



Unlock Your Life!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

"What keeps you from advancing the Lord's Mission for your life?"

I've asked myriads of people this question and heard about as many answers. A step back reveals these primary themes:

- **Lack of clarity:** "I don't know what God wants me to do... besides I'm not significant."
- **Financial burdens and responsibilities:** "How could I?"

- **Waiting:** “Once (I get the perfect job, money comes in, kids are grown, etc.) then I will...”
- **Fearful:** “What if this disrupts my life, my plans, my future?”
- **Harried:** “I don’t have time right now.”
- **Caught-up in a pain filled past:** “I’m too broken.”

These are the voices of those “Locked In” ... victims of the schemes of the enemy.

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.” Jesus Christ (John 10:10a)

Finding a weakness, he sows doubt, distrust, and fear to feed a cancerous excuse. Wanting to create distance between us and God, and keep us from advancing Kingdom priorities, he diverts our focus. How easy it is to dwell on our excuse and not on the Lord! Remember what happened when Peter, while walking on water, took his eyes off Jesus?

*Reflect: **Am I Locked In?***

Were “Locked In” lives what Jesus had in mind when he saved us? The reason he didn’t take us straight to Heaven, choosing instead to leave us here on earth, behind enemy lines?

“My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” Jesus Christ (John 10:10b)

“Rich and satisfying” hardly captures the bountiful life that Jesus gives us... Scripture is full of promises he’s made to those who faithfully abide in him and pursue his plans for their lives. Why do we settle for so little? Why do we so easily look away from him?

Encouraging us to step out in faith like so many before us, the writer of Hebrews continued...

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)

Are you Locked In by excuses? Reset your gaze on the champion... you won’t regret it!

Consider: Focusing on Jesus brings life beyond words.

How does the LORD respond to our excuses, wanting to Unlock us for our Missions (my paraphrases)?

- **“I have a clear work specifically for you!”** *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 2:10)*
- **“Make me first and I’ll take care of the rest.”** *“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:33)*

- **“Start now... from right where you are!”** *“Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.” (Ecclesiastes 11:4)*
- **“My vision for your life is far greater than yours.”** *“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.” Jesus Christ (Luke 12:32)*
- **“Carry your Mission into your daily life.”** *“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:17)*
- **“I’ll heal you as you advance your Mission.”** *“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.” The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 1:4-5)*

Such enduring promises amplify Jesus’ gift of a rich and satisfying life! Who wouldn’t want this?

Imagine: A vibrant life, beyond imagination, on Mission with Jesus.

No regrets!

You’re at a crossroads... what life will you live? The path your enemy has helped shape, Locked In? A path of mediocrity? One prone to lead to regret?

Or Unlocked, embracing the rich and satisfying life Jesus promised?

"Every man dies, not every man truly lives." Braveheart

Envision yourself reflecting later in life... A smile breaks across your face as you watch your younger self turn from the enemy's lies and begin to walk hip to hip with Jesus to advance his Mission through your life. Little did you know that this first step set you upon the path leading into the Adventure of Your Life... a life with no regrets!

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Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What excuse has my enemy been getting me to dwell on?
- What promise of God dispels his lie?
- How will I focus intently on this promise, daily, throughout the day?
- What faithful step is the Lord asking me to take to Unlock my life?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

The Lord upholds me when I step out in Faith.

*"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.
Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."
King David | Psalm 37:23-24 (NLT)*



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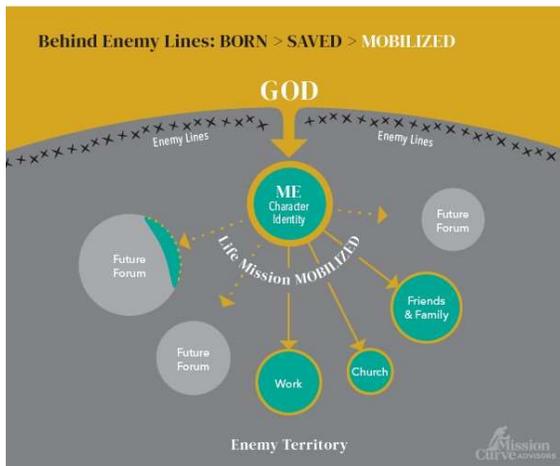
~ DAN B.
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