



## Unending First Times

*“When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”*

*Jesus Christ | Mark 10:14-15 (NLT)*

Amid my morning devotional I sighed as I thought about the milestone I’d just hit. Another birthday, another trip around the sun, another year in the books... As the saying goes, “Been there, done that.”

Just then (God’s timing!), I received a text from my daughter. Pics of my grandkids making snow angels, the older his first snowman. Their smiles were priceless – having a glow that appears only when experiencing something for the first time. My heart giggled as their joy

flooded me... contagious!

*"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." Jesus Christ (John 10:10)*

This jolt of childhood innocence refreshed me, made me feel alive!

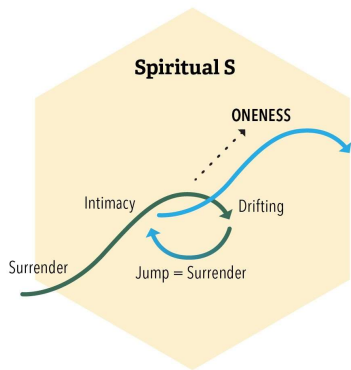
"This! This is the rich life Jesus promised! Fresh, everything new... an adventure of unending first times!" The Lord's truth cut away the lies of my adult droning.

*Reflect: "Been there, done that" ... Has my life become religious, a duty?*

A friend called later that day. He'd hit a point of exhaustion from Kingdom work (a good work!) Having just wrapped up a vacation, he'd gained some rest, but was hardly refreshed. He was headed right back into the same stuff he'd left... nothing had changed!

As I shared my morning epiphany I joked, "You're tired of religion!"

No joke, in fact. It's the reality of an inevitable cycle called the Spiritual S. Have you experienced it? Following a stretch of spiritual growth and deep Intimacy with the Lord, our resulting good works become distorted making life tedious, frustrating, religious... a duty; our works, our struggle, gaining focus, the Lord less so. Though it may not seem, we've grown distant.



At this point, without us realizing, our enemy taunts, “Why bother?” Boredom and complacency creep in and our contagiousness wanes. He suggests, “This religious stuff isn’t all it’s cracked up to be, perhaps there’s something else you should be doing? Better still, what you really need to do is take a break from it all!” Ruthless, he’ll do anything to knock you off Mission. Watch out!!

*“A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.” (Proverbs 22:3)*

A prudent person learns to recognize his vulnerability; he knows where he is on his Spiritual S.

Where are you on your Spiritual S?

**Consider: What enemy taunts am I hearing? My answer tells me where I am on my Spiritual S.**

Not if or when, it's a matter of how often you'll drift. Expect it. Take it seriously. Unaddressed, though hard to imagine, drifting leads to death... a fruitless life. At the root of it, the Lord is prodding you to accept his promise as an innocent child would. A prudent person realizes this and deploys the remedy – he refreshes his Spiritual S.

*“Death wrapped its ropes around me; the terrors of the grave overtook me. I saw only trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “Please, Lord, save me!” How kind the Lord is! How good he is! So merciful, this God of ours! The Lord protects those of childlike faith; I was facing death, and he saved me.” (Psalm 116:3-6)*

Like a child lost in the woods, when adrift, the prudent man shouts, “Please, Lord, save me!” as only a desperate child can. These are the telltale words of surrender. Surrender is the key to refreshing your Spiritual S. It's the acceptance of God's promise with the same freshness and innocence as a child experiencing his first snow... childlike faith! Upon surrendering, envision these words erupting... “This! This promise is true!” as your old worldly belief is cut away.

Each cycle through your Spiritual S addresses a different one of the Lord's promises... Over your lifespan, how many times will you exclaim, “This! This promise is true!”?

*Imagine: **The Adventure of my Life is flush with first times!***

Another saying goes, "Stop and smell the roses!" What might your life be like if you slowed down to look at the Lord's promises like a child experiencing something for the first time? What if you looked at life (every encounter, creation, other people) through the lens of an innocent child? Before long, you'll realize that you're living out an adventure of...

## Unending First Times!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

---

### Coach's Questions

- Where am I on my Spiritual S?
- What promise is the Lord prodding me to believe with childlike faith? What lie will accepting it put to rest?
- What do I need to do to reach a point of surrender?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### Childlike faith makes me soar like an eagle!

*"Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the*

*powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”*

*Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT)*

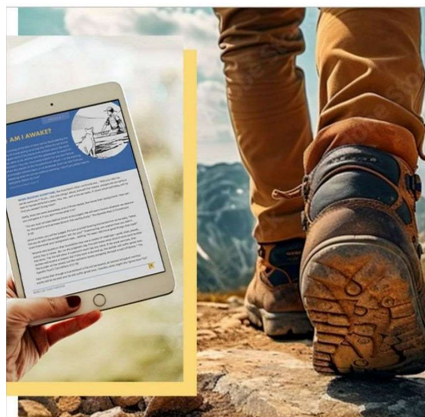


**Brand New!**

---

## Don't know your Mission?

**Our "Mobilize Your Mission Self-Guided Workshop" will guide you to it.**



This focused workshop progresses down a proven path where you'll receive your Mission (the work God has you here to do) and the passion filled story that powers it. Along the way, discover the four life transforming Foundations of Mission and find yourself challenged to enter the Adventure of Your Life.

1. **Create deeper intimacy with God**—His greatest desire for you

2. **Find the power of your life's Mission**—inspired work, aligned life, direction
3. **Tap into the passion of your life's story**—why you are perfect for your Mission
4. **Create a plan to Mobilize Your Mission**—this will change your life!

[Start MYM Workshop for Free!](#)

## Ready for a deeper dive?

Engage the Advisor Guided, **Reach New Peaks Workshop**. It will change your life. Guaranteed. Schedule a free consultation on how to start the process:

“

“If one is seeking direction in life and looking forward to new adventures, **this workshop is the perfect trail map** to get you to your destination!”

~ DAN B.

*Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday*



## Adventuring with God

Blog Posts



### What Stands Between You and God?

Once in a while I need a kick in the butt spiritually...know what I mean? The good news is that I have come to realize... [Keep reading](#)

[View All Blogs](#)



*Copyright © 2024 Mission Curve Advisors, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

Mission Curve Advisors  
18160 Cottonwood Rd PMB 440  
Bend, OR 97707-9317



[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

