

SIBO - LIFESTYLE

ISSUE NO. 15 JULY 2021

MILDRED BANDA

HELPING PEOPLE
OVERCOME CHALLENGES

Dreams/Vision:

Living from strength with
Joyce Mutangara. Don't let
your environment limit you.

Wellness:

Different ways
God speaks to
us.



Hello Diamonds!

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of *Sibo-Lifestyle Magazine*, where diamonds emerge. We say hello to the second half of the year. Despite everything that's happened so far this year, I'm excited about what this half of the year will bring. I don't know but something's in the air and good things are coming! Believe that with me why don't you? We are another month closer to our dreams coming true.

In this issue we celebrate Mildred Banda, who after being inspired by something that Strive Masiyiwa said, turned her life around when she ventured into farming. When I heard her speak at an event earlier this year, I knew I just had to interview her. She heard something, got inspired and didn't stop there, she took action, something I believe we could all learn from.

The *Living from strength with Joyce Mutangara* section this month looks at the "Discipline" strength and the "Empathy" strength. We also find out why you shouldn't let your environment limit you. If you've ever wondered how God speaks to us, then we have a treat for you in our wellness section.

If you would like to receive a monthly copy of the magazine or contribute to the next issue of the magazine, you will find details on page 33. Comments and suggestions are welcome, using the contact details to the right.

I wasn't joking at the beginning when I said I believe good things are coming. The remainder of this year is one that will be filled with great things. I send you blessings and hope you choose to join me in believing for the best in the coming months.

With love,
Sibo Hlabangana
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

JULY 2021

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SIBO-LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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Dreaming big, having a vision for your life,
continual growth, pursuing success, development

DREAMS AND VISION



Don't let your environment limit you

By Sibö Hlabangana

In a book called "Key to yourself," Venice Bloodworth says: "**Your present conditions are the result of your past thinking. You will be what you are thinking today.**" Read that again. Now consider what you think about yourself and your life. Is it something you'd like to see in your future? If it is, that's great, if not, then maybe you ought to change those thoughts. Your thoughts determine your future. When you realise how powerful thoughts are, it changes your whole perspective.

If I will be what I am thinking today, then my thoughts are going to be of the great things I want to see in my life. Before something can be manifested in your life, you have to see it in your mind first. What you think ends up happening in your life, whether or not you realise it. If what we think is what ends up happening then our thinking has to be in line with what we want to see in our future. Sometimes it's not easy to change beliefs or thoughts you've had for a long time. If things are going to change though, you have to change those thoughts.

It's not easy to change something you've thought for 20, 30 or 50 years but it can be done and if you're going to live the life you dream of, you have to start thinking differently. You might have been told growing up you will never amount to anything, I'm here to tell you that's not true. You might have been told no one will love you; that is a lie. You might have been told you're not good enough, that is the biggest of all lies. What's even worse is if you're the one now telling yourself those negative things.

Let me tell you: You are beautiful, you are lovable, you are worthy of respect and you are great, even if no one sees it yet. In time they will. You need to think it and believe it first. Whether that belief is in yourself or in God, you have to believe. Know what you want, believe it and focus your thinking on it and you will live to see it come to life.

If you've read past editions of the magazine you'll know that I'm a big advocate for having a vision for your life, dreaming big, believing in those dreams and living to one day see those dreams come to life. If you didn't know that, now you know lol. I believe that it is possible to create your ideal life and get to a point where you achieve that life. I truly believe it's possible, no matter where you come from or what your current circumstances say.

Some of you might be reading this and thinking, "But I don't even have a cent to my name, where do I even begin?" You might be saying "I'm in Africa, it's not the same for me here as it would be for someone in the USA." You might be thinking "I have no access to this or that." You might be saying "but I don't have a certain qualification."



What did I say earlier? It all begins in your mind, with how you perceive things. You don't need money to change your mind-set. You don't need resources to change your thinking. What you think and what you believe will determine what happens in your life in the long run. God's resources are limitless, which means you can prosper right where you are. You may end up moving if that's your wish, but if you start to work on your life now, following your dreams and believing that it has already happened, you will start to see change right from where you are.



DREAM
BIG

There are so many people that started with nothing or were in an environment that made it seem impossible to get out of or to prosper from. They defied the odds though and have gone on to do great things. Look at someone like Trevor Noah, he was born in apartheid South Africa but has gone on to be the host of The Daily Show, a much-coveted position. Who could have imagined that it would ever be held by an African, let alone such a young one. As a result of that show and many other things Trevor has done since, he's now a multi-millionaire. His story should tell you that anything is possible, no matter what environment you're coming from.

Not that I'm anywhere near what Trevor Noah has achieved but I am in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe right now and what am I doing? Writing for a magazine I started! I've written and published 5 books. I don't know how many people will ever read the magazine or the books. I'm hoping many, but it could be ten or a hundred, and yet I'm doing it anyway. I always saw writing books as something to do when I've achieved certain things in my life and be well known, but nope, I'm doing it right now with no credentials except that I'm pursuing my dreams and living with passion and purpose. Am I scared nothing will come of all I do? Yes I am but I'm doing it anyway, believing that one day I will get to live my dream life.

You have to allow yourself to dream big, to believe it's possible for you to live in your dreams, no matter how unlikely they seem at the moment. No matter what your environment says about your future, pursue those seemingly impossible dreams. See yourself owning the property you want to own, running the successful business you dream of, attaining that qualification, driving that car, living in the city of your choice, making money from doing what you love, having the family you dream of or anything else that you dream of. Do it right from where you are.





Living from strength with Joyce Mutangara – Discipline and Empathy

This is part of a series of articles on different strengths that we as individuals have. For more on other strengths, you can see previous issues of the magazine.

Everyone is born with talents. Talents are our natural way of thinking, feeling and behaving that can be productively applied. When we invest and develop our talents, they then become strengths. A strength is the ability to consistently do an activity to near perfection. It is about the WAY we achieve success, and all of us have a 'way.'

There is an assessment called Strengths Finder, and it takes about 45 minutes to do online, answering various questions. Once you are done, it then sends you a strength report. There are 34 strengths in total and the assessment calculates your most dominant strengths from number 1 to number 34 in sequence of their dominance. You choose whether you want the report of your full 34 or just your dominant first 5 strengths.

In this issue we are going to look at the strengths of DISCIPLINE and EMPATHY.



DISCIPLINE

“Your world needs to be predictable. It needs to be ordered and planned. So you instinctively impose structure on your world. You set up routines. You focus on timelines and deadlines. You break long-term projects into a series of specific short-term plans, and you work through each plan diligently. Faced with the inherent messiness of life, you want to feel in control. You must understand that not everyone feels your urge for predictability, they have other ways of getting things done. Likewise, you can help them understand and even appreciate your need for structure. Your dislike of surprises, your impatience with errors, your routines, and your detail orientation don’t need to be misinterpreted as controlling behaviours that box people in. Rather, these behaviours can be understood as your instinctive method for maintaining your progress and your productivity in the face of life’s many distractions.” *Tom Rath, StrengthsFinder 2.0.*

Our accountant Taku has Discipline in his top 5. He is very organised and plans his work meticulously. You would have to work very hard to change his plans, so you’ll have to have extremely convincing reasons to do so. Do not attempt to have a meeting with him without an agenda. Winging it is highly frowned upon by him, because you should have planned beforehand. After all, how can anything be implemented without a plan?

He is very responsible with money, and a great adviser to those looking to save and make the money last longer. He quickly recognises distractions and unnecessary rabbit holes. He gives his family security through predictability. Everything should be in its place. Where there is order, there is effective productivity. Progress is then easy to gauge and monitor, in a transparent and reliable manner. He brings stability, confidence and accountability to the team.

Now let’s look at the strength of **Empathy**.



EMPATHY

EMPATHY

“You can sense the emotions of those around you. You can feel what they are feeling as though their feelings are your own. Intuitively, you are able to see the world through their eyes and share their perspective. You do not necessarily agree with each person’s perspective or feel pity for each person’s predicament – this would be sympathy, not Empathy. You do not necessarily condone the choices each person makes, but you do understand. This instinctive ability to understand is powerful. You hear the unvoiced questions. You anticipate the need. Where others grapple for words, you seem to find the right phrase to express their feelings – to themselves as well as to others. You help them give voice to their emotional life. For all these reasons other people are drawn to you.” *Tom Rath, StrengthsFinder 2.0.*

Faith is a colleague who has Empathy in her top 5. She is a shop manager in the Central Business District. Empathy is her ability to anticipate the actions and responses of her employees and customers because she can put herself in their shoes. This allows her to act in anticipation to how the people would probably react, and she is seldom wrong. Both her customers and employees feel understood and valued by her. Her team loves working with her.

This also helps her position people with the right roles and responsibilities, with the ability to be able to diagnose where relational issues may arise. She is a great mediator, able to see both view points, and help others take cognisance of the different views as well. Her people smartness gives her wisdom on how to speak and address people of varying backgrounds. This is highly valuable in her work environment, where she is constantly addressing customers, suppliers and colleagues, in a thriving and busy agricultural shop.

In the next Issue, we will look at the strengths of **Focus and Futuristic**.



DIAMOND OF THE MONTH



**Helping people overcome challenges – An interview with
Mildred Banda**

By Sibho Hlabangana



In each issue of Sibolifestyle Magazine, we celebrate individuals that dream big, pursue their dreams and are pursuing success on their own terms. I'd like us to learn from them, to see how like us they are or how they differ from us. For us to see what we can do differently or continue to do to pursue our own dreams and success. This month we get the front row sit into the life of Mildred Banda.

A Psychological Counsellor by profession, Mildred Banda never dreamed she would find herself venturing into farming. Inspired by a story shared by Strive Masiyiwa, her life took a turn when she found herself taking up farming and finding joy in it. I asked to interview Mildred after I saw her speak about her story at an event I

attended because I felt it was one worth sharing. Many of us read something or are inspired by something but we go home and do nothing about it. She was inspired by something and acted and her actions changed her life for the better. It is my hope that her story will show you that you can do it too. That you can read something or hear or watch something and go out there and do your own version of that. Let's get comfortable and see where Mildred's life takes us.

Where are you from and where do you currently live?

I am Zimbabwean, born and bred in Bulawayo. I have been married to my husband Lawrence for 22 years and have two children aged 22 and 19.

Tell us about your childhood. What was life like for you growing up?

I had a good childhood. I was raised by my grandmother who taught me a lot about life. One lesson is only just coming alive now after her passing, the passion to farm. I am a third child in a family of 7 children but I grew up with my grandmother and not my parents where I was then an only child. Because my grandmother did not have a girl child after having my four uncles, I was then 'given' to her and every time my parents wanted me to visit them they would ask for permission from my grandmother and this was only occasional. For that reason, I had a spoilt childhood in town unlike my other siblings who experienced rural life every school holiday.

**Growing up, did you imagine you would do the things you've been able to do in your life?**

My grandmother was a go getter (rest in peace Gogo) in her own terms and ways. While I have not achieved so much in life which may have been due to living a closed life setup without too much interaction from the outside world and being an only girl child, my uncles never shared much with me in terms of encouragement and life perspectives maybe because I was a girl or maybe because they didn't know how. No one really pushed or led me in a certain direction. When I said I wanted to be a Secretary, they just accepted. The things that I learnt to do I figured as the years went by. I developed an interest in farming which was my worst nightmare while growing up. My number one support is from my son who is in his twenties. God bless his farming endeavours.

What are you currently working on?

I work for a local NGO in development work. I am also a farmer.

What made you decide to get into farming?

While farming has been there since time immemorial, I had never thought to venture into farming. I was motivated by a story by Strive Masiyiwa that trended on social media that said ‘to start a business one does not need much.’ He encouraged sweet potato farming and said that the one thing that you need is sweet potato tails and land preparation and you are good to go. I took it up and it has paid off. Maybe it could be age too. Growing up with my grandmother, she would go and farm pieces of land but I was never interested in helping out until one day Strive ‘spoke’ and I heard him and took the first step.



How did you become a Psychological Counsellor?

I studied Psychological Counselling with UNISA and also did some short courses with Contact Counselling. I think my introvert nature helped the process because I am not too loud and can keep things to myself and people are assured of confidentiality.

What did you do before what you're doing now?

Before going into farming I sold multiple items, such as clothes, shoes, bed linen and even chocolates. I continue to do so because I believe in having many streams of income.

What do you enjoy about running your own business or working on your own venture/projects?

They bring satisfaction that it can be done. You can work quietly, getting all dirty and people think what the hell is she up to and bang, harvest time comes and it is unbelievable.



What have you found to be difficult or challenging in running your own business, venture or project?

I rent space and while I may want to be on the farm on a Saturday, I cannot because my lessor attends church on Saturdays and does not work on that day so it somehow presents a challenge. Hopefully with enough proceeds from the farm I will be able to secure my own piece of land.

How has COVID-19 affected what you do and what have you learned as a result?

It was difficult traveling with other helping hands to the farm because at the roadblocks they wanted letters to be able to travel so you would have to be on the farm on your own which can be lonely.

If someone wanted to start their own business or project, what insights would you give them?

Start NOW. There is never an opportune time. With that little, just start. Don't be afraid to make mistakes but learn from them. Remember to be disciplined and to never give up on your dream. Develop yourself by reading the right books and continually sharpen your skills. Also enjoy the process. Take time off if you have to, to regroup and rethink.

So far, what are you most proud of achieving in your life?

Its things that I attained late in my life. I hold a BA in Health Sciences and Social Services. While degrees are everywhere this is not so common in my family. My other brother with a



degree qualified well in his 40s. There was never an encouragement to study from my family. I think now it's important to give children direction even if it's not their intended course they may change later in life but it's important to foster that zeal to be something in life.

Do you have dreams, goals or a vision for your life?

Farming is my dream. A 10 hectare farm or bigger with irrigation pipes for all round farming and a greenhouse which would ensure high yields.

Have you recorded the above in any way? If yes, how?

I have a vision board which I was able to put up with the help of one of my long-time friends Nomalanga Ncube who is an entrepreneur in her own right and more grounded. The board is still evolving.

Have any of your dreams or goals come true or been achieved?

I have started, the vision board is evolving; so it's still a journey. Even when you help people to find peace and heal, you heal in the process which I prefer to call 'journeying together.'

What drives you in life? What keeps you going?

I have seen other women make it as farmers and I believe if they can do it so can I. I read somewhere of Maria Zilani Zaloumis, a Zambian farmer whose net worth is believed to be over US\$2 million. She started with half a hectare of tomatoes and has expanded to over 13 hectares. She inspires me.

What does success look like for you?

Owning a viable business and getting noticed in your industry of choice that you are doing something good for yourself and people around you. I believe success is not in the amount of money you make but in the difference you make in people's lives by creating job opportunities and in the process enjoying your journey.

Have you ever failed at something or not achieved what you hoped for or been disappointed after not being chosen for something? If yes, what happened and how did you handle the situation? What kept you going?

I failed at school. I see a lot of people holding high positions in the workplace, positions that I am not suited for because of lack of qualifications. I believe when opportunity meets qualifications one can rise up the position ladder. So even in farming one needs contacts and networks and mentors that can teach you the ropes because there are people who have walked that road before you. If you can't meet them in person, research and read



about them. In essence we learn from our setbacks by not dwelling on the past. A lot of people coming from very poor backgrounds have succeeded mainly by looking ahead and not behind.



What places have you travelled to?

I am not well travelled. I've only been to South Africa and Botswana apart from Zimbabwe. But within Zimbabwe, I have been in all Mat North, Mat South districts, Harare, Mash East, Gweru, Mutare, Chinhoyi, Masvingo and Marondera.

What did you love about the places you've travelled to?

I loved the people that I

interacted with. Despite the tribal barrier we are just 'one people.' We all want the best for ourselves. Our yearning for good is in each one of us.

What have you learned from your travel experiences?

I was able to make contact with people and influence their lives in some way. Finding your way in a strange land means you are an overcomer. It boosts your confidence and freedom levels

What has been your most enriching travel experience and why?

The latest travel to Harare where I was training on the power within, people just poured out their experiences. The world is hurting out there and doesn't know how to proceed. People need help. It was a wakeup call to say get up and help people struggling with issues. Do something for their restoration and because you can see this, you can do something about it.

Are you in any way or form taking care of or feeding your mind, spirit, body and soul? If yes, how are you doing that?

I read books, inspired by Noma Ncube. I also meditate on the scriptures from the Bible and participate in different social activities, like attending art festivals etc.

How do you show yourself love, if you do that?

Self-care is important. I reward myself or treat myself as worthy. If I cannot drive on my travels, I use coaches, never public transport. It makes you feel great.

Do you have a morning routine? If yes, what does it look like?

I adopted this from my friend Noma Ncube. She always insisted I have a morning routine as part of coaching. She emphasised that to be successful one has to be mindful of how they spend their time and ensure all aspects of one's life is taken care of otherwise the one you neglect will one day lead to your death or downfall. So I have maintained a 30 minute Bible study and a 15 minute exercise. It may not be much but I am glad I am on it.

Do you have any people you consider role models? If yes please name 3.

Strive Masiyiwa is number one. He has broken barriers and continues amid challenges, whether personal and external.

Jonah Nyoni. He introduced me to radio. I did some sessions with him on radio. He gave me the confidence to share information. But one thing he didn't do was to repeat a session. He would say 'go on' even at times when I felt we should start the session all over again. This taught me to believe in myself more.



Nomalanga Ncube. She has been my number one encourager. She is a care free individual who loves to learn and even travelled to South Africa to hear Robert Kiyosaki speak. What I take from that is that you need to step out of your comfort zone to get ahead in life.



What 3 books have played a role in your personal development and growth?

Battlefield of the mind by Joyce Meyer which worked at improving my thought patterns.

Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki which provided positive lessons on money.

As a man thinketh by James Allen which emphasized the power and application of thought.

For someone at the beginning of pursuing their dreams, what book would you suggest they start with?

Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki because it presents success as being in the mind. The things we see are manifestations of the wealth of the mind.

If you were to be well known for something, what would you want it to be? Or how would you want to be remembered at the end of your life?

I think in my veins flows the spirit to help people overcome challenges. I would like to be remembered for touching lives. Touching lives with farm produce and touching lives by attending to the cracks in people's lives that some prefer to leave as they are. While some believe leaders are born others believe they are made. I believe that destinies are made by pursuing what interests you. Taking that first step makes all the difference.

What life lessons or thoughts would you like to leave the reader with?

Everyone can be a success in life. Start, visualise, don't quit until you arrive. In the process enjoy the journey because it is what gives more satisfaction than the final destination itself.

How can readers support you or your work if they would like to do that?

I am reachable on Facebook as mildredbanda and on Instagram as mildredbanda3. My email address is mid98ban@yahoo.com.





**TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF**

Taking care of spirit, mind,
body and soul

WELLNESS



Different ways God speaks to us

This is an excerpt from my latest book "Listening with your eyes: Trusting a God who speaks to us."

A few years ago, if somebody had shared with me what I'm about to share with you I would have called them crazy and out there. As I learn and discover things, I love sharing so that we can learn together and you can discover more for yourself. What you might have been writing off as just a dream or mere coincidence, may actually be a way God is using to speak to you. Before I continue, let me mention here that you hear God better if you

have a relationship with Him. The closer you are to God, the better it is to not only hear but understand what He is saying to you, be it through the word, dreams, visions or any other way.

For each way that God speaks to us that I mention here, I will include scriptural references so you know I'm not just telling you my own thoughts. Scripture is filled with God speaking to His people in many different ways. It's also full of parts where different ways that God communicates with us are mentioned. I'm going to refer to some of those places here. I will

follow that up with instances where God has spoken to me through the way I'm talking about, if God has spoken to me in that manner.



I'm going to use examples from my life to give you an idea of what it looks like for me. I also want you to see that I'm not just speaking according to what I've read or been taught but from experience because you can experience it too if you haven't done so. Or even better still, that you may be able to look back and say "oh God was talking to me that time and I didn't realise it but now I know." This will in turn make you more attuned to hearing God when He next speaks to you.

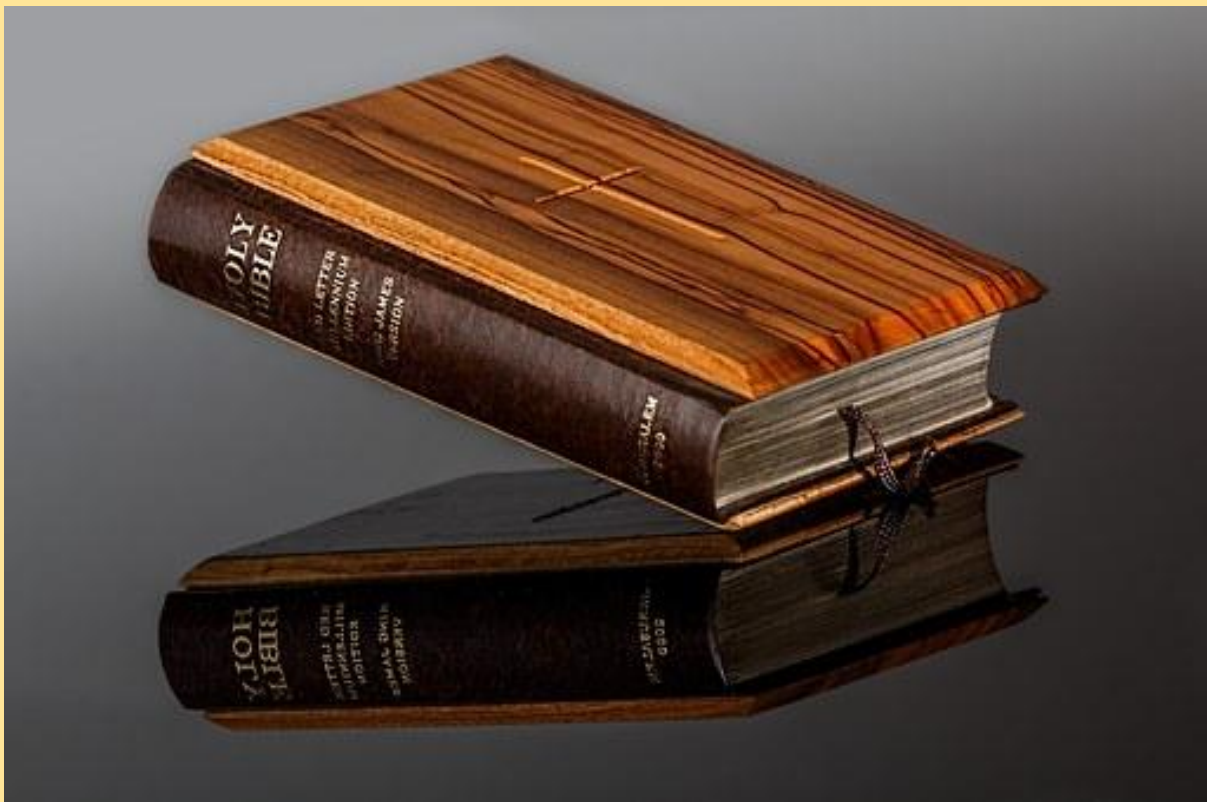
I also hope you'll see from the examples that God speaking to us is not just something reserved for prophets or special people. That's what I used to think. I didn't think the same could happen to me. I remember asking God to reveal something to my mother in a dream because sometimes she'll dream of something and it happens. God instead revealed it to me. God is awesome like that. He still uses prophets to send messages to individuals and the body of Christ at large and even to non-believers, but as individuals, God still speaks to us.

I'm still learning and yet God chooses to show up in the middle of that. Another reason is that when I watch other people talk about something I'm unfamiliar with relating to God, I start to have a hunger and thirst for it. God quenches that thirst. What I'm finding exciting is how bit by bit God will keep revealing different ways to interpret what He showed me. One dream and it can have so many facets to it.

For the purposes of this article, I'll talk about how God speaks to us through the word of God and through coincidence or repetition. In the book however, I discuss how God communicates with us through:

1. **The word of God – the Bible**
2. **Coincidence or repetition**
3. Other people
4. Visions
5. Prophecy and Words of knowledge
6. Dreams
7. The Holy Spirit
8. The audible or internal audible voice of God
9. Signs and wonders
10. Angelic visitation

1. The word of God - The Bible



The Bible is one way that God speaks to us, His people. It is the predominant way He does so. If you ask God a question or would like to learn more about something, the Bible is where you'll likely find it. 2 Timothy 3 verses 16-17 say:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

You can't know how to live your life in a manner that is pleasing to God without reading the Bible. It is one way you'll find words God will speak to you through by highlighting them specifically for you, in a manner that will minister to you. Matthew 24 verse 35 says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." The word of God is forever.

God has spoken to me in many ways but the Bible has been the most frequent way. The example I like to use is the one I'm about to give because it took place over one day and showed me how much God loves us.

One day, during the day, whilst at work, I wondered if God could ever love me the way He loved David. I wondered this because from my reading of the Bible I've found that God loved David. They had the kind of relationship that I want to have with God. That same evening, I opened my Bible to read from the book of Ephesians because that's the book I was reading from that week. I ended up at Isaiah 55 instead. I thought to myself, let me read that first and then I can go to Ephesians. As I was reading Isaiah 55, I got to verse 3 and found this:

"Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."



Normally I will ask God a question but in this case all I had done was just wonder about it and God saw it fit to give an answer to a question I never even asked, the same day that I didn't ask the question! I mean how amazing is God? I love knowing that I serve a Father who loves me that much. Now, not only do I know that God loves me and you the way He loved David but that He is forever in our thoughts and cares about what we care about.



2. Coincidence or repetition

One way God gives us some form of message is through coincidence or repetition. Let me begin by saying not all coincidence or repetition is from God but they are one way God has used to speak to me numerous times. I believe God uses this way because we won't have heard Him the first time so He needs to repeat Himself until we hear and understand what He is saying. At least that's what He does with me. It's also a way that He confirms what He would have told us. Confirmation is necessary because it's easy to doubt whether or not you've heard from God.

In the book of Deuteronomy, as Joshua is set to succeed Moses, him having courage and strength seems to be a big deal. In Deuteronomy 31 verses 7-8, at God's command, Moses says to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Later in verse 23, God Himself says to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

Then after the death of Moses, In Joshua 1 verses 6-7, God says to Joshua:

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."

From the repetition of God telling Joshua to be strong and courageous, we can see here that it is something that it was vital for him to do. God emphasized it so that Joshua would take it seriously. In the same way, when God speaks to us, He will sometimes repeat Himself until He is sure we have understood what He is saying. He will also do it as a way for us to know it's Him speaking to us and to confirm what He has already told us.

The example I'm going to give here is how God revealed to me the purpose for my life through repetition that may have appeared as mere coincidence, had I not known that God sometimes uses repetition to speak to us. Whilst reading the book "In a pit with a lion on a snowy day" by Mark Batterson, he suggested that we should ask God what we should do with our lives. I had never thought to ask that. I asked God what I should do with my life. Within days of asking that, I kept seeing this verse everywhere, Ephesians 2 verse 10 which says:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

I must have seen it 3 or 4 times in less than 48 hours. I knew God was telling me something, but I wasn't sure what exactly. Then the next morning, even though I was reading a different book of the Bible, I



felt compelled to read a chapter from another book of the Bible. I read it. That day, I watched two separate sermons, and they all preached about the part I had read that morning. I knew God was telling me something but I had an event to attend that evening, so I didn't get a chance to dwell on it too much.

The next day, I watched a sermon where the preacher preached on this same part of the Bible. In less than 48 hours, I had read this part of the Bible and watched 3 different preachers preach on it. I sat down and asked God to reveal to me what exactly He was saying. When He did, I realised it was the answer to my question of what I should do with my life. When I saw how big a task it was, I freaked out.

I started hyperventilating and crying. It felt like I was having a panic attack. Then from nowhere Ephesians 2 verse 10 came to my mind, the verse I had kept seeing a few days

before. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

I said that verse to myself over and over until I calmed down because that verse made me see that God has already prepared it all, I just have to walk in it. This means God knew that when I found out what I was meant to do, I would freak out and had me memorize that verse before I needed it. God doesn’t leave anything to chance.

Because I asked God, now I know the purpose for my life. The sense of peace this has brought me is indescribable. It’s filtering into all areas of my life. I’m so grateful to Mark Batterson for writing this book, and to God for letting me read it when I did. If you don’t know the purpose for your life, ask God. Ask Him what He’d like you to do with your life. If you will seek Him and take the time to listen, I believe He will answer you.

I hope the above has shown you, not only that God still speaks to us today, but that He can and will speak to you if you’re open to it, if He isn’t already speaking to you. If you haven’t heard from God in the ways I’ve mentioned here and you’d like to, ask God to speak to you in that way. That’s what I did and now I hear from God so many times I couldn’t count if I tried. That lets me know God loves us enough to want to be in constant communication with us, His children.

This was an excerpt from my latest book “Listening with your eyes: Trusting a God who speaks to us.” You can get a copy on [Amazon](#).



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Share with and hear from others as you navigate your spiritual walk with Christ. Visit Hosea Women International at hoseawomen.com.



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