



The Deep Rooted Journey

*Seven Devotional Lessons for Navigating God's Call in Uncertain
Seasons*



Rooted in Christ. Built to Lead. Called to Multiply.

Our Vision

To see a global movement of Spirit-led leaders deeply rooted in Christ
- advancing the Kingdom of God by
living out their calling with
clarity, courage, and impact.

Our Mission

We help Spirit-led leaders grow deep
in Christ, rise in their calling,
and multiply their Kingdom impact.

And now, just as you accepted Christ
Jesus as your Lord, you must
continue to follow him. Let your
roots grow down into him, and let
your lives be built on him. Then
your faith will grow strong in the
truth you were taught, and you will
overflow with thankfulness.

- Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

Executive Summary

You'll explore:

1. Repositioning – When God prepares the soil
 2. Interruption – When plans halt and God gains your attention
 3. Seeking God – When uncertainty draws you closer to His presence
 4. Crisis of Belief – When doubt reveals what you truly trust
 5. Obedience – When you step forward without full clarity
 6. Waiting – When God is working while you are still
 7. Provision – When God meets your need with perfect timing
- The final section, One Year Later, offers hindsight wisdom and seven key lessons every believer—and every leader—should carry forward.

Whether you're navigating a career shift, life change, or spiritual redirection, this devotional is an altar of guidance, reflection, and deep encouragement. It's designed to help you stay rooted in Christ, even when everything else feels like it's shifting.

Deep Rooted Believers exists to equip people for strong, steady faith that thrives in transition. This eBook is a tool for that mission—a reminder that even when you can't see the fruit, God is growing your roots.

Key Scripture Passages

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." — Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.'" — Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

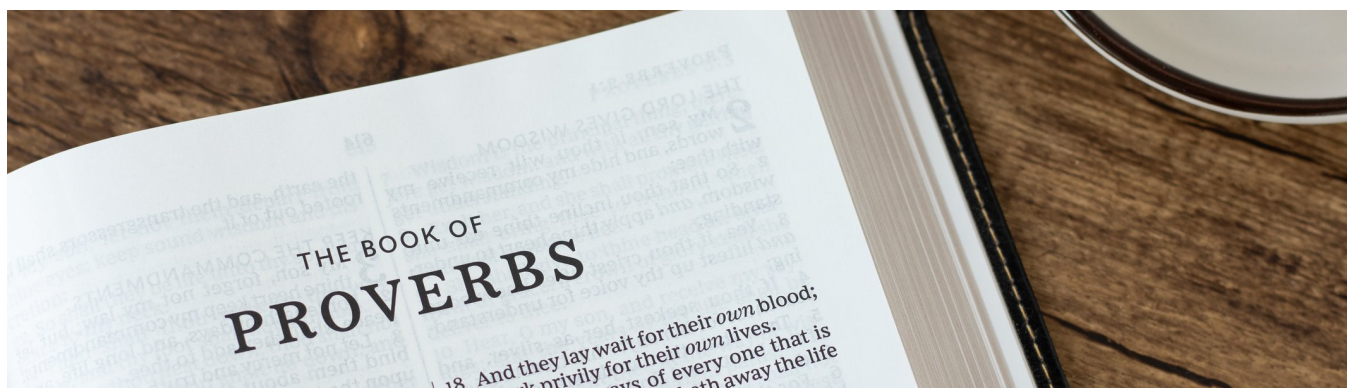
"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor" – 1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

"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." – Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take" – Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"'God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,' Abraham answered. And they both walked on together." - Genesis 22:8 (NLT)



Dedication

To every believer standing in the in-between—between what was and what's not yet, between the calling and the clarity, between the obedience and the outcome.

This devotional is for you.

May your roots grow deep.

May your trust grow strong.

And may you come to see that God is not just in the destination—He is deeply present in the transition.

How to Use This eBook

This devotional is a companion through transition.

It is not meant to be rushed. Each stage represents a part of the spiritual process God often leads us through in seasons of change, waiting, and growth.

Here's how to get the most out of it:

- Go slow. Take time to read one stage at a time. Let the Scripture settle in your spirit before moving on.
- Reflect deeply. Use the journal prompts and reflection questions honestly. This is where transformation begins.
- Look for leadership lessons. Whether you're leading yourself, your family, or others, each stage holds practical insights for how to lead well in uncertain seasons.
- Return often. God speaks in layers. What you glean now may be different from what He shows you next month or next year.
- Invite the Holy Spirit. This isn't just a book. It's a spiritual journey. Let God guide your time in it.

Each stage includes:

- Scripture passages
- Full teaching from blog
- Devotional teaching
- Three reflection questions
- Leadership insight
- Journal prompts

Go slowly, reflect deeply, journal honestly.

Part 1: Foundations of Transition

Introduction: Why Transitions Matter

Transitions are more than just life's interruptions.

They are often God's invitations.

They can feel uncertain, disruptive, and disorienting—but in the hands of a faithful God, transitions are how He grows us, shifts us, and roots us deeper into His purpose.

Every major character in Scripture went through transition:

- Abraham left the familiar.
- Joseph endured the pit before the palace.
- Moses moved the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, across the Red Sea, and into the wilderness.
- Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land.
- David started in the pasture, defeated a giant, and had to flee for his life before he ruled.
- Jesus withdrew before He stepped into His earthly ministry, endured the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.
- Paul spent time in obscurity before leading the church.

Transition is not punishment—it's preparation.

It's not a detour—it's divine development.

And it's not just about where you're going—it's about who you're becoming.

This devotional was born out of that very journey.

It's for the moments when you don't know what's next, but you believe God is still at work.

If you're in a season where the ground beneath you is shifting, you're in good company—and you're right where God can do His deepest work.

Overview of the Seven Stages

Transitions don't happen in a single moment—they unfold in stages. And each stage carries its own purpose, pressure, and potential. Here are the seven stages God led me through in my season of change:

1. Repositioning – When God prepares the soil
2. Interruption – When plans halt and God gains your attention
3. Seeking God – When uncertainty pushes you deeper into His presence
4. Crisis of Belief – When doubt tests what you really trust
5. Obedience – When you take the next step, even without full clarity
6. Waiting – When God builds your character in the silence
7. Provision – When God meets your need—precisely and powerfully

In this book, I will expand upon each of the seven stages, illustrating how God worked in my life in each stage, and tying the stages together to show how they fit into God's plan.

Author's Journey

This devotional wasn't written from theory. It was lived.

I didn't set out to create a framework. I was simply trying to survive a season I couldn't explain. I had been faithful, focused, and intentional—and then everything shifted.

What once felt clear suddenly became cloudy. The path that had been laid out for years was disrupted without warning. What started as a career change became a soul-level transformation. I was no longer in control, and for the first time in a long time, I realized that was exactly where God wanted me.

Each stage in this devotional mirrors what I experienced:

- I was repositioned unexpectedly.
- My plans were interrupted without explanation.
- I was forced to seek God in ways I hadn't before.
- I faced a crisis of belief that exposed where my trust truly rested.
- I chose obedience over comfort, even when I didn't feel confident.
- I waited—longer than I wanted—while God was working below the surface.
- And finally, I experienced provision in ways only God could orchestrate.

If you're in a moment where things no longer make sense—where the ground beneath you is shifting and your prayers feel unanswered—I want you to know: God is not absent. He's actively forming something deeper in you than you realize.

Part 2: The Seven Stages

Stage 1: Repositioning – When God prepares the soil

Scriptures:

- Genesis 12:1 (NLT) — “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your native country... and go to the land that I will show you.’”
- Psalm 37:23-24 (NLT) — “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.”

Full Teaching from Blog:

I enjoyed a long and successful career at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, OH, starting there as an intern while I was still in college at nearby Ohio Wesleyan University and growing into a leadership role over time. The company, city, and I had all grown up together over my tenure there.

In mid-2022, everything was going well professionally. In fact, I remember thinking to myself one afternoon how I had been placed in the perfect job for me. The role required the right combination of people skills and technical acumen for my personality. The pay was outstanding, the company was a great place to work and being there allowed me to provide for my family. Truly, I felt blessed.

I enjoyed the people that I was working with, so much so that my team of direct reports had stayed intact for over 10 years, which is unheard of today. I loved working in the Office of Investments, even enjoying that role through challenging market environments such as the great financial crisis, COVID, the dot com crash, etc. Those challenges allowed the team to build resilience and humility, as the investment markets are unpredictable, but we knew that we could make it through whatever came our way.

Beyond the love of my career, the city of Columbus was a great place to raise a family. We were blessed to have purchased a scenic wooded property with a seasonal lake view when housing prices were depressed after the financial crisis. Our children all grew up in this house, and we built many fond memories there. All three of our sons who had gone off to college had either come back to Columbus after being away in other cities or were still in college at Ohio State. Thus, Columbus was and is truly home.

Thus, at the time, I felt as if I was on top of the world, and nothing could knock me off my pedestal. God had truly blessed me through my time at Nationwide over the initial season of my career.

Thus, nowhere in my train of consciousness had I entertained the thought of doing something different with the last decade of my career. If you had suggested that I was going to voluntarily walk away two years later, I would have told you that you were crazy.

However, spiritually, I was going through a period of lukewarmness. The message to the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-17 (NLT) applied to me, "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

Being lukewarm was not always the case in my life. In my late 20's and early 30's, my wife and I were very active in our local church. I served as Church Treasurer, was on the deacon board, led a few Sunday school classes, and helped to manage our church's daycare. That was a time of closeness to the Lord and active service to the Lord through our local church.

As our family grew to six over the next several years, I stepped away from many of those church roles, to focus my time on raising our family. Gradually, this led to a growing separation from God.

While our sons were teenagers, they were very active in travel soccer, which resulted in missed time at church and a hectic family life. As expected, this busy season led to some distance from God, even though our family attended church as much as we could squeeze in around our family schedule.

God was clearly not in first place at the time, which I regret, but God was still at moving, despite my misplaced priorities. He was working through transitions in other parts of my life, even though my career felt very stable.

One of the early steps of God's work was to inspire us to change middle schools for our daughter away from the school district that our three sons attended. Instead of sending her to public school, circumstances led us to explore a private Christian school in our area, Worthington Christian School.

Later, my wife began to pursue substitute teaching at that same school that our daughter attended. This action led her to discover her calling, and she ended up pursuing full-time teaching there.

We were also about to embark on a change of churches as well, coming out of the pandemic. For instance, we began attending Grace Polaris early in 2021, but we hadn't fully jumped into that church yet with both feet in 2022. It wasn't clear to us at the time why it felt right to make that transition, but we obeyed the nudging of the Holy Spirit.

Little did we know that God was positioning us where He wanted us to be, so that He could do a mighty work and radically transform me.

God was at work, and He was about to begin revealing His plan.

We were right where we needed to be, through God's divine providence, for what was about to come next.

Devotional Teaching:

Repositioning rarely feels like a blessing when it's happening.

God disrupts routines, closes doors, and shifts opportunities. It feels uncomfortable, even unfair. But what feels like displacement is often divine positioning.

Just like Abraham, you may not know where you're going—you just know you can't stay where you've been. This is the stage where God asks you to move before you feel ready, to release what's familiar, and to follow Him into the unknown.

It's in the movement that trust is built.

It's in the leaving that roots begin to grow deeper—not into a location, but into the character of God.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where in your life has God repositioned you recently?
2. What comfort or routine are you being asked to release?
3. How can you turn this uncertainty into an opportunity to grow in trust?

Leadership Insight:

**Great leaders don't wait for clarity
to obey—they move when God
speaks.**

Repositioning may shrink your visible platform, but it expands your capacity. Don't mistake a quieter season for a lesser one. God is moving you for something greater.

Journal Prompts:

Write about a time when you felt "moved" before you were ready.

What emotions surfaced? What did you learn about God—and yourself—through that shift?

Stage 2: Interruption – When plans halt and God gains your attention

Scriptures:

- Acts 9:3–6 (NLT) — “As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?’ ‘Who are you, lord?’ Saul asked. And the voice replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”
- Proverbs 19:21 (NLT) — “You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.”

Full Teaching from Blog:

As I outlined in part one of this series, “Repositioning”, I was very content with my life and career in mid-2022; I had no plans to make any significant changes. However, God had positioned me where I needed to be, and He was about to get my attention and use other people to redirect me.

Nationwide typically performed mid-year evaluations in August. Although no one really enjoys the process of performance evaluations, for me, these were typically non-events, as most of our goals were typically on-track or ahead of schedule.

My performance evaluations were always very positive, so I had no apprehension about the meeting scheduled with my long-time manager in August 2022. In fact, my team was humming on all cylinders, as we had been strengthening our relationships with our business partners and were contributing to record sales across the organization. Furthermore, we had just launched a new line of business and were exceeding our profitability and growth targets.

Thus, my expectation was that I was about to have a short discussion about goals, receive a pat on the back, and go back to the task at hand. Check the box, complete the requirement – no big deal.

With all of this as a backdrop, I walked into my manager’s office, and we began to discuss how everything was going with my performance and with the high-performing team that I was leading. As I expected, the review was positive, so there was nothing notable about that conversation. However, the dialogue then shifted as my manager closed out the performance evaluation.

Over the next 30 minutes, my manager explained that senior leadership had chosen to reorganize me into another department and that I was going to have to decide how to divide my team between those that were going with me to the new department and those that would stay.

Fortunately, there were no job eliminations, but several uncomfortable decisions were going to need to be made. Two-thirds of the group would accompany me, and the other third would remain. The cohesion and unity that we experienced as a team was about to be broken.

Furthermore, even though I didn't fully understand the rationale behind the changes and wanted to keep the team together, I would need to lead the team through the transition and minimize the disruption to the overall organization.

These changes would alter the joy that I had been experiencing with my work. I would need to leave behind the part of my role that I enjoyed the most and had seen the greatest recent success. Thus, things were never going to be the same.

Beyond the discomfort around having a mid-year performance evaluation and the shock around going through a reorganization, God had one more surprise for me.

In 2022, COVID was still an ongoing concern. I had avoided contracting COVID up to that point, as I was somewhat careful about following social distancing guidelines in the workplace. Now, as a result of being in a closed office for over an hour with my manager, whom it turned out had been exposed to COVID a few days prior to our conversation and was contagious, I also became ill with COVID and would need to spend a week at home to recover.

God had clearly gotten my attention. My plans had been interrupted. Even though I wasn't prepared to leave my job at this point, God was starting to reveal His plan to me. The organizational changes weren't the final reason that I ended up leaving my career at Nationwide, but it was one of the first and necessary steps that God ordained to change my perspective on my career there.

Just as Saul's plans were interrupted in Acts 9 in order to transform Saul into Paul and begin a new path for him in following Christ, my plans were altered as well.

Proverbs 19:21 says, "You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail."

I had planned to stay in that role and keep that team together as long as I could. This stability would have allowed me to stay solidly in my comfort zone, but that was not what God intended for me.

Thus, a change needed to be made, and another aspect of God's plan had been revealed.

Unlike Saul, I did not hear the audible voice of Jesus calling out to me, so my first response was not to call out to God and seek His direction. Thus, God needed to do more work on me to accomplish His will, but the wheels had been set into motion.

Devotional Teaching:

Interruptions are frustrating—especially when you were finally gaining momentum.

But to God, interruptions are invitations. They stop our movement so He can redirect our focus.

Just like Paul on the road to Damascus, we may be headed confidently in the wrong direction. Sometimes, God allows a full stop—not because He’s punishing us, but because He’s about to reveal something greater than what we had in mind.

This stage may feel like confusion, delay, or even failure. But don’t miss it: God speaks in interruptions. They slow you down long enough to hear Him clearly.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have your plans recently been interrupted?
2. What has that interruption revealed about your expectations or assumptions?
3. How might God be using this pause to speak to you more clearly?

Leadership Insight:

**Wise leaders listen when their pace
is disrupted.**

Interruptions create space for clarity that speed often drowns out. When God halts your steps, don't just push harder—lean in and listen.

Journal Prompts:

Describe a time when your plans were stopped abruptly.

How did you react? Looking back, can you see how God used that interruption to change your direction or deepen your faith?

Stage 3: Seeking God – When uncertainty pushes you deeper into His presence

Scriptures:

- Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT) — "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."
- Matthew 6:33 (NLT) — "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously and he will give you everything you need."

2 Chronicles 15: 12,15 (NLT) – "Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul. All in Judah were happy about this covenant, for they had entered into it with all their heart. They earnestly sought after God, and they found him. And the Lord gave them rest from their enemies on every side."

Full Teaching from Blog:

In the second installment of this series, I outlined how God interrupted my plans to stay in a comfortable place professionally in August of 2022.

The changes that followed over the subsequent several months were extremely difficult and led to a season of uncertainty about what God was doing in my life. Professionally, God's grace had left the situation for me at Nationwide. Going into the office became increasingly difficult (emotionally) and led to a growing feeling of misalignment between what I was doing and what God wanted. However, God had a plan to lead me out of the wilderness.

Early in 2023, God started drawing me closer to Him and showing me that I was striving after the wrong things.

In February, I attended a men's retreat at our church, and He revealed to me that we needed to stop passively engaging with the church and become actively involved. So, we decided to formally become members and be more regular with our attendance at our small group on Sunday nights.

In addition, we would start attending a Sunday morning Bible fellowship class, and my wife would become active with women's ministry. God was working on us one step at a time.

In the spring, the leader of our small group (Jeff) started suggesting to me that I should consider taking an in-depth, 9-month theology class offered at the church. The class was known as "Advanced Leadership Training", or ALT, and I was praying about whether I should make such a large commitment to learning the Bible. The class commitment required reading 200-300 pages, writing a 20-page paper and attending a 5-hour training class each month, where we would be orally examined on our paper and Biblical application to what we had learned. Thus, the decision to take the class was not one to make haphazardly.

One Sunday, my wife had scheduled time to meet with the leader of the women's ministry (Dana) to discuss how my wife would be involved in an upcoming event. I accompanied my wife to the meeting between services in the sanctuary, and within 15 seconds of introductions, Dana looked at me and proclaimed, "You should take ALT". How did she know that I was even considering such a step? I was dumbfounded. Clearly the Holy Spirit worked in her to say that to me at that moment of time.

So, I obeyed the call of the Holy Spirit and registered for the class.

At the same time that God was working through fellow believers at our church, God was bringing people of faith to Nationwide.

One speaker, Davin Salvagno, spoke at least twice at Nationwide about finding purpose in your life and mentioned Halftime Institute. Halftime Institute is a non-profit group formed around the concepts found in "Halftime" by Bob Buford, which encourages people to move from success to significance in the second half of their lives. The anchor verse for that organization is Ephesians 2:10. I ended up reading the Halftime book and attending several webinars that Halftime coordinated.

Another speaker, Ryan Leak, who is also a pastor, came to speak at Nationwide about his book "Chasing Failure". For those of you who haven't heard Ryan speak, he is very engaging, and several people felt that his talk was the best speech delivered at Nationwide in the past 20 years.

One notable moment from Ryan's visit was the question-and-answer time at the end of the session. One of my co-workers complained to Ryan about not being able to multi-task during the talk, because the speech was so engaging, and then someone asked him about his purpose when he speaks, and he mentioned his faith.

Subsequent to Ryan's visit, there was a lot of talk around the office about Ryan, and people sharing the replay. I decided to follow Ryan across many social networks and started watching Ryan's sermons on YouTube on a regular basis.

Thus, God was calling me to Himself, and I earnestly began the process of seeking Him with the beginning of the ALT class in August of 2023.

At the first meeting of the class, Gary, the leader, shared how the class would give us more than just knowledge, but I didn't know how that was going to play out for me.

It turned out that my process of seeking God was just getting started. It was leading toward transformation, which would accelerate late in 2023 and early in 2024.

This process of seeking would lead directly into the next phase, where I would be called to increase my faith.

Below are several other instructive verses about seeking God:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

Devotional Teaching:

There's something about uncertainty that either drives us into panic—or into presence.

When everything familiar is stripped away and your plans no longer make sense, you're left with a simple question: Will I reach for God, or for control?

This stage is where relationship is strengthened—not through answers, but through pursuit. Seeking God isn't about getting clarity—it's about getting close.

And one of the most powerful ways we seek Him is through fasting.

Fasting isn't about earning answers—it's about emptying ourselves so we can hear clearly. When you deny your flesh, your spirit becomes more sensitive to God's voice. It quiets the noise of the world and increases the volume of heaven.

Fasting doesn't manipulate God—it positions you to receive. It's a spiritual reset that breaks distraction, renews your focus, and anchors your identity in Him.

When you're unsure what to do next, let your next step be toward Him—in prayer, in stillness, and maybe even in sacrifice.

Reflection Questions:

1. How has your current season increased your hunger for God?
2. What distractions or dependencies are you being called to lay down?
3. Have you ever fasted to seek God's voice? If not, what would it look like to try?

Leadership Insight: Strong leadership is rooted in surrendered intimacy.

The deeper you seek God in private, the more anchored you are when storms hit in public. Never mistake action for anointing—lead from presence.

Journal Prompts:

Describe a moment when uncertainty led you to seek God more deeply.

What shifted in your heart, your habits, or your understanding of who He is?

Stage 4: Crisis of Belief – When doubt tests what you really trust

Scriptures:

- Mark 9:24 (NLT) — “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) — “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

Full Teaching from Blog:

As our Advanced Leadership Training (ALT) class progressed through the fall of 2023, it became increasingly apparent to me that God had put me into this class for more than just an increased knowledge of theology – that God had a bigger purpose in mind for me. The seeking of God’s will that began before joining the class intensified daily.

One of the books that we studied was “Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. My wife and I had previously been through the study in our 20s, but the second time around made me more aware of God’s work around me and how He speaks to us by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and other believers.

One of the foundational verses from the study was Ephesians 2:10, “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.” (NLT). This verse had a very special feel about it, but I didn’t know how much I was about to be confronted with this passage.

As the desire to seek God continued to increase, my wife and I began to watch sermons from churches around the country on YouTube. We started noticing a trend, in that most of these messages, from many different pastors, contained references to Ephesians 2:10 in some way. Before I knew it, it was clear that the YouTube algorithm was explicitly sending me videos that were focused on Ephesians 2:10 – either the passage was listed in the title or there was an in-depth study of the verse in the video. Some of these messages were from well-known speakers that we might have watched on our own, but many were from obscure places that we would not have sought out on our own. Who could have guessed that God could work through the YouTube algorithm that suggests what you should watch next?

Beyond the repetition from sermon videos on YouTube, the verse was finding us in other ways as well. We noticed the verse on coffee mugs at church from fellow believers, the music minister would read this verse to open the church service, etc. We could not escape the message of Ephesians 2:10.

With the increased knowledge of how the Holy Spirit works to speak to us from Experiencing God and with the awareness that I was being bludgeoned with Ephesians 2:10, I increasingly felt a sense that I was entering a season that God's purpose for me was not to continue working at Nationwide. While I had been building a position of influence there, this role was not in my long-term future. This feeling didn't make any rational sense, as my career was very successful through human eyes, but I couldn't shake the feeling that I was being directed toward something else more spiritual.

I started mentioning in our class session that I could feel a shaking in my soul to do something different, but I couldn't see how it could possibly happen. So, I would ask for prayer from everyone in the group and keep serving faithfully at Nationwide.

In early October, our church paired small groups across the church with missionaries from Encompass World Partners, our fellowship's missionary agency, in order that the groups could pray for the missionaries and support them from a distance.

Our group was assigned a young woman in France named Elise. She was relatively new to Encompass, so we didn't know much about her. However, we committed to faithfully praying for her each week, based upon her newsletter, and we learned that she was involved in reaching people through creating and running businesses around the world, i.e. business as mission.

Providentially, it turns out that she had a visit planned to Columbus at the end of October, just a few short weeks after we began praying for her.

Our church's custom is for visiting missionaries to speak briefly in the middle of our services between the opening music time and the sermon. She was scheduled to give her testimony in a Q&A session with our pastor.

What ended up happening is that Elise's story almost exactly echoed what was going on in my heart – that she had stopped feeling comfortable in her corporate role in France and that God had been asking her to trust Him more by walking away from her professional business career and towards ministry.

As I listened to what Elise was saying, I was quietly tearing up in the back of the room, hoping that no one would notice, as her story touched a nerve in my heart and confirmed what I was feeling.

Later that day, our group was scheduled to meet, and we were blessed to have our normal study replaced by a presentation from Elise. This time allowed me to drill into her story more as a back-end way to confirm what God was saying to her. I asked her about her decision-making process and how she knew what God was speaking to her. In her own words, she ended up outlining the seven realities from the Experiencing God study and paraphrasing Ephesians 2:10 as to what led her to make a change.

As my wife and I were riding home after our small group time with Elise, I shared how Elise's story had resonated with me and felt like confirmation that I was not supposed to keep my corporate job much longer.

Thus, we were at a crisis of belief point, requiring faith and action. I knew what I needed to do, but I wasn't ready to act. The idea of walking away seemed so remote and crazy that I didn't have the first idea how to make that happen. So, we would continue to pray and seek wisdom from God.

Would I have the courage to step out in faith and do what God has asked of me, or would fear win? There are so many passages where we are instructed to "fear not", but how would I respond?

Devotional Teaching:

Every transition brings a moment when what you say you believe gets tested by what you see.

When the promise delays, the plan collapses, or the outcome looks nothing like you hoped—your faith faces its fiercest trial.

This is the Crisis of Belief: the space between God's promise and your reality.

It's not weakness to wrestle with doubt. It's honesty. God isn't threatened by your questions—He uses them to surface what your trust is really rooted in.

Faith isn't pretending everything is fine.

Faith is choosing to trust God even when everything feels fragile.

Reflection Questions:

1. What doubts or fears are surfacing in this season of transition?
2. Are there beliefs you've carried that God is now refining or realigning?
3. How does knowing God's Spirit empowers you with love and self-discipline shape your response?

Leadership Insight: Leaders who pretend they're never shaken are brittle.

Real strength comes from admitting weakness and still choosing obedience.

Vulnerability leads to credibility—especially in seasons that stretch your faith.

Journal Prompts:

Write honestly about a time when your belief was tested.

What did that moment reveal about your faith—and how did God meet you in it?

Stage 5: Obedience – When you take the next step, even without full clarity

Scriptures:

- 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT) — “Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”**
- James 1:22 (NLT) — “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”**

Full Teaching from Blog:

"God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. – Genesis 22:8 (NLT)

Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." - Genesis 22:13-14 (NLT)

"And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." – Jesus in Matthew 6:16-18 (NLT)

Prior to 2024, I had never fasted and thought that fasting was intended for other, more spiritual, people but not me.

As we moved through December 2023, with the feeling that I was supposed to leave my corporate job lingering in my mind and not sure exactly how something that crazy was going to happen, I felt through a nudging of the Holy Spirit that I really needed to put God first in 2024, whatever that looked like for me.

Each year for the past several years, I have selected a word for the year, and the word for 2024 that was revealed to me was "transfigure". The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines transfigure as "to give a new and typically exalted or spiritual appearance to: transform outwardly and usually for the better". This word was exactly what I was seeking; I wanted to not just be transformed but in a spiritual way.

Inspired by YouTube messages from the Church of the Highlands and Pastor Chris Hodges, I decided that it was appropriate for me to fast for the first 21 days of 2024, as a demonstration that God was going to have first place in my life for the year.

One of the larger decisions around fasting is not only the duration but also the nature of the fast (i.e. what are you giving up?). I have always enjoyed soda and sugary treats, so I decided that I would start 2024 on a 21 day fast from those items.

I knew that fasting in this way would not be easy for me, as my wife and son both have birthdays in that 21-day window, so I would need to forgo birthday cake at those celebrations. However, if I was going to be transfigured and open to what God has in store for me, I was going to need to increase my obedience, and this seemed like a reasonable first step.

In addition to the fast, I also pledged to complete a Bible in a year reading plan, as I wanted to allow God to speak to me through His word over the course of the year.

Thus, during the 21-day fasting period in January, I was earnestly seeking God through Bible study, prayer and worship.

One of my readings over this timeframe was a Bible study and message from Christine Caine entitled "Don't Look Back". Through this study, God led me to the story of Lot's wife, which can be found in Genesis 19, and the instructions of the angels to Lot to evacuate Sodom in verse 17 leaped off the page to me. "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Free to the mountains or you will be swept away!" (NIV)

Through the Holy Spirit, I felt that this situation was God speaking to me about my corporate job, and my instructions were as follows:

1

Flee for your life – I want to save you by removing you from that situation

2

Don't look back – leaving will be difficult for you, but look ahead to what I have for you instead of reminiscing about or longing for the past

3

Go to where I lead you – I have a new thing planned for you (Isaiah 43:19); be obedient to where I am taking you

Coming out the 21-day fast, I knew that God was calling me to leave Nationwide, but I wasn't quite ready to take the leap. I was still clinging to the thought that my job was my source of provision and security. Beyond that, the job was a large part of my identity, and who would I be if that position was no longer a part of my life?

To accomplish the task of getting my decision across the finish line, God spoke to me through a podcast episode from Christy Wright on January 29, 2024, entitled "What if God Doesn't Want You to Be Comfortable?" and a reminder of the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22 to make it clear to me that the right timing to make a change was now. The podcast helped me realize that the only thing holding me back was fear of how I would provide for my wife and family, but all along it has been God providing as the Jehovah Jireh, not me.

Once again, as it had been a few months prior when I heard Elise speak, hearing those words touched a nerve in my emotions, and I began to tear up. I knew what I needed to do; there was no denying the call to walk away.

I reached out to my manager to set up a time to talk when I was back in the office in person. She wasn't available on the next day, so we set a time for Wednesday of that week.

On Wednesday, January 31, I announced to my boss and my team that my last day of Nationwide would be May 31. My boss' jaw hit the floor when I told her. I don't think that I have ever surprised anyone as much as I did that day.

As word spread of my impending departure, it was very weird explaining to everyone in the office that I didn't know what God had planned for me next, that I only knew that it was time to put behind the things of the past and step into a new identity. I had a vague idea of a few possibilities, but I didn't know how the rest of the story would play out. It seemed so risky and unlike someone who works in a risk management role.

The most difficult conversation of the day was telling my direct reports that it was time for me to step away. We were very close and had a lot of experience with one another, so it felt a little like I was letting them down. They were very polite and seemed to understand, but I'm sure that they were just as surprised, if not more so, as everyone else.

With the decision to step away in obedience made, now it was time to figure out what God had in store for me next. The process of working through and discerning that will be discussed in the next two sections.

Devotional Teaching:

Obedience isn't about having all the answers.

It's about taking the next step—even when the path isn't fully visible.

We often want to impress God with effort or performance. But God desires our obedience more than our activity. Just as Samuel reminded Saul, it's not sacrifice that moves God's heart—it's submission.

This stage calls you to act on what you know, even when you're unsure what's next. It's not obedience if it only happens when it's easy.

If you're delaying out of fear or waiting for perfect clarity, remember this: delayed obedience is often disobedience in disguise.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one step of obedience God is asking you to take right now?
2. Are there ways you've substituted effort for obedience?
3. How might full surrender open the door to deeper spiritual authority?

Leadership Insight: True leadership begins with personal obedience.

It's not about how loudly you lead—it's about how quietly you listen and respond. When obedience becomes your rhythm, impact becomes your legacy.

Journal Prompts

Write about a recent moment when you felt convicted to obey.

What held you back—and what shifted when you said yes?

Stage 6: Waiting – When God builds your character in the silence

- **Psalm 37:7 (NLT) —
“Be still in the
presence of the Lord,
and wait patiently for
him to act. Don’t
worry about evil
people who prosper
or fret about their
wicked schemes.”**

Scriptures:

- **Psalm 27:13–14
(NLT) — “Yet I am
confident I will see the
Lord’s goodness while
I am here in the land
of the living. Wait
patiently for the Lord.
Be brave and
courageous. Yes, wait
patiently for the Lord.”**

- **Psalm 130:5–6 – “I
wait for the Lord, my
whole being waits,
and in his word I put
my hope. I wait for the
Lord more than
watchmen wait for the
morning, more than
watchmen wait for the
morning.”**

Full Teaching from Blog:

This season was so difficult, yet so important, that I am leading off with an extra Scripture passage. In fact, thinking back in remembrance and writing about this season was much more challenging than I originally anticipated.

I would love to tell you that God blessed my obedience as soon as I made the decision to walk away from the idols of my position at Nationwide, my income, and my status there. However, that's not the way that God normally works, and it wasn't how He worked in my situation.

Unfortunately, God did not answer my prayers right away. Wouldn't it be so much easier if God answered our prayers right away? There was more growth and development needed in me before He could begin to show me what would happen through me.

As agonizing as the crisis of belief outlined in step four and as difficult as the decision around obedience described in stage five were, the next period of waiting on God's plan to be revealed was the most difficult stage of the entire journey.

The fruits of your obedience are often seen in the rearview mirror, not through the dashboard looking ahead or in looking to the left or to the right as you are pressing forward. For me, there was a waiting period of about 90 days before God would reveal His plan for me. I know some of you have waited longer than 90 days for an answer, and I pray that your answer will come soon.

The breakthrough that I experienced will be described in the next stage. We need to address the waiting period first.

The clearest picture that I can give of the feeling that I had during this period of waiting is the image of a trapeze artist who has let go of the swing and is hanging in mid-air, but the next swing to grab onto has not yet appeared. We know that God is ultimately our safety net, there to catch us if we fall, but there is an unsettled feeling from not seeing the next swing.

I had a bit of an identity crisis, not knowing who I was developing into, but knowing that I had to let go of who I was to obey what God was doing in my life.

You may also hear this waiting season described as being in the hallway or in the wilderness. Both of those descriptions are accurate portrayals.

My wife and I were willing to do anything God asked of us; we just didn't know what He would require of us. We had a sense of the Hebrew word "hineni", or "here I am". We even wrote "hineni" on the chalkboard in the hallway between our living room and kitchen as a daily reminder of the status of our hearts.

"Hineni" is how Abraham answered God and Isaac in Genesis 22. Moses responded to God with "hineni" when God called him from the burning bush. Jacob, Joseph, and Samuel also presented themselves to God in the same way. "Here I am".

Probably the most famous instance of "hineni" is found in Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

So how did we navigate our way through the difficulty of the transition phase? What advice would we have for anyone in a waiting season of their own?

1. Seek God through prayer – as we read in Matthew 6:33, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (NLT). We figured that if God asked us to take this step of faith, He had a plan that was higher than our plans.
2. Trust God – key verses include:
 - a. Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (NLT)
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:24, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” (NIV)
3. Write down what you want and how you see God working. Journal your thoughts and how others are speaking into you. Are there any themes emerging?

A great verse to consider is Habakkuk 2:2-3, “Then the Lord replied, ‘Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.’” (NIV)

I still go back and read through my journal entries from that time period. Some of those thoughts didn’t make much sense back then, but the meaning is coming into focus now. Writing things down will probably give you a sense of direction. The time spent writing down what God is doing in you is not wasted.

4. Embrace discomfort – this season will naturally be an uncomfortable time; you probably haven't been this way before. God doesn't promise us that we will be comfortable. Quite the contrary. We are to take up our cross and follow Him. Growth happens through discomfort; lean into it.
5. Stay in motion – the enemy will want to trap you in fear and keep you paralyzed. This lack of activity will prevent you from discovering what you are supported to do next. The enemy will sense that something great is coming on the other side of this period and will seek to devour and destroy what God is wanting to do through you. Keep moving, push through any "analysis paralysis" that you have. You don't know what seemingly random encounter will lead to your next breakthrough.
6. Scatter seed – because we didn't know what was coming next, we needed to take small steps of faith to reach out to new people and new places to see if God was going to let those seeds take root in those places through those people. It wasn't easy; it was uncomfortable at times talking to people who I didn't know and go places where I hadn't been previously. God probably won't bless opportunities as quickly and as directly as our plans would like. There were several seeds that were scattered that didn't grow into anything; the time spent sowing those seeds wasn't wasted. Eventually, the seed that you scatter will land on the right soil, and the harvest will probably be better than you could have imagined.
7. Take the next best step. God won't show you the entire staircase; move forward anyways with what you hear God telling you.

What did we hear during this season, and how did we respond?

1. I decided to fast for the 40 day period prior to my last day at Nationwide. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days prior to the start of his ministry, so it seemed like a good model to follow. This time period would be a period of seeking God's will intentionally, in order to hear Him better.
2. Serve others and allow new opportunities to present themselves. In this time period, our favorite restaurant had a sign with this quote in their lobby, "The best way to find yourself is to serve others". Clearly, this was a message from God; it came to pass. Furthermore, Jesus preached, "But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." in Matthew 19:30 (NIV).
3. Be comforted by the presence of God. Isaiah 43:2 (NLT) promises, "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." God is with you on this journey; do not fear.

Our waiting season passed. If you are in a waiting season, yours will pass as well.

Trust God, seek Him, and be comforted by His presence.

A breakthrough is coming. You can trust God's heart, even when you can't see His hand.

Devotional Teaching

Waiting feels like the least productive part of the process.

But in God's hands, it's one of the most formative.

This stage isn't passive—it's powerful. God uses waiting to deepen your roots, refine your motives, and strengthen your trust. When everything slows down, your inner life starts to surface.

Waiting tests your worship. Will you praise Him before the breakthrough?

It tests your posture. Will you remain faithful when you feel forgotten?

God is not slow. He is strategic. And while you're waiting, He's working.

Reflection Questions:

1. What emotions rise up in you during prolonged waiting?
2. How has God used past seasons of waiting to prepare you for what came next?
3. What would it look like to be still before God today?

Leadership Insight: Strong leaders wait well.

They don't confuse momentum with maturity. They know that depth is built when no one's watching—and that God's timing is always better than forced outcomes.

Journal Prompts:

Describe a season when you felt stuck in the waiting.

What was God teaching you? What fruit eventually came from that hidden work?

Stage 7: Provision – When God meets your need—precisely and powerfully

Scriptures:

- **Genesis 22:14 (NLT) — “Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means ‘the Lord will provide’). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’ ”**
- **Philippians 4:19 (NLT) — “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.”**

Full Teaching from Blog

Have you ever been surprised by an unexpected gift that was better than your wildest dreams? I had that experience as I was winding down my time at Nationwide and considering what my next phase might be.

As mentioned in the prior post that described the waiting season, it was very tempting for me to try to initiate something on my own to try to fill in the gap of the unknown, but I knew that my plan would be far inferior to God's. As it reads in Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV), "'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"

All the greatest blessings (my family, my wife, my career, etc.) in my life had been initiated by God, not by me, so I knew that I shouldn't press too hard to make something happen, no matter how tempting it might be to try to find my own solution. I needed to be diligent and look for His provision, but don't press into something where God's favor isn't clear. My aim when considering the multitude of options available to me was to be led by the Holy Spirit.

As we progressed through April, there didn't seem to be anything new for me on the horizon, but I felt the urge to consider another fasting period to better hear God's voice. Matthew 4:2 describes a period of fasting by Jesus for 40 days and 40 nights before he launched into his earthly ministry, so I decided to follow the example of Jesus and fast before launching into whatever God had for me next.

Thus, I counted back 40 days from the date that I announced as my last day at Nationwide (May 31) and would begin another fast from sugary treats and soda at the right time. Thus, on April 22, I began a 40 day fast to correspond to the last 40 days of my corporate career at Nationwide.

On the first day of the fast, God began to reveal aspects of His plan to me and how He had already set the wheels in motion to move me toward what he had prepared for me.

During the waiting season, I had started to apply for a small number of positions where I felt as if God could be calling me in that direction. One notable instance was a discussion with a growing church that was less than 25 miles from where I grew up. I had a great conversation, but I was surprised to learn that the person interviewing me (Dave) was from Washington state, not Northeast Ohio. It was a somewhat rare instance of someone working for a church remotely.

Several weeks passed, and I didn't hear anything back from that church, so I figured it wasn't going to work out. On the first day of the fast, Dave emailed me and let me know that the role that I had applied for was combined with another role, so it was no longer available. However, he had a friend at a church in Spokane, Washington who was looking for someone, and was wondering if I might consider exploring that role.

With all our grown children now living in the central Ohio area, including our oldest son who had gone off to college in California at USC and had come back, and our only grandchild being less than a year old, moving to Spokane wasn't at the top of our list, but our posture was one of "hineni". Thus, we were willing to consider that kind of a move, if it was God's will, and I sent them a resume.

However, beyond the distance from family, we were a little unsettled about whether Washington state was really God's plan for us. Our initial research highlighted that God was really doing something amazing at that church, so that discovery was very encouraging. However, the church was not in our fellowship, and all of the progress that my wife had made in working with the women's ministry in the fellowship would be surrendered. Thus, we prayed about our next steps while keeping the possibility open that God might be asking us to move West.

A couple of days later, while sitting in my office at Nationwide, I had a leaning of the Holy Spirit to check around at the websites of churches in the Columbus area in our fellowship to see if there were ministry or job openings nearby that would allow me to move toward my purpose, while at the same time allowing my wife to continue with the national women's ministry in our fellowship.

Of the roughly 15-20 potential landing spots that I identified from our fellowship's website, there were only two that listed job openings at that time.

Coincidentally, God had ordained that a church administrator role would open at just the right time in a town in central Ohio less than 5 miles from where our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live and also where my wife could keep the teaching job that she loves. In addition, of all of the potential church roles that could be available, this one aligned well with my spiritual gifting (administration).

After finding the role on the church's website, I applied that same day, and things began to come together rather quickly.

Upon talking to the elder who was the contact person for the role, I discovered that this role had just opened in the prior couple of days, was only posted on their website and not on any other job boards, and they had plans to fill it quickly. Thus, I had needed to look for that spot at exactly the right time in the right place in order to have the opportunity to apply. Not only that, but the person leaving that role had postponed her retirement by 6 months, in God's providence to get the timing of that decision aligned with the timing of what He was doing in me.

Over the next several days, I had several discussions with the leadership of that church, so things moved at warp speed. This rapid pace reminds me of Amos 9:13 (NLT), "'The time will come,' says the Lord, 'when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine!'" After a period of time that it had appeared that God was doing nothing and everything was moving slowly, I discovered that God was actually orchestrating a way to have me fill a role, and now the fulfillment of His plan was accelerating.

By April 28, the 7th day of the fast, I had an offer, and God had provided a role, in exactly the right location, at exactly the right time. He did more than we could have asked or imagined (Ephesians 3:20)!

God's plan was perfect, His timing was perfect, and what was required of me was obedience. Even though obedience was not easy, it was right.

I successfully completed the 40 day fast on May 31. I didn't even eat cake at my granddaughter's first birthday or at my own retirement reception, which admittedly felt awkward to explain. However, the goal was obedience and not the approval of man.

Throughout the tail end of the 40 day fast, God revealed to me how to finish my corporate career strong, have the right words to say to those who had questions, and begin sharing my story to others. This website is a significant part of my obedience to the call to share my story with others. Furthermore, many relationships were deepened because of what God had been doing in me and through me.

One cool ending to the story is that I broke the 40 day fast on June 1st with the men in my new church, in the place where God led me.
God is so good!

Part 7b

When I started as Church Administrator at Northwest Chapel in June, our plan was to jump into the community there with both feet, selling our house and moving to the area around the church, and being active in many facets of the church.

As we started to prepare to sell our house last fall, we started to feel significant spiritual resistance. We had a dishwasher leak that ruined the wood flooring in our kitchen, our oven needed a new heating unit, a tree fell on our fence, my wife was in a minor car accident, and our other vehicles all needed some sort of repair.

We prayed for months for understanding and received an answer to slow down and be still, so we placed our plans to move on hold through the holidays.

For the past couple of years, we have put God first each year by fasting in January. This year, we fasted and prayed for 30 days to kick off 2025. Mine was a partial fast from sweet treats and soda, and my wife fasted from coffee. This was a period of sacrifice and seeking God, as both of us were giving up staples from our respective daily routines.

The answer that I received in mid-January, as I was driving to the church, was that my time there was a temporary assignment - a time of preparation - and that God was about to release me from my assignment there. I was to faithfully love and serve those in front of me at Northwest Chapel in the meantime, and God was moving in ways that I could not see.

Within the next few weeks, by mid-February, two new opportunities had been placed in front of me. There are no guarantees that God would work that quickly, but He did in this instance.

While I was completing final interviews at a local mission organization, I received a call to see if I might be interested in an opportunity at Grace Polaris, where God had positioned us prior to the start of this transition season. My wife and I had joked several months prior that I would work there for free if given the opportunity to do so (only if we could afford to do so), but God had clearly placed the desire to return there in our hearts.

When I received the call that this return might actually be happening, I was awestruck at how God had been working, and we were able to trace His goodness back in time to events that had previously felt like frustration. This opportunity was truly a blessing for us that was better than we could ask or imagine.

As much as I loved what I was doing at Northwest Chapel and truly enjoyed the people there, by returning to Grace Polaris, my wife and I would be essentially working in the same building and would be able to have lunch together occasionally. My daily commute at 15 minutes would be the shortest that it had ever been in my adult working lifetime; I didn't even need to get onto the freeway. I could even sleep in a little and still arrive at work before 8 a.m. It was now clear why there was so much resistance with trying to sell our house; we were destined to return to Grace Polaris.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," - Ephesians 3:20 (NIV).

"You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail." - Proverbs 19:21 (NLT).

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT).

The refrain from "Trust in God" by Elevation Worship resonated deeply with us as we navigated through this season,

"I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
That's why I trust Him, that's why I trust Him"

God has truly blessed us with this opportunity, and our trust in God was further strengthened.

Devotional Teaching:

Provision doesn't always show up early—but it always shows up on time.

This stage is where God brings visible fruit from the roots He's been growing in secret. It may not look like what you expected, but it will be exactly what you need. Not just for survival—but for purpose.

Like Abraham on the mountain, you may be climbing in faith without seeing the ram yet. But when you walk in obedience, God reveals what He already prepared.

Provision isn't just about material answers. Sometimes, God provides clarity. Sometimes, peace. Sometimes, people. And sometimes, He provides a deeper revelation of Himself—that He is enough.

Reflection Questions

1. How have you seen God provide in ways that surprised you?
2. What has He provided in this season that you might have overlooked?
3. How does God's provision change your view of His timing?

Leadership Insight: Provision follows obedience.

Leaders who trust God's timing lead from rest—not desperation. Your assignment is to obey. His role is to provide. Never reverse the two.

Journal Prompts:

Reflect on a time when God met a need at just the right moment.

What did that experience reveal about His heart and His faithfulness?

Part 3: One Year Later

Seven Lessons from the Journey

Scripture:

Psalm 37:23 (NLT) —“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Full Teaching from Blog:

May 31, 2025 marked one year since I walked away from a stable, decade-long career in insurance asset management.

I surrendered everything I'd known as an adult and stepped into an open-handed trust that God would lead.

Looking back, not one step was wasted—only refined.

Here are seven truths the journey revealed, plus five spiritual blessings I didn't know I needed:

1. **Money Isn't Everything**
Leaving in the "prime earning years" was financially counterintuitive—especially with incentives to stay until 55. Yet the cost of comfort proved far higher than the risk of stepping out in faith. I learned you can burn the ships and still find unexpected blessings.
2. **Life Isn't Linear**
The "up and to the right" mindset left little room for detours. But advancement isn't always about climbing—it's about shifting direction when God calls. Lateral moves, letting go of prestige, can lead to deeper growth.
3. **Try New Things**
You don't have to leap; sometimes a small step reveals much. Embrace roles where you're a beginner—and you may discover gifts you didn't know you had.
4. **You Don't Need the Whole Map**
Key life transitions—from marriage to career pivots—began without a blueprint. Just a next step. Trust as you go, and God builds the stairway behind you.
5. **Honor People Regardless**
Care for people even when there's no immediate benefit. The reputation you build in small moments often multiplies in surprising ways.
6. **Blessings Arrive Unexpectedly**
From plans to return to grad school, to roles materializing without asking—God's provision showed up in unlikely forms, shortening commutes and blessing family rhythms.
7. **True Leadership Isn't a Title**
Walking away from a title didn't stop me from influencing or caring for others. Influence isn't conferred; it's cultivated—even when you're not in charge.

Five Bonus Lessons for the Faithful:

A. Marketplace = Mission Field

Work isn't merely secular—it's sacred. You can shine Kingdom light in offices and industries, serving God through integrity and love across any domain.

B. God Orchestrates the Steps

Every role, every slight pivot, was intentional. As you pray and fast, trust that God is writing your next chapter—sometimes through discomfort and cross-bearing, always toward godly purpose.

C. Fasting Recalibrates Your Spirit

Fasting has become one of the clearest ways God gets my attention and reorients my direction. It quiets the external and clarifies the internal. In every major transition this year, fasting has been the space where fear gets uprooted and faith gets planted. It's not about proving something to God—it's about posturing yourself to actually hear Him. And when you fast, you don't walk away empty—you walk away aligned.

D. Embrace the Seasons of Stillness

Every shift this past year flowed through a rhythm: first silence, then surrender, then provision. God used the waiting season to do deep work below the surface. Fasting made space, but stillness gave roots. Not every season is about momentum. Some are about being made new. The transitions we walk through often reveal the seasons we rush—but God is found most deeply in the ones we slow down to receive.

E. God Doesn't Just Provide — He Parents

In hindsight, I don't just see provision—I see Fathering. God didn't only open doors; He developed character. He allowed the uncertainty to teach me dependence. He didn't just fund the journey—He fathered me through it. When I look back, I see the hand of a good Father guiding each step—not just for my benefit, but for my becoming.

Why This Really Matters

A year ago, I chose faith over familiarity. Today, I carry the wisdom that God meets our obedience with transformation—not always by changing circumstances, but by reshaping hearts.

If you're standing at a crossroads—wondering, “What now?”—know this: God is already weaving beginnings you can't yet see.

What's Your Turn?

As I step into this next chapter, I'm not bringing a detailed plan—I'm bringing trust. The kind of trust that only grows through pruning, through silence, through the moments when God says "wait" and then whispers "go."

I'm carrying these lessons like stones of remembrance. They remind me that even when I didn't see the full picture, God was writing a good story.

I don't know exactly what's ahead—but I know who leads. And that's more than enough.

Looking Ahead

Have you experienced a leap of faith? A sideways shift that became a blessing? I'd love to walk with you through it.

Next Steps

This journey doesn't end with the last page—it continues in your everyday life, decisions, and leadership.

If this material has stirred something in you, here are some ways to keep growing:

1. Share with Your Community

Whether it's a small group, leadership team, or close friends—this eBook was made to be shared. Walk through the seven stages with others and discover how God speaks differently to each heart.

2. Coaching & Leadership Development

If you're navigating a transition and want personalized support, explore one-on-one coaching options rooted in Biblical leadership principles. Reach out via deeprootedbelievers.com for more.

3. Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook, connect with Scott on LinkedIn, sign up for one of our newsletters, or reach out to share your story. We love hearing how God is using this message to plant something new in your life.

About Deep Rooted Believers



DeepRootedBelievers.com

Deep Rooted Believers exists to help people thrive in every season by staying rooted in Christ.

Whether you're leading in ministry, business, or your own family—we believe your greatest influence flows from your deepest roots.

We create tools, teaching, and community for those who want to grow not just fast—but deep.

Learn more at deeprootedbelievers.com

About the Author

Scott Kline is a seasoned leader, communicator, and faith builder with over 30 years of experience in ministry, business, and leadership development. After stepping away from a career of executive leadership, Scott walked through a personal season of deep transition that became the foundation for this devotional. His heart is to help others become deeply rooted in Christ—even when everything around them feels uncertain.

To connect with Scott on LinkedIn or to learn more about his background and experience, you may visit:

- <https://deeprootedbelievers.com/about>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/klinescott/>



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This resource is intended for spiritual growth, leadership development, and gospel-centered formation.

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