what God has already given you to steward. Looking around at what your neighbor has or looking around at what you don't have is not going to take you to the next level in your walk with God. We already have the promise from God in the Scriptures that we are going to excel as believers. We are going to grow and multiply when we follow Him. As the Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT), "For God is the One who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."

**The reason you are set for success is because you have the Holy Spirit living and working inside of you.**

Apart from God and His Spirit, we are all worthless sinners. It's a harsh reality, but nonetheless, true! We all have a sinful nature that must be put to death by learning to walk by Christ's Spirit. The way we defeat this sinful nature is by cutting off things we know are not good for us and pursue things that are. For example, what you listen to on the radio on a daily basis is going into your ears. The music or message in the form of sound waves is going into your brain to be processed; then, it sinks into your soul in order to digest. Whether you realize it or not, that song or show you are tuned into can dictate your emotions and cause you to think about all sorts of things - whether they are good or bad. What you feed your mind on a daily basis will carry a strong influence on how you ultimately live your life. As a believer, one of the best things you can do is pay attention to what you are allowing yourself to listen to and watch.

Another way to come up higher in your faith journey is to be intentional about who you spend most of your time around. Are you around people who are lifting you up, or are you around those who drag your spirits down? You may not get to choose who you are around at work or who you sit by during class time; however, you do get to choose how you will spend your free time, and who you will spend your free time with. The Apostle Paul warns us about toxic relationships, telling the church in *1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)*, "*Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'*" Is there some "bad company" you need to start distancing yourself from today? You don't have to be rude or dramatic, but distancing yourself from people who do not encourage you could be one of the best decisions you can make to have a better life.

When you do your best to fill your mind with positive things - listening to Christian music, reading the Bible, praying more often, hanging out with good people - then the Lord is going to honor your efforts. Listening to and reading about sound wisdom is necessary if you are going to fulfill your God-given destiny. King Solomon, who was known for his profound wisdom from God, tells us in Proverbs 13:20 (NCV), "Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer." When the wise speak, our ears should turn to listen.

You have a voice, a navigation system, built by God and installed in your heart the moment you believed in Christ for salvation. This navigation system is powered by Heaven and is always right on. Jesus told us about this spiritual navigator before He left the earth, saying in **John 15:26-27 (NASB)**, "**When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also.**" The Spirit of truth is God's Spirit. He has sent it down here to earth, straight from Heaven where He resides, to abide in the heart of every Christian. When you are doing your best to please God and keep Him first place, the Holy Spirit is going to move in you and show you the next steps to take.

Many people are confused when it comes to knowing the Lord's will for their life. Too often we view God's will as if it were an enigma, something far out and hard to pinpoint. The good news today is we can know exactly what God's will is by the Holy Spirit that is living inside of us. The Lord's will is for you to grow and thrive as you discover who you are in Christ. *God desires for you to grow more in love with Him as your Heavenly Father.* Where you are and what you do are secondary to first understanding how much God loves you. He loves you unconditionally. He desires to be with you and for you to truly know Him as Abba, your Father. His nature is kind, and His demeanor towards you is always compassionate.

When you begin to grasp, even a little bit, of how much God loves you, loving others will not be as difficult. If we are being honest, not everyone is easy to love (even at church!). Some people are. Bring an adorable toddler into the room, and hearts will melt. Bring an adult who suffers from egomania into the room, and no doubt stomachs are

going to turn. However, the call to love others is the will of God. The Apostle Peter commissions us in 1 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT), “Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and He will grant you His blessing.”

Other Bible translations say you will “inherit a blessing” when you repay people who have wronged you with a blessing. Additional rewards come from taking the high road when you are under attack. When we consider the life of Jesus, how He never retaliated when men and women accused Him of all sorts of false statements (see Matthew 26:59-63), then we too can learn to refrain from striking back against our enemies. This is obviously much easier said than done. However, the reason we don’t retaliate is because it’s not God’s best. God had a better way when Jesus came humbly, not responding in violence in the midst of a culture full of violence. Instead, Jesus chose death. His death is what opened the door to eternal resurrection so that we might never taste death again after this life. What an inheritance we have in Jesus!

**As Christians we are called to live a life of excellence.** Our lives should exemplify Jesus Christ, Who is the perfect representation of God (Hebrews 1:3). This does not mean we are perfect or that we are never going to sin again. What it does mean is we have to put on a different frame of mind than the rest of the world. Overwhelming your mind with negative stories on the nightly news and the politically charged propaganda that is continually bombarding our media space is not the frame of mind God wants us walking around in. Instead, He wants us bathing our minds with the Word of God. He desires for us to celebrate through praise and worship the good news of His kingdom that is always increasing (Luke 1:32-33).

In this season of new life and growth, I am excited about what God wants to do in and through His people. *I believe there are some personal desires God wants to fulfill in your life during this special time of year.* In my own life, I just started writing my fourth book this spring. Writing books has always been a secret desire in my heart. For years I had dreamed of writing books that inspire people in their faith. However, that desire never gave birth until I first sought God by reading the Bible and spending time daily in prayer with Him. I went through a season of doing my best for God in my devotional time set apart with Him before I saw the breakthrough of a dream coming to life.

In the same way, I believe as you get your eyes fixed on Jesus through reading the Word and praying, God is going to spring forth some new things in your life that are from Him. When you do your best to honor God every single day, then He is going to do His part and cause things to happen that birth some of the desires in your heart. Things you have tried to make happen in the past are going to start happening with more ease. As your spirit gets in rhythm with what God’s Spirit is doing, there is no limit to the incredible things God can do through you.

This spring we are entering into a season of doing our best and seeing God cause things to happen we never thought possible. The seed of faith in your heart is growing as you feed your soul with the promises of God’s Word. Even right now I believe doors are opening in your life no one can shut. God is shuffling people around you, causing all things to work together for your good. Every setback, every betrayal, every wound, and every loss is being bound up. Health and wholeness is being restored. New hope is rising. God has already prepared a comeback for you to step into.

On Sunday, January 1st, 2017, I took a leap of faith and launched a weekly YouTube show called *Word of the Week*. The first gospel video I recorded was entitled, “Do Your Best, and God Will Do the Rest”. **Since then, over 120 weekly gospel videos have been released faithfully every single Sunday evening.** People from all over the world have viewed these gospel messages through YouTube and other social media platforms. If you are not subscribed to my weekly e-mails or newsletter mailing list, I encourage you to go to [www.mckademarshall.com](http://www.mckademarshall.com) and submit your address on the contact page.

*I declare this spring you are exemplifying God’s goodness to those around you.* Because you are giving God your best, He is raining down favor and blessings in ways you cannot fathom. Where there have been droughts in your

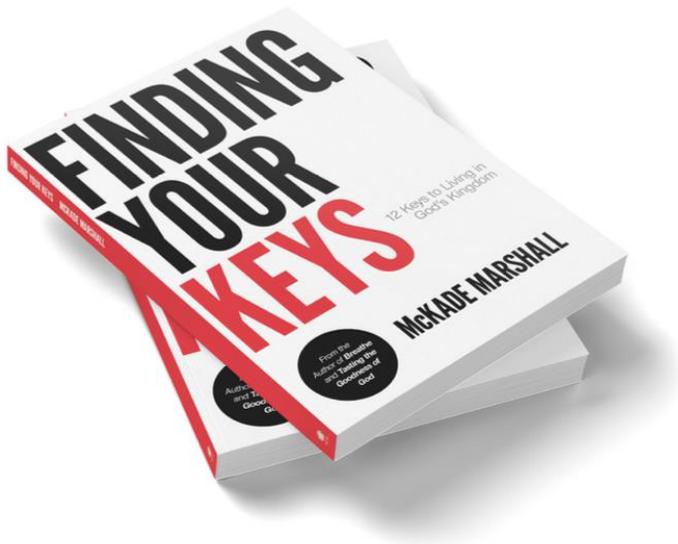
life, God is showering His grace and provision to cause new life and new hope to spring forth. Divine appointments and divine assignments have already been lined up by your Creator for you to fulfill. You have angels surrounding you, making sure you safely arrive at the next level of your destiny. With God's help, there is nothing you cannot achieve! I love you, and I am praying for you.

Believing for God's Best,



McKade "Levi" Marshall

Author of "Finding Your Keys", "BREATHE", and "Tasting the Goodness of God"



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