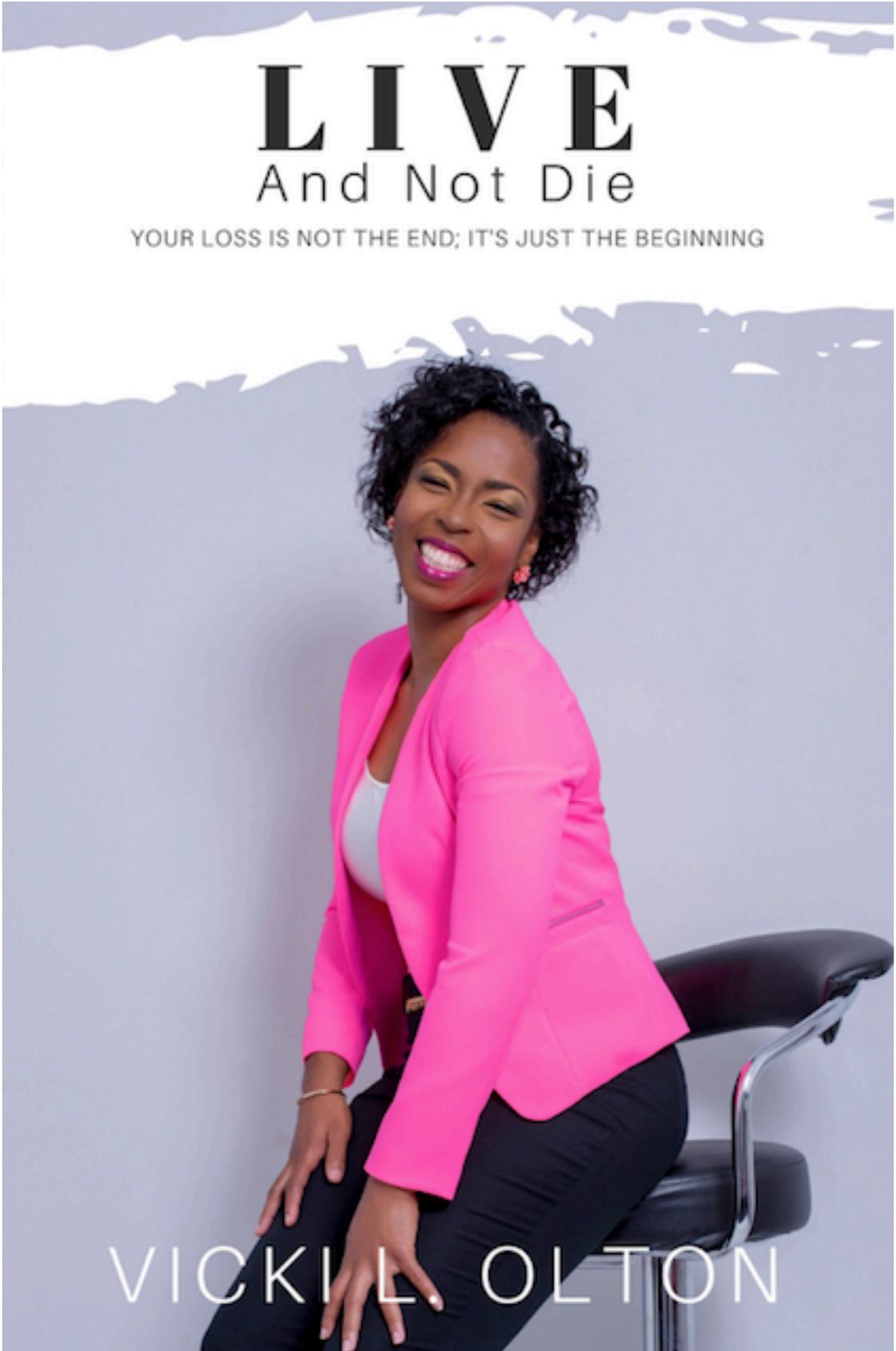


LIVE

And Not Die

YOUR LOSS IS NOT THE END; IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING



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Adapted from LIVE And Not Die: YOUR LOSS IS NOT THE END, IT'S JUST YOUR BEGINNING

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Every journey will be different but whatever storm you experience in life here are some words of encouragement to help you overcome and be the person that God originally created you to be.

1. Don't miss out on salvation.

If you do not know Christ, after reading this book I am convinced that you now have a desire to know Him. All you have to do now is to make the decision to give Him permission to be your Lord and Savior and as you ask Him, He will do it.

To help you with committing all to God, just read the sinner's prayer:

Father in the name of Jesus I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that You are Lord and Savior. I recognize that I need You in my life because You are the giver of life, You can give me a new life and a new start. Cleanse me of any unbelief. Come into my heart and take control of every area of my life. I repent for all the sins that I have committed and all the wrongs that I have done in thought, word and deed. Today is the day that I make the decision to walk away from the life that You don't want for me and into a new life with you. Father I need your help in every area of my life because I recognize that without You I am nothing nor can I do or be anything without You. Father I thank You for accepting me into Your kingdom, as I commit my life into Your hands, in the Mighty Name of Jesus,

AMEN!

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance (Luke 15:4-7)

All God wants is for us to come back to Him as our Creator and Father and pursue Him for the relief from the storm. For we are the sheep of His pasture. He said He is the Shepherd and we shall not want (Psalm 23), but His one request is for us like the prodigal son if we have been enticed by the world to come running back to Him. And because He is such a forgiving God who extends mercy to His children He will accept us with open arms.

The Bible outlined the actions of the prodigal son's father, which are similar to way Jesus treats us, His children:

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:21-24)

The Prodigal Son acknowledged that he had sinned and that is the same thing that God requires us to do; admit that we have sinned, come to Him out of our dark lives and be rescued.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (Romans 3: 23-25)

All we need to do is run into the arms of God, believe in who God says that He is and pursue Him. He wants us to confess our sins and accept the new life that removes all the burdens and heavy weights off our shoulders.

2. Find Someone to Talk to.

Find a Pastor or another Christian to talk to. Don't go through any storm alone. This person will be able to pray you through the situation and offer sound counsel.

3. Never underestimate what God will allow in your life.

God will allow some dreadful situations to place you on the right road towards success and purpose. Consider Joseph who was sold into slavery by His brothers and later became the governor of the same land into which he was sold.

God will allow them to remove you out of some situations and relationships that without you knowing may cost your life. He may

sometimes allow death, but because He has fashioned you, He knows that you are strong enough to handle it. Even if you are not strong enough at the time, He will send someone to help you cope and by whose words you will be strengthened. You will not die but some things in your life will have to die so that you will walk into the true life of God. The loss may just be the beginning of the greatness that He has created you for.

4. Your hurts and pains of yesterday can be used a stepping-stone.

That is just what I did.

You have purpose and no matter what you go through, you do not have to stay down and depressed. God has allowed you to experience what you have experienced for a greater purpose and the advancement of His Kingdom. That purpose can only be pulled out of you when you give your all to God and when you realize that you belong to Him. He first wants to lift you out of your storm and give you comfort so you can be healed. Then He will walk you into your true purpose over time.

***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire,
wanting nothing. (James 1:2-4)***

It is not meant to kill you. It is just meant to make you stronger.

5. God's desire is for you to walk in purpose.

Not only did God create and wants us to know that He is our Shepherd. He wants us to also recognize that He has a great plan for us. In Jeremiah 29:11 He told Jeremiah that He had plans for him way before he was in his mother's womb.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)

6. Your storm is not the end.

Your storm is just the beginning of your purpose. I will never dismiss the pain of your loss or your storm, but I do not want you to stay there for years on years. I, and most importantly, God wants you to overcome because His desire is for you to be made whole.

God used so many in the Bible to help or bring others to deliverance. He also uses people to influence a specific change in their lives so that they can move to the next level of their purpose. What God did was place prophets and prophetesses in my way on every step of my journey, not knowing that He was also placing me on a training ground to understand the prophetic and the revelation of the prophetic gift that He had placed in me before I was in my mother's womb.

Before you were born there was a great calling placed on your life. God is not a God of second thoughts, He does it right the first time. He created us

for a purpose. Having been born into sin we quickly adapt to sin, but there comes a time in life that God reins us in to walk out the purpose that He created us for. Sometimes that purpose starts with some unbearable and unexpected pain, like loss as He did with me. Because of the great call on your life sometimes God has to allow certain things that you might become who you were fashioned to be from the beginning of time. There is someone out there that is waiting on you for their victory and the discovery of their purpose.

It will not look this way in the beginning. Purpose was surely not my focus in the beginning. Writing to encourage and teach you was not on my agenda. I was hurting after my dream of having a child was destroyed. My expectations were erased without consulting me, but the great call on my life meant more to God than what I had lost. He had already made a decision that He would keep His promise of never leaving me and always protecting me.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

God knows that we will go through hard times, but His job is to lift every heavy load off of us. His job is to prevent us from drowning when the rainstorm rages high and to prevent us from being burnt when the fire blazes.

The Word of God says:

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:2)

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. (Isaiah 43:2 – NLT)

Storms never come to kill you but to strengthen you and prepare you for purpose.

7. Seek to live the Scriptures and not just know them.

When we trust God, we make a conscious decision to turn over everything to Him. In the midst of the storm when we want to believe that all is not well, it is our trust in the Lord that gives us the hope to go on. We cannot trust in man and ourselves because of our sinful imperfections, but we can put our full trust in God.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

8. Life in Christ is not about religion, but obedience.

Your journey with Christ must focus on having the kingdom of God as the #1 priority. This will require you to move away from some traditions and let go some religious mindsets so that He can set you apart for who He has fashioned you to be before you were birthed in your mother's womb. God wanted me to learn and experience the power of His Holy Spirit so He simply had to move me to the place where He could do this.

9. The walk towards purpose may also include you walking away from the familiar.

This may even include breaking up some relationships that God has not ordained for you. There will be pain, there will be a sour taste in your mouth; it will be unbearable but with God, all things are possible. Keep purpose as the main focus in your life. He will cause you to conquer.

10. God wants you to receive the benefits of His Holy Spirit.

The role of the Holy Spirit as I outlined before is to lead us into all truth, to be a Counselor to us and to help us as we go through our storms. When we accept Christ, we give Him an invitation to allow His Holy Spirit to come into our lives and begin to work. When this happens, you will have a new experience of the Holy Spirit working on your behalf and transforming your life day-by-day.

11. Jesus surely wants to heal and deliver you.

Jesus went about healing the sick and casting devils out of the demon-possessed, oppressed, suppressed etc. He wants to do the same for you. There are sicknesses, attitudes, situations and circumstances that are in your life because of demonic spirits. Do not be ashamed. They are all fallen angels sent by Satan to hinder God's people but once we come to an educated position of understanding what is happening in our lives, we can pursue God for deliverance and He will deliver you. Life and life more abundantly awaits you in Jesus.

12. You are called to be a true worshiper in spirit and in truth.

Pursue what it means to be a true worshiper and walk in this reality. True worship is not singing and lifting hands. These are all acts of worship but the true worshiper according to John 4 is a lifestyle; a lifestyle where you are constantly operating in the Spirit of God and in the truth of God. In other words, worship as a lifestyle involves:

- Acknowledging that Jesus is Lord.
- Walking in His ways through the Word of God.
- Living the Word of God and responding to God's Word in obedience.
- Developing a relationship with Him, so that through the Holy Spirit you are guided everyday by Him in order to live a life that reflects the total will of God. Through relationship we develop a love for God and the things of God so that all our ways reflect Him and a deep desire to do and be all that He calls us takes over.
- Allowing your total actions and ways to reflect Jesus.

- Engaging in corporate worship and performing acts of worship (of course). We cannot forget going into the house of the Lord or even when we are alone to lift our hands to God in worship, sing to Him, dance before Him, kneel before Him and all the other acts of our love towards Him.

13. Abortion Is Not the Answer: God is a Way-Maker.

No matter how hard it may seem, God is a Way-Maker. God will make a way where there seems to be no way. God will go before you, He is the One that created you and will protect you.

Know this:

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. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

You may be fearful and thinking that those around you will not be pleased. You may be fearful and beginning to feel ashamed at the thought of what you believe your parents will say. Obey God and do not give up. Do not turn to abortion. God has already gone before you and made a way. God wants you to know that

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

What may seem impossible to you and others around you, God is able to make possible. He will provide for you.

If there is someone urging you to have an abortion **DO NOT DO IT!** Perhaps that person should not be in your space because God is a God of life and not of death. If you do it, the enemy will use this opportunity to bring shame in your life. He will bring depression, hate and resentment into your emotions and it will be harder than you expect. God loves little children. Hold on, believe and do not turn to abortion. God has a purpose for you and your unborn child.

Say NO to Abortion and allow your child to **Live and Not Die.**

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