

Daughters Arise!:
Possess Your Power

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	xiii
Lesson 1. LIFE IS NOT FAIR	I
Lesson 2. MAKE A MOVE	17
Lesson 3. TAKE A STAND	27
Lesson 4. MAKE A DEMAND	33
Lesson 5. KNOW YOUR HISTORY	47
Lesson 6. CLEAR & EXPAND	63
Lesson 7. ACCEPT ADVERSITY	73
CONCLUSION	81
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	83

This Book Is Dedicated To My Late Mother For Giving Me The Gift And Love Of Learning; To My Wife Who Gives Me The Love And Security To Follow My Dreams; To My Grandmother Who Gave Me The Gift Of Simple Faith And Prayer; To My Aunt For Believing With Me And To My Pastor For Giving Me A Living Example For Daughters Arise. Finally, To All Of The Women That God Has Used To Feed And Nurture My Growth And Development

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

THIS BOOK IS WRITTEN FOR MY DAUGHTERS, TAYLER & CHRISTIAN AND DAUGHTERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT THEY WOULD BE ENLIGHTENED, EMPOWERED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE WORDS FOUND WITHIN THESE PAGES.

INTRODUCTION

My dearest daughters,

This book is written from the deepest depths of my love and concern for you and your ability to succeed in a world that is weighted against you from the moment that you draw your first breath of life until the moment that you take your last breath. My love for the two of you and all of the other daughters born in this generation throughout the world led me to the inescapable conclusion that a manual for success was needed to navigate this journey of life as a daughter.

I will share with you my success and my scars. I will share my joy and my pain as well as my highs and my lows.

NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR WITH-
OUT YOUR CONSENT

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

It would be easy, but not helpful, to speak from a detached, clinical perspective and not expose my flaws and our family's failures. You need to see the scars in order to avoid the same ones. You need to see the stars, so that you can become one.

In the tradition of our ancestors, I will tell you how we got over. A deep, abiding faith in God delivered our ancestors from slavery and a multitude of other horrors. My search for such biblical wisdom led me to an obscure group of women in the Old Testament. The Daughters of Zelophehad first appear in the wilderness demanding a portion of their father's inheritance.

THINK WRONGLY, IF YOU PLEASE, BUT IN ALL
CASES THINK FOR YOURSELF

DORIS LESSING

Over three thousand years ago, five sisters with strange names challenge the existing legal system and prevailing status quo of their day and win. We will begin our journey at a point prior to their father, Zelophehad's death and immediately following the death of my mother at the young age of 35.

In a perfect world, this book would not have to be written or read. In a perfect world, all persons would be treated equally in terms of opportunities to maximize their individual potential. In a perfect world, daughters would be afforded the same respect and access that sons take for granted.

This book is therefore written to enlighten and inspire the hearts and minds of daughters. All females are daughters.

DON'T COMPROMISE YOURSELF. YOU ARE ALL YOU'VE
GOT.

JANIS JOPLIN

This book is written for all individuals born of the female gender. It is written for daughters rather than females or women because the word "daughter" carries with the implicit recognition of an underlying biological relationship with other humans called parents.

The full complexity of the parent-child relationship and all of its nuances is well beyond the scope of this slim volume, but suffice it to say that daughters are unique. The care and nurture of daughters is unique due to a host of familial and societal issues that are likewise beyond the scope of this volume.

This book however will focus its attention on the impact of a father's wisdom, counsel and encouragement on the success of daughters

WHEN HIT, HIT BACK

AUTHOR

by examining the success of the Daughters of Zelophehad and their father's impartation of confidence, strength and boldness into their lives.

In the same way that we can look to collapsed buildings and observe that there was an earthquake in the area or see trees uprooted and homes blown apart by wind and conclude that there was a hurricane or tornado in the area, we can often look to successful and powerful women and find a dynamic and enriching relationship with a father. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for all daughters due to a natural father's inability or neglect of responsibility.

For daughters that have not known or experienced a positive relationship with their natural father, may Daughters Arise! impart wisdom, encouragement and strength for your journey. For daughters that have known and experienced a positive relationship with their fathers, may Daughters Arise! remind you of and supplement the love, support and encouragement of your natural father. Most importantly, may Daughters Arise! remind all daughters that your Father in heaven loves you and wills the best for your lives.

LESSON 1

Life isn't fair

The hammer shatters glass, but it forges steel
Russian Proverb

On October 29, 1976, my twelfth birthday, I sat in the front row of St. Mary's Catholic Church as my mother was eulogized. As I sat through the Delta Sigma Theta Omega Service that I did not understand, I heard my mother's sorority sisters speak kind words about her. I did not realize that during those moments of numbness that I was going through a transition.

You don't think about transitions at the age of 12, but later in life I often looked back to October 25, 1976, the day when my

PAIN FREQUENTLY PROCEEDS PROGRESS

AUTHOR

world was shattered. October 25, 1976 was the day that my father told my sister and I that my mother had been killed in a single car accident.

I have lived this first lesson for more than twenty five (25) years. The most fundamental of all lessons for possessing your power is that life is not fair. Tragedy of all sorts strike homes of every hue and complexion. Easy answers to the question of why are never found, nevertheless we accept our plight and move on in spite of it. I have often looked back to overcome obstacles, challenges and setbacks. It is important to embrace affliction because it will allow you to spring into your future.

As reflected in our opening proverb, we can be both crushed

**I THINK MYSELF HAPPY
ACTS 26:1**

and molded by the same tool. Thus, always remember that your response to life's unfairness will determine whether you are crushed or molded by your circumstances. Paul, the apostle, shares another great principle to couple with the acceptance that life is not fair. Paul's principle is that we can respond to life's unfairness by choosing to be happy despite the unfairness.

Paul's statement "I think myself happy" was made while on trial for his life in Rome. This concept has been called the power of positive thinking by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale or positive mental attitude by other great success experts such as W. Clement Stone and Napoleon Hill. Please be clear that life will bring a certain amount of pain and discomfort that you can not magically think away.

**SUCCESS IS TO BE MEASURED NOT SO MUCH BY
THE POSITION THAT ONE HAS REACHED IN LIFE
AS BY THE OBSTACLES THAT ONE HAS OVERCOME
WHILE TRYING TO SUCCEED**

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

You can not think away tragedy, but can choose how you will think in response to tragedy. Choose to think happy thoughts in sad situations and you will be amazed that your life will follow the direction of your thoughts. Although I had no choice in my mother's death and quite honestly still bear a portion of that pain, I have to choose on a daily basis to be either a bitter or a better person.

We can look to our biblical text found in the 27th chapter of the book of Numbers to see how Zelophehad addressed the unfairness of life. We must assume that at some point prior to his death, Zelophehad gathered his five daughters and told them that his own issues in the wilderness would keep him