

## Giver of Dreams

Impostorship is the feeling that an individual, in a challenging situation, has neither the talent nor the right to be in that situation. Such individuals imagine that they are constantly on the verge of being revealed as frauds, somehow unworthy of the honor bestowed on them because they lack the ability to succeed. They fear that once this is discovered they will be asked to leave: clothed in shame, humiliation, and embarrassment. Time does not necessarily heal such feelings. In fact, as time's journey progresses, the fear of being discovered only becomes more entrenched (Brookfield, 2006).

Each one of us has felt out of place and undeserving from time to time. It is easy to extrapolate this condition to its logical conclusion and envision how debilitating it can be. Unfounded feelings and misperception have done more to impede both individual and corporate societal progress than any real obstacle.

God does not cast dreams into the wind to be merely acknowledged and then dismissed. God gives dreams, desires, and ambitions to motivate and inspire rather than frustrate. The Lord's plans are for both our individual and the universal good. He has no desire to set His children up for failure. (*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Jeremiah 29:11, New International Version). God has carefully planned and engineered each of us, His children, so that we may fulfill His purpose. (*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.* Psalm 139:13-16a, New International Version). The Lord has given each of us areas of giftedness and areas that provide challenges to overcome. (*Our bodies have many parts, but these parts don't all do the same thing. In the same way, even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other. God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts.* Romans 12:4-6a, GOD'S WORD® Translation)

For us to truly live, and have a maximum impact while on this earth, we must embrace our gifts and limitations while simultaneously acknowledging we are God's creations who are fully vibrant only in the presence of His strength and guidance. (*For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* Philippians 4:13 New Living Translation). We have no prior means of knowing what God has planned or the course of life's journey. We have an immense opportunity as our "gifts" bless some, while our "disabilities" inspire others.

Helen Keller, an American author, political activist, and lecturer was the first visual and hearing impaired person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Dr. Stephen William Hawking, a British theoretical physicist, whose key works included theorems regarding gravitational singularities in general relativity and the theoretical prediction that black holes should emit radiation battled progressive neuro-muscular dystrophy most of his life. Could either of these individuals been as influential if their gifts had not been

tempered with obvious hurdles? Raw grit, determination, and tenacity, accompanied by an outward expression of God's grace and peace, can provide a tremendous positive influence on others.

The Lord has formed each of us as a collage, a symphony, a cacophony. We, each a creation of imaginative proportions, collectively provide a vast spectrum of gifts and challenges. This array of components allows us to soar, not remain earth bound forever. Our individual composition is not designed to frustrate, but to establish a broad framework on which to build success. To embrace only the gift espouses self-fulfillment, but leads to emptiness that renders one ineffective. To dwell only on the challenge is to invite despair and, likewise, cause ineffectiveness.

We must fully embrace who the Lord has created in each of us with our strengths, weaknesses, and foibles. A synthesis takes place when the Maestro is allowed full reign; balance is achieved. Only when God is allowed to utilize the human instrument He has designed and created will we truly shine. (*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28, New International Version).

The Giver of Dreams created us for others. The object of life is not to merely exist nor obtain some hedonistic form of happiness, but rather to seek the deep satisfaction that comes from truly impacting the lives of others by passing on to those we touch all that we have been granted. If we tender ourselves fully to the Giver of Dreams, if we offer our dreams, our talents, our handicaps to Him, to do as He pleases, to walk according to His purpose, we cannot fail.

"You play the hand you're dealt. I think the game's worthwhile." -- C.S. Lewis

Brookfield, S. D. (2006). The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Evan Todd Yeager, Ed.D.