



OUR BEGINNINGS INC.

UNIQUE IN CHARACTER AND DIVERSE IN PURPOSE

Winter Edition Newsletter

'Choices and Consequences'

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There is great power in truth. There is great power in authenticity. It can be comforting for a while to overlook or deny who you truly are, in order to go along with the crowd. Yet it is a false comfort that never does last. There is no person you can pretend to be who is as powerful and effective as the person you really are. No identity you might try to manufacture will ever work as well as the identity that has always been a part of you. With authenticity, no effort is needed to maintain your sense of self. It flows easily and naturally through everything you do, freeing you and enabling you to live life fully. You are real and you are unique and you are of great value. It is in your best interest to mine the magnificent treasure of the authentic you. Do not merely go along with life. Be authentic, and you will make it great.

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Dear Friends:

The United States of America is facing one of the greatest economical challenges since the historical era of the Great Depression. Americans are now faced with the consequences of the choices made by our presidents, governments, congressional leaders, senators, community leaders and last but not least individual choices.

We have become so desperate that our choices are leading to a greater level of despair in our country, economy, communities, families, relationships, careers, and businesses and even for ourselves. *Unfortunately, we want what we want, when we want it by any means necessary.* Unfavorable life consequences usually result from lack of wise counsel, knowledge and understanding or simply from the bad seeds (choices) in life. No one is willing to patiently prepare, plan and exercise good judgment. Remember the quote, "**Good things come to those that wait**". Today we are allowing the pressures and anxieties of life to contribute to our very own problems.

Isn't it amazing how society defines truth derived from a culture that produces uncertainty? Contrary to popular belief, people often have no clue of what type of truth they are searching for. The **TRUTH** is some of us have not yet tapped into P.U.R.P.O.S.E. This usually results into individuals violently and discreetly victimizing others of their underlying issues to the extent in which one inevitably becomes **S.T.U.C.K** (*Subject To the Underlying Conditions of the Kettles*) in life. Let's address some of the contributing factors of a personal meltdown or the examples of people being trapped in the different phases of life. There are people that are stuck in the past, stuck in unfruitful relationships, stuck in habitual cycles of brokenness and poverty, stuck in fear, stuck in a limited mindset as an effort to escape the reality of the fullness of life. Unfortunately, the world is currently **S.T.U.C.K** in a financial decline as an economy that appeared to be progressing ultimately declares the truth of a *global recession*.

The truth is people; economical and governmental systems will fail and disappoint you. The truth is the 'grass displayed on the TV commercial was **NEVER** green but it was always a figment of your imagination appearing to be real'. We are in a season that challenges us to distinguish between what is TRUE and what is of the TRUTH. The question is "Are we in a position to handle the truth?" In laymen's term, "**That which is real will stand during times of despair but that which is not will crumble.**" Our lives are like icebergs. Only 15% is visible; that's our reputation'. The rest, our character, is hidden deep below the waterline. Character means acting the same, no matter who's watching. It's how we react to everyday obstacles or temptations. Society has become so corrupt in its decision making that we are calling good choices, bad and bad choices, good.

Why? We just **settle** for anything or anyone. It has been scientifically proven that if a good apple is placed into a basket with a bad apple, the bacteria from the bad apple becomes so contagious, that it subsequently rotten the good apple. In other words, bad company (morals) corrupts good behavior (values). Ever notice that some people always blame other people for their circumstances when something goes wrong? That's a sure sign that they've got a lot of learning to do in the character department. And what do you do if that's you - if 'blame' is your middle name? Well for a start, please stop blaming. We can no more blame our lack of character on our circumstances than we can blame the mirror for reflecting what it truly sees - *YOU!* The ultimate plan for our lives is a new beginning. For some, a new beginning is the birthing experience of lessons learned and for others it is a life - long journey. However, the evidence of the Golden Rule clearly supports that what goes around unpredictably comes around. The fate of when it will happen lies in the hands of our Creator. Seeds reproduce after its own kind, including character seeds that will eventually produce the choices and consequences of our past, present and future. So today, the choice is ours. Let us continuously acquire knowledge, learn to make wise choices and live a life of fulfillment and purpose!

Journaling Assignment:

1. Choose to change for you and no one else. You have the choice to *change and live* or choose **NOT** to *change and die* without trying!
2. Every time you make a bad decision be willing to take another step forward in learning how to make wiser choices.
3. Take a minute now and jot down the times when your character did not positively align up with your actions.
4. What problem areas do you foresee in your decision-making process?
5. Write down how you plan to make a significant difference in life.

--- Arnell Barley – President and Founder