

## The Burden You Shouldn't be Carrying...

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

*Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”*

*King David | Psalm 23:1-4 (NLT)*

It's said that too much of a good thing is never good... never?

Influential Events (circumstances, people, stages of life, etc.) in our past lead us to make Vows, typically unspoken, that may sound like: “I’ll never let that happen to me!” or “I’ll never live my life like that!” or “I’ll prove that’s not true!”

Mine? "I'll be healthy and successful financially... unlike my father!"

Setting the theme for our lives, we apply our strengths to effect our Vow causing Obsessive Passions (expertise, behaviors, habits) to develop. No one need motivate us; our Obsessive Passions self-generate. As they grow, they deepen and intensify... and beautifully, if directed to serve others, are key in advancing God's Mission for your life. Most Obsessive Passions are profitable and can be used for good!

*The leech has two suckers that cry out, "More, more!" There are three things that are never satisfied—no, four that never say, "Enough!": the grave, the barren womb, the thirsty desert, the blazing fire. (Proverbs 30:15-16)*

Yet, the quest to realize our Vow can run amuck, creating a "Churn" deep within our souls. Like a barren womb, can our Vow ever be satisfied? Worldly delusion persuades "Yes!" driving us to relentlessly pursue its fulfillment only to find ourselves trapped, overcome by too much of a good thing...

Could Jesus allow us to remain here?

***Reflect: Have I a Churn deep within my soul?***

Being human, instinct positions ourselves at the center of our world... "I'm the one who makes my Vow come true!" Once saved, we proclaim the inversion of our lives, placing Jesus, at the center. We welcome his direction, choosing to straighten our paths morally.

*"Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they*

*should choose.” King David (Psalm 25:12)*

But the task of fulfilling of our Vow, well... that’s another matter. Formed in our core being, few things are more deeply implanted than our Vow. Self-love prevents its release. So, we turn to worldly methods. As our Obsessive Passions form, we gain hope... one that ultimately proves hollow. Deep down, our souls Churn trapped in the realization that we cannot quite fulfill our Vow.

After days of dwelling deep in Psalm 23, the Lord led me beside a peaceful stream, exposed my Churn, informed me that my worldly quest to fulfill my Vow was futile, and said...

**“I take you down a path where you don’t want to go to release you from the burden you shouldn’t be carrying.”**

...not words I wanted to hear!

**Consider: My Vow must be stripped from me so I become more like Jesus.**

Jesus willingly chose the cross yet it was a path he’d rather not have had to take; there was no other way to save us.

*He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:39)*

Likewise, liberation from the hopeless quest to fulfill your Vow requires you to take a path you’d rather not take. There’s no other way.

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.” The Apostle Paul (Romans 8:28-30)*

Surrendering your Vow is a major waypoint along the path of becoming like Jesus. Difficult beyond description; yielding peace beyond understanding.

The path I didn't want to take? Accepting my inevitable failure; I'll never be successful enough.

*Imagine: **Surrendering my Vow is leading me to shout “Victory!”***

Jesus will not spare you the “walk through the dark valley of death,” which includes bringing you face to face with your inability to fulfill your Vow. Would it be loving for him to leave you in your Churn? He says, “Let's walk this hard path together, I'll give you my glory.” Jesus is the fulfillment of your Vow. In this case, too much of a good thing leads to Victory!

For me? Jesus has glorified me with contentment and the breath of eternal life.

Experiencing the Churn? Take Jesus' hand and walk fearlessly down the path you don't want to take to surrender...

**The Burden You Shouldn't be Carrying.**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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### Coach's Questions

- What's my Vow?
- What are my Obsessive Passions, those worldly things I do in attempt to effect my Vow? Have they run amuck?
- Allow the Lord to lead you beside peaceful waters (to a refuge of peace) and ask, "Has my restless search to fulfill my Vow caused a Churn in my soul?" Then pray, "Lord, lead me down the path I don't want to take to release me from this burden I shouldn't be carrying."

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### My Vow is fulfilled in Jesus' Victory

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

*Jesus Christ | John 16:33 (NLT)*

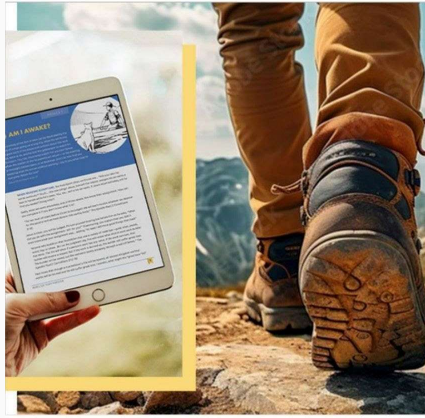


**Brand New!**

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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.

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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!

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“

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*



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## 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... [Keep reading](#)

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