

Why I Write...

A moment I will never forget...

As I reflect on 2022 and all the meaningful moments therein, it is hard to pick a single highlight that stands above the rest. This past year has been a blessing in so many ways, starting with the opportunity to share these messages with you, the reader.

I don't take this opportunity lightly, recognizing that my teaching approach shared through these messages might imply I have it all figured out. But let me set the record straight. **I am far from perfect, and I fail regularly at my goal to live life intentionally.** We are on the same journey together, attempting to be all God has called us to be.

With that in mind, weekly, I share with you what God places on my heart, and am grateful you choose to listen. Writing has long been a hobby of mine, but it wasn't until a **moment** earlier this year that I gained clarity that my writing is more than a hobby. What was this newfound clarity? God gifted me with both words of knowledge and wisdom for the purpose of sharing to benefit others. My revelation came through attending *Doing What Jesus Did*, a 12-week class through our church (message me directly if you'd like to hear the full story).

Truth be told, for **the majority of my life my voice was silenced**, i.e., I was hesitant to share my thoughts and ideas. This hesitancy was rooted in a childhood experience in which, at a young age, I believed a lie that I wasn't good enough. As the result of a comment made by someone whom I desired both their love and approval, I subconsciously made a vow never to put myself out there again. I would keep my thoughts to myself, and forever be silent.

Maybe you can relate. Maybe you, too, were once hurt by someone you loved, and made your own vow to never do "that" again. **It is in those moments of extreme vulnerability that one can unknowingly believe a lie that takes us off the path God intended for our lives.** Hence, we get directed away from who He called us to be. That was the case for me. For the past 30+ years I have been on a journey to find my voice that I had unknowingly silenced that painful day. Thankfully, 2022 was the year it all became clear. I now know that I was meant to share my knowledge and wisdom. Not because I have all the answers, but instead because I believe that is what God designed me to do. And if one person benefits from my thoughts each week, let all the glory go to Him who gave me the clarity and words to share.

Speaking from experience, the process of reflection is not easy. It takes time and can potentially stir up emotions we typically avoid. At the same time, lean in. You might just gain the same clarity I gained that day in class. That **whatever it is you vowed to never do again, is God's exact calling for your life.**

This is why I write, and again, thank you for listening.

INTENTIONAL LIVING CALL TO ACTION: Pray this week for God to reveal the vows you once made and the lies you accepted, and be open-minded to the potential that you have been avoiding might actually be who you were designed to be.