

A STORY OF SURRENDER

BURN

— *the* —

PLOW



Kim Nash

A STORY OF SURRENDER

BURN *the* PLOW

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DEDICATION

*This book is being dedicated to my dad,
David R. Logan, Sr.
(1935 – 2016)*

*My dad was known for his memorable,
quick-witted responses.
One of his most famous responses was
“Are you a writing a book?”
after I would ask a question.*

*Yes, I did write a book, and I wish he could
have been here to read it.*

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Chapter 1

THE PROMPT

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11

My husband and I were living a great life. We had jobs that paid well. We were empty nesters. Our four kids lived independently, and we had three beautiful grandchildren. In preparation for the next phase of our lives, we bought a piece of land, sold our house, put our things in storage, and lived in a rental townhouse while we took a year to build our new home. We were comfortable and had everything we needed and wanted, but God was about to nudge me to step out of that comfort zone.

That nudge began one weekend in October of 2013. Just like every other weekend, my husband and I went to our church. I greeted and checked children into their appropriate classes and then joined my husband in the auditorium for the praise opening of the service. Our talented worship band created a profound glorification experience where we spoke to God through song. Then we settled into our seats and listened as the pastor spoke. He announced the beginning of a new series based on the book *Greater: Dream Bigger. Start Smaller. Ignite God’s Vision for Your Life* by Steven Furtick of Elevation Church. Little did I know how God

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would use this series to jolt me from comfort to discomfort and eventually onto a path I could have never imagined!

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Our pastor shared a passage from the Old Testament, I Kings 19:19-21, where God directed the prophet Elijah to anoint his successor. Elijah found Elisha, who was plowing his fields, and threw his cloak on him. After receiving Elijah's mantle, Elisha proceeded to kill his twelve oxen, burning his plowing equipment to cook the meat and feed the people. Then, he followed Elijah. Elisha was willing to leave behind his land, his livelihood, and his family and move toward an unknown future. At first, I wasn't sure how this applied to my life, but then I gained clarity. I realized that God's vision for me is not to be comfortable in my routine, but to step out in faith and live the life He envisioned for me. He created me for so much more beyond the comfort to which I had become accustomed.

I experienced a firm conviction that there was more I needed to surrender to His will. But what was it? What was I supposed to do? God was obviously preparing me, but I wasn't sure for what. I even questioned if I should write a book, which was crazy because writing never brought me joy. Writing papers in college was a struggle, so creating a book would certainly push me out of my comfort zone. Was that God's will for me? In all seriousness, God, what was my plow that needed burning? What was God's perfect will for my life? I began to seek the answer to this question earnestly.

The sermon series lasted several weeks, and each weekend I was excited to learn more. I thought maybe this would be

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the week God revealed His plan to me. Would this be the week my Elijah would show up, throw his cloak around me, and give me distinct direction as he did with Elisha? I would walk away feeling convicted each week but with no clear path to the next steps.

I knew God wanted me to be more than comfortable; He wanted me to be greater. He created me to prosper and thrive, not simply to be alive. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God knows His plans for us, plans to prosper and not harm us and plans to give us hope and a future. Ok, God, so why are your plans a secret? Take the suspense away, and please tell me! Make it evident as Elijah did with Elisha. But God's plans are not a secret, and Jeremiah 29:12 reveals the next step. If we stop at verse 11, we miss it. God proceeds to tell us in verse 12, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." The answer to my heart's desire was clear. I needed to seek Him through prayer because prayer is the bending of our will to the will of God.

I had previously experienced God's promise in this verse, so I knew it to be true. Many years before this encounter, I lived far from God's will. I was miserable and was eventually brought to my knees, crying out to God. I had to repent and turn from my wicked ways, and God was faithful and guided me to the right path beyond what I deserved. I am so glad that God's mercies are greater than my sins. God showed up in unique ways that I would never forget. I knew He would do it again, but I wanted answers now. My timing is not God's timing. God's timing is perfect, and I had to learn to wait on His answer. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under

the heavens,” and Ecclesiastes 3:11 confirms, “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”

Isn't 'Good' Good Enough?

We finished the *Greater* book series and started a new one, but my conviction and discomfort continued. As is always the case, life got busy with other demands. I found myself focusing on building our house, going to work, and enjoying our family. I pushed burning my plow to the back of my mind. I ignored those quiet yet persistent convictions more and more and slipped back into the routine of my comfortable life. Life was good; wasn't that good enough for God? I began to rationalize that if I hadn't gotten an answer yet, perhaps I was meant to continue the way things were.

God will always find a way to get our attention, and we cannot hide from Him. We can learn from the actions of Adam and Eve. After they disobeyed God, Genesis 3:8 tells us, “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Playing hide and seek with God never ends well. Jonah ran from God, too. In Jonah 1:17, God sent a giant fish to swallow Jonah after he refused to preach to the Ninevites and took a defiant detour to Tarshish. Jonah found himself in the belly of the fish for three days after the sailors on his escape vessel tossed him overboard to calm the seas. Talk about getting someone's attention! God doesn't forget about us and His plans for us. He will find a way to speak to us. I am grateful that God doesn't give up and continues to show us patience and mercy.

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As my husband and I continued with life, dynamics in my workplace were changing, and I questioned whether it was the right place for me. In reality, this discontent was God showing up yet again. He would not let me stay in my comfortable space. When I had joined my current employer several years earlier, it was a small business of 25-30 employees. The organization had an excellent reputation in the community for its customer service. I knew this firsthand because I had been a client of this organization, and I was so impressed with them that I went to work there.

It was exciting as we brought on new clients, provided more services, and hired new employees. We were having fun! Unfortunately, it did not last. When a small, independent organization in this industry is financially healthy and growing, it becomes ripe for the picking. And that is precisely what happened. A national organization acquired us. We went from being a small business with one owner to a national publicly traded company. I was not excited about the new ownership. I again sought God's counsel but still felt that it was not the time to burn my plow. Corporate left us alone to keep doing what we were doing for the first few years, but that independence did not last long.

God's Divine Pruning

During the *Greater* series at church, one of my coworkers, who occupied an essential role in the company, saw what was coming and left for another opportunity. An individual who lacked my colleague's expertise and leadership filled this vacancy. The new hire's lack of skills resulted in a decline in customer satisfaction, a loss of clients, and

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a decrease in market share. Now that we were a publicly traded company, our new shareholders were not impressed with these downward turns. In addition, our new owners entered a partnership with another company in which they received a fee for getting our existing customers to use the partner's services – a kickback in essence. Our leadership did not disclose this financial arrangement to our customers. This absence of transparency showed me that my core values no longer aligned with the organization. I found myself very uncomfortable with the crossing of ethical gray lines. I loved the clients, was passionate about my work, and appreciated many coworkers. I earned an excellent salary, had great benefits, and did not want to start a new job elsewhere. Plus, there was no guarantee another company would be any better. However, I knew I needed to explore other options, and I sent out a few resumes as time passed. Was now the time to burn the plow? And why was I not getting clarity on the next steps?

I continued to stay very tuned in for God's timing. He was teaching me patience. The previous situation where we lost one of our key personnel remedied itself as the individual returned to the company. Things seemed to be turning around for the better. The immediate situation improved, and I was hopeful that it would continue. Maybe the plow wouldn't have to be burned after all. Maybe I could gather with my core team and ride out the other areas that were incongruent with my values. But that wasn't the case. Those nudges from God were not going away, and I knew I would have to decide.

Over the next few years, God continued to show me, through a variety of negative experiences, that I was not

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where He wanted me. I began to ponder my next steps. It was time to evaluate where God wanted me and what He wanted me to do. The time came for me to get serious about understanding my passions, strengths, and talents. Where did God want me, and how could I use my gifts to glorify Him? I was still contemplating the book idea but thought, maybe someday! During this time, I had an opportunity to conduct training for a client traveling to locations in three states. Training and public speaking have always been my passion, and this engagement confirmed it for me.

One day on my way to work, an advertisement came on the radio promoting the John Maxwell certification program for speaking, teaching, and coaching. This caught my attention as I was familiar with John Maxwell and had read some of his leadership books. I wanted to learn more about the program, and I connected with a representative who sold me on the idea. Certification required online work followed by an in-person conference in Florida offered only twice per year. This conference would be a significant step toward my training and public speaking passion. While at the meeting, God inspired me to start my own business focusing on training/development, public speaking, and coaching to encourage others on their professional journey. The cloak passed! Now it was time for the next steps.

Almost There

When I returned home from the conference, I continued to work for my employer because I was not confident that this was the time to burn my plow. However, I did not stop thinking about the conference, and I started dipping my toe

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into creating my own business. Still, I was not ready for a full plunge yet. Many people identify with this tension that accompanies any life change.

The first step was to create a name for the new venture, something creative that would stand out. As my husband and I drove to North Carolina one weekend to visit our daughter and her husband, we brainstormed names. After a few hours, THriv rose to the forefront. There is really nothing significant about the spelling; I chose it because it was different and unique. As we continued to drive, I remembered that Casting Crowns produced a studio album and song “Thrive” that had really resonated with me, so this thought confirmed that my new business venture should be called THriv. That name stuck because God calls us not just to survive but also to thrive. God’s vision for my life is more extraordinary, and He wants me to thrive. Therefore, this revelation has become my theme song!

For the next eight months, I continued to work full-time in the corporation, but God did not stop convicting me that I wasn’t in the right place. It was time for a complete change; time to burn the plow. At the beginning of the year, God impressed upon me that I should resign from the leadership team and reduce my schedule from five days per week to four days per week with a 20% pay reduction. I presented this plan to my boss, and he agreed to it. This reduction in my full-time schedule allowed me the opportunity to spend time working on THriv. It also meant that we would see a 20% reduction in our income until I could acquire new business. In Matthew 6:25, Jesus teaches, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food,

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and the body more than clothes?” He continues in verse 33 saying, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Again, God showed up. My husband received a promotion and a pay increase that made up almost 70% of the reduction in my salary.

Time to Go All In

This split arrangement of me working in dual roles continued for two years, and it was a challenge because I wanted to give my best to both companies. Finally, it became clear that I could not continue to serve two masters. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus tells us, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” As time went on, Jesus’ words played out in my life. Through a variety of situations in my full-time position, God was showing me that it was finally time to burn the plow, leaving the security and comfort of the job I had known for 15 years, and go full time with THriv. It was the time to go all in.

I wrestled with a lot of emotions during this time. God continued to work on me as I struggled with the unknowns. He never gives up on us, and He is patient as we process His calling. I was giving up the comfort of a guaranteed paycheck every two weeks, excellent health insurance, matching 401k benefits, paid time-off, etc. If I transitioned full-time into THriv, I would have to develop the business, deliver the service, and manage the accounting. How could one person possibly handle all of this? I was so focused on financial

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comfort that I wasn't trusting God. That's when it hit me; financial comfort was the actual plow I needed to burn.

I will never forget the day I made a formal announcement of my plans – a burning of the plow with my existing job, if you will. It was a sunny day in May 2019. I traveled to Philadelphia to deliver training to a client. My boss and I didn't work in the same office. However, he was in our office near Philadelphia, and this trip would be the perfect time to schedule a meeting with him. I walked into his office and told him that I had decided to move full-time into THriv. I planned to leave the organization at the end of December 2019. Yes, I gave a seven-month notice for resignation. My announcement did not come as a surprise to him.

Since I was an at-will employee and did not have a contract, he could have asked me to leave at that moment, but he did not. I could have given a two-week notice, but I had a great relationship with my clients and didn't want to abandon them without putting together a transition plan to ensure they would continue receiving excellent service. When I walked out of the building that day, I felt such a weight lifted from me and had such a peace that I cannot describe. Between May and December of 2019, God continued to show up in unique ways to confirm my decision. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As December 2019 approached, and I was ready to leave an organization I had dedicated my talents to for 15 years, I reflected on my time there. How does someone walk away from an organization where they invested so

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much of themselves without feeling sad or questioning their decision? Again, I referred to Ecclesiastes 3:1, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” This transition was my time, and the season was changing; I needed to move forward and trust God. I burned my plow just like Elisha did when Elijah threw his cloak upon him. I was at peace!

Learning to Listen for God

How did I know the prompting to leave my job was from God? I believe that listening to God is a very personal event, and it is different for each person. We see this revealed throughout the Bible. In Exodus 3, God caught Moses’ attention by setting fire to a bush that did not burn. In 1 Kings 19, God sends Elijah. In Daniel 5, God wrote a message on the wall for King Belshazzar that Daniel interpreted for the ruler. We can’t forget Jonah; God sent a giant fish to swallow him. Matthew tells us in his gospel how God sent an angel to reassure Joseph to take Mary as his wife. When Mary visits Elizabeth, Luke tells us in his gospel that Elizabeth’s baby leaped in her womb and filled her with the Holy Spirit.

These are just a few examples we read about in the Bible. We may never experience a burning bush, writing on the wall, being swallowed by a big fish, or an immaculate conception. Still, I believe God shows up in ways that will get our attention! Here are things I believe allow God to speak to us:

Belief in the Holy Spirit – In the New Testament, we learn that God came to earth in the form of man to be among the people. How amazing would it be to witness Jesus performing

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miracles and hear him teaching in person! Although Jesus is no longer walking the earth as a human, He did not leave us empty-handed.

In Hebrews 1: 1-2, the writer tells us that in the past, God spoke to our forefathers through prophets at many times and in many ways, but in these last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Jesus tells us in John 14:26 that the Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name to teach us and remind us of everything He has told us. We also are told in John 14:17 that if we believe, the Holy Spirit will live in us. God uses the Holy Spirit, which lives in me, to speak to me!

Openness to his voice – Although I believe God speaks to me through the Holy Spirit, I must be open and available to listen to Him. What excuses do I make not to set time aside to listen for God? Do I see God in every situation? If I am honest, I usually show up in my prayer time with a list of wants or expectations for God. But I am often reminded of what the psalmist wrote in Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.” When I am still – when I am quiet and not constantly moving, thinking, or speaking – I am able to hear His gentle voice directing me, and knowing that He is God and gives me peace.

There is a frequent reference to our “chair time” with God in my church. Chair time is a place where you can meditate, pray, journal, and be with God. I take the phrase “chair time” figuratively and not literally. I do not have a chair that I retreat to when I want to be with God. For me, chair time may be a walk through my neighborhood, on my treadmill, or the best place of all, on the beach! My “walk time” is my daily worship time listening to God. Trust

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me – when you take the time to be still and listen to God, you will be blown away by what is revealed to you.

Scripture/Song – Not only has Jesus left the Holy Spirit in us, but we have the Scriptures. In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul tells us that ALL Scripture is God-breathed. Paul tells us in Romans 15:4 that everything written in the past was to teach us so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scriptures, we might have hope. Reading and meditating on Scripture is mighty; I have been inspired so many times by His Word, in good times and bad. It is impossible for me to choose one favorite verse.

I am so thankful for the Christian music artists who use Scripture as the foundation for their songs. I love speaking to God through music, and a great way to remember Scripture is by having a Scripture-inspired song playing through your mind. Part of my daily worship is reading my Bible and listening to praise music. In each chapter of this book, I will share Scriptures and songs that have played an integral part in the lessons I have learned and given me direction, hope, and peace.

Prayer – In Philippians 4:6, Paul tells us not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God. In Psalm 34:4, the psalmist David writes that he sought the Lord, and the Lord delivered him from all his fears. Sometimes we feel intimidated before God in prayer. What if I don't say the right things, don't use the right words, or God is too busy to listen to me? These thoughts come from Satan! God wants a relationship with you. He wants you to be honest, not fake! God is never too busy for you! We can speak to

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God any time, any place, and for any reason. Sometimes a friend or family member comes into my mind, and at that moment, I will stop and pray for them. Or there are times when my heart is heavy, and while I am driving, I will pray. Of course, I keep my eyes open! I even pray in the shower! God hears you wherever you are. However, God may not always answer your prayer in your timing or in the way you expect. In Isaiah 55:8, God tells us His thoughts are not our thoughts, and neither are our ways His ways.

God sees the whole picture, and we only see a small portion. Sometimes God will reveal to us that we need to change our prayer. For example, many years ago, God convicted me to change my prayer when I came upon an accident that caused a traffic delay. I was frustrated that I was going to be late for work. Instead of focusing on my inconvenience and petitioning for an on-time arrival, God revealed that being late to an appointment was insignificant in light of what the people in the accident were experiencing. They could be hurt or may have even perished. For them it could be far more serious than being late to work – they may not be going home to their family. Now whenever I come upon an accident, I stop and pray for the people involved and their families.

Counsel with Wise People – Throughout the Bible, we read about God providing counsel through people. Exodus 18 tells of the account of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law visiting him in the desert. As Jethro observed Moses, he recognized that Moses was over his head and gave him wise counsel. Moses listened to his father-in-law. King Belshazzar called on Daniel to interpret the writing on the wall (Daniel 5), and Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41).

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Before I started THriv, I met with a few business owners. I asked questions about how they started their businesses, what they enjoyed about being an owner, and lessons they had learned along the way. The feedback from these meetings proved very beneficial as I was starting out.

Confirmation we are on the right path – As children, we heard the story of Noah and the ark found in Genesis 6. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people, and walked faithfully with God. Because the people were corrupt, God planned to destroy them and the earth. God shared his plan with Noah and directed him to build an ark with specific details. Noah did as God commanded, and God spared Noah and his family.

Genesis 22 tells of yet another man who was asked by God to do something unimaginable, and he obeyed. God directed Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the Son that God had given to him and his wife Sarah late in their lives. Abraham took Isaac and prepared him as an offering, but an angel of the Lord appeared and stopped Abraham. Because of Abraham's obedience, God promised blessings upon him and his offspring. At the time of this writing, it has been three years since I burned my plow! God continues to show me confirmation of his direction.

God wants us to live a life in which we prosper, and this often requires us to move from a life of comfort and independence to a life where we trust and lean on Him. Is there something God has been convicting you to do or change and you have been ignoring His promptings? Perhaps now is the time to believe, be open, listen, read Scripture, pray, and seek wise counsel to move to the life God has planned for you.

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Reflection:

1. Do you know the plans God has for you? What is God revealing to you? (Jeremiah 29: 11-12)
2. What is the “plow” that you need to burn to follow God’s direction for your life? (I Kings 19:19-21)
3. What is holding you back from fully following God? (Matthew 6:25)
4. What two masters are you serving? (Matthew 6:24)
5. What are you anxious about? (Philippians 4:6-7)
6. In what ways does God speak to you?

Songs of Encouragement:

1. “Thrive” performed by Casting Crowns
2. “Burn the Ships” performed by FOR KING + COUNTRY

Chapter 2

THE EQUIPPING

*“My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

2 Corinthians 12:9

It was evident God was prompting me to pursue a new career path. I had peace and knew that I would burn my last plow to take up a new one, but I felt unqualified as I venture into this unknown realm. This new calling was so different than anything I had experienced before. Leaving a comfortable job with a guaranteed biweekly paycheck and benefits was scary. Being an independent contractor meant I would be responsible for everything – marketing, sales, operations, accounting, taxes, IT, etc. This professional independence was truly foreign territory for me and wondered, could I do it all? I was inexperienced in each of the new areas that would fall on my shoulders in this next stage – especially the sales and marketing. This reality was most concerning because if I was not successful in sales and marketing, I wouldn't have clients. And without clients I wouldn't have a business! I was putting too much pressure on myself. I had desired to walk away from my corporate job for years. Still, I was not a salesperson, and I was uncomfortable promoting myself.

Over and over, I read Scripture talking about doubt, which was followed by the two most beautiful words in the English language, “but God.” These words signify a time

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when God steps in and intervenes on our behalf. Below I've shared a few verses for encouragement:

- Isaiah 41:10 *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*
- Deuteronomy 31:6 *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”*
- Psalm 55:22 *“Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall.”*
- Hebrews 13:5b-6 *“because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”*

A few months after leaving my corporate job, the world shut down due to COVID-19. I thought, “Really, God? Did you prompt me to leave my comfortable job and go down a path only to hit a dead end?” I watched as the world faced economic uncertainty and businesses were closed as shutdowns were imposed. Long-standing providers of goods and services were faltering, and I was supposed to start my fledgling company in the midst of such upheaval? *But God.* A global pandemic may have come as a surprise and disruption to me, but not to God. I continued to trust God repeating *I don't know, but God does.* I also did not realize that God had been equipping me for years to be qualified for this pandemic, and He would reveal His plan to me in due time.

The Equipping

Why is our first response *doubt* when God calls us? I believe this is something instilled at birth. As we progress through life on earth, we are constantly being evaluated, tested, and assessed. If we don't measure up, we are left feeling we are not good enough. For example, a newborn baby receives an Apgar score – an acronym for appearance, pulse, grimace response, activity, and respiration – within the first few minutes after they are born. Within moments of birth, that little life is already being evaluated to see if they measure up! As that baby grows, they have regular check-ups with a pediatrician to ensure they are hitting appropriate milestones in growth and development. Are they rolling over? Sitting up? Babbling? Taking steps?

Once a child is old enough to go to school, there are specific criteria they must meet to be enrolled, including motor and cognitive skills. As the child gets older, they may want to participate in sports, band, choir, theater, and other extra-curricular activities. Through try-outs and auditions, the child must demonstrate they have the skill and ability required to be part of the team or activity. As they move on to graduation, they must meet specific requirements to receive a diploma. If one wants to pursue a college degree, most schools require a minimum score on a college admissions test to qualify for enrollment. For some, the need for financial aid and scholarships may limit which college they can attend. Again, while in college, there are more requirements, classes, final exams, and internships to complete in order to earn the degree.

Finally, as adults, we are bombarded with qualifications as we enter the world. We cannot obtain a credit card, finance a car, mortgage a house, or have the utilities turned

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on until the lender checks our credit score to ensure we are qualified. To ensure that we have the financial means to pay for our homes, cars, food, and other necessities, we need a source of revenue. As we scour the job openings, many have minimum requirements to apply. When we do not get a job for which we interviewed, the message we receive is that there was someone else more qualified. We are rejected!

Conditioned throughout life by all these qualifications and rejections, it is no wonder we immediately revert to earthly standards, feel unworthy, and anticipate failure when God calls us for something outside of our comfort zone. The good news is God won't call us to do something unless He will be right there with us. He specifically calls the unqualified and equips them for success. Earthly qualifications result in rejections; Godly qualifications require obedience.

As we explore the Scriptures, we read many stories of people called by God for His purpose who, according to earthly standards, would have been unqualified and rejected. God does not call the qualified but rather the unqualified. This flipping of worldly wisdom is how He receives glory. He uses our weakness for good and demonstrates how His power qualifies us. If we achieve success any other way, we are doing it independent of Him.

The story of Moses in the book of Exodus narrates the historical account of God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Moses' story begins with God saving him as a baby. The oppressed Israelites were growing in number so, in order to control their population, Pharaoh had ordered all male Hebrew infants be slaughtered by throwing them into the Nile River. One Hebrew mother was able to hide her baby boy for three months, but she became fearful that

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he would be discovered and killed. So, she laid her son in a basket and placed it in the reeds along the bank of the Nile. She had Miriam, the baby's sister, keep a watchful eye over the basket.

Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to bathe and discovered the baby among the reeds. Feeling sorry for the baby when she heard him cry, she asked one of her servants to retrieve him from the water. Miriam told Pharaoh's daughter that this was a Hebrew baby and cleverly asked if she should get a Hebrew mother to nurse him. Pharaoh's daughter agreed, and Miriam returned with the boy's own mother. Once he was older, the boy was returned to Pharaoh's daughter to raise him. At this time, she named him Moses meaning "I drew him out of the water."

One day while Moses was tending the flocks, an angel appeared to him in the flames of fire in a bush. Moses was intrigued as the bush was on fire but did not burn, and he walked over to the bush. God called him by name and told him to stop and remove his sandals. Once God revealed himself, Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God, an act of fear rooted in reverence and respect and found throughout the Old Testament. God proceeded to tell Moses that his people were suffering, and the time had come to rescue them, and, oh, by the way, He was sending Moses to do the job!

I have tried to put myself in Moses' place and cannot imagine how I would have responded. Here I am minding my own business, and suddenly, flames come out of a bush that is not burning up. My curiosity is peaked, so I walk toward the bush then the Lord calls me by name and tells me I am being sent to rescue the Israelites from Egypt. Is this a bad

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dream? Is someone playing a joke on me? When I return home, and my spouse asks how my day was, what do I say? A typical day of tending to the flock, with one exception, the Lord appeared to me today and called me to lead His people out of Egypt – at the age of 80!

Moses did what most of us would have done. He immediately identified why he was not qualified, questioned God, and gave excuses. In fact, Moses provided five excuses.

1. Moses felt he lacked credentials (Exodus 3:11-12). As a lowly shepherd, why would Pharaoh agree to a meeting and listen to what he had to say? God knew why. He gave Moses specific instructions to first reach out to the Israelites and assemble their elders and then go with the elders to get the meeting with Pharaoh. God assured Moses that he would go before him. This would be similar to me calling the White House and requesting a meeting with the President of the United States to discuss a national policy. First, I would need to reach out to my Senator and Representative to assist me in arranging that meeting. Unfortunately, I have never had the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States, nor my congressmen. I have, however, been in situations where someone I knew introduced me to someone else and vouched for my experience and credentials. That advocacy resulted in a new client and additional business, which I believed was indeed a God encounter by placing that person into my life.
2. Moses didn't know what to say (Exodus 3:13-22) or who to say he was. God told him what to say; He provided the content. By telling the Israelites the I AM sent him and

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the LORD the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you. It is almost as if Moses had the secret code to get access. There are times when I put a proposal together, develop a training, have a difficult conversation, or write content for this book when I am not sure what to say or how to organize it. But when I focus and meditate on God, the words become clear to me.

3. Moses questioned whether the elders would believe that God appeared to him (Exodus 4:1-9). God gave him three ways to prove that God sent him: turning his rod into a snake, putting his hand into his cloak causing leprosy, and water from the Nile poured on the ground turning to blood. When I lack confidence, I remember what God has done for me in the past, and I have the confidence to trust what He will do for me in the future.
4. Moses lacked talent; he was not an eloquent speaker. He believed he was insufficient and a poor communicator (Exodus 4:10-12). At this point, God was getting a bit upset with Moses based on his response. God told Moses that He gave man the ability to speak, hear, and see. God knows better than us our strengths and weaknesses. There are times when I have been in a room where I felt inadequate, wrongly believing others were more qualified and more experienced. When asked to do something I may not have expertise in, I invest time learning how to do it and deliver the best that I can. How do we get experience if we don't have the opportunity? We need to step out and let God fill in the gaps!
5. Moses lacked commitment (Exodus 4:13). Moses asked God to please send someone else. Now God was angry,

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and he told Moses to take his brother Aaron with him, who would speak Moses' words. Let's be honest – we don't like to do *hard*, and we give up too quickly instead of taking the time to invest and learn. For example, writing does not come easily to me, and to write a book? Now that was a mountain! I had no idea how the process works, but God does! I am thrilled He provided an experienced book coach to guide me on the journey. All I had to do was be obedient and follow the teacher. I am so glad God doesn't take the easy way out. He never gives up on us!

One of the key takeaways for me from Moses' story is to take my eyes off my weakness and focus on God. Where I am weak, He is strong!

In the New Testament, Jesus calls twelve unqualified men to be his disciples. These men were not elite; they were low-class, rural, and uneducated. We see God calling the humble, lowly, meek, and weak throughout the Bible. He pulled them in, equipped them, and sent them out. When Jesus left, He made sure they were not alone. He left the Holy Spirit with them. The same Holy Spirit we can have in us! These men went from their vocations to students to experts in about 18 months of training. They had no natural aptitude to be disciples and advance His kingdom. The only thing that set them apart was their willingness to follow. Even though Jesus invested in them and mentored them, it was a difficult learning process. And it will be for us as well. But that should not discourage or deter us because God will not let us fail.

None of the twelve disciples were religious teachers or scholars. They weren't preachers or missionaries or church

BURN *the* PLOW

Hearing the words, *"You Were Made for Something Greater,"* leads us to search for that greater something. Usually, that greater something requires letting go of what was. We must Burn the Plow. Listening to God and following His direction creates the confidence to continue our journey on a different path, setting fire to what was, so we can become what's next. Something greater. God can and will show up in unique ways to fulfill the deepest desires of your heart and fulfill His highest calling for you.

After years of living in the comfort zone of working for others, Kim finally and fully surrendered to God. Stepping out in faith, she started her business as a consultant fulfilling the true desire of her heart. Kim's hesitancy, insecurity, aspirations, and ultimate obedience inspired the contents of this book. You'll experience her entire career transition journey, and be inspired to follow His promptings in your life. God is now using Kim's story to encourage both individuals and organizations on their journey to Burn the Plow.



KIM NASH

Kim and her husband Greg live in Hummelstown, PA and are the parents of four grown children and four grandchildren. When they are not working or spending time with their family, they enjoy the beach, and at least once per year, you can find them on a cruise ship. They attend LCBC Church in Manheim, PA, where Kim serves on the KidMin team and participates in SHE Studies, a ladies' bible study.

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