

# **Covering Your Business In Prayer**

**A Devotional for Creative Entrepreneurs**



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***Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank. - Prov 22:29***



# Introduction

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I can still remember years ago, sitting in a cubicle dreaming about owning my own faux painting business. I would sit and Google pictures of pretty walls and waste oodles of company time because my heart was elsewhere. I so badly wanted a job where I was able to create beautiful things for people. Little did I know the Lord was going to give me my dream and that even though dreams come true, there is always “stuff” that we are required to walk through.

Over the course of owning the Magic Brush for 14 years, I have so often found myself on my knees. Facing deadlines. Facing tight payrolls. Being humbled by blessings. Wondering what to do. Scared to death. Feeling betrayed. Overjoyed. Need work. Need help. I’ve felt ALL OF IT.

I’ve tried so hard to honor the Lord with my business and to run all of my work decisions by the Lord first. I have not been perfect, *but I have been intentional*. Time and time again, I’ve given my business to the Lord and asked Him to show me how to deal with whatever I was facing on that given day.

It occurred to me one day that I wish there was a book that I could grab for people like me. A place where a small business owner could feel like there were not alone in whatever they were facing and a place where scriptures were already right there for me. Laid out for me. For whatever I was in the middle of. I couldn’t find that book.

And so I decided to write that book.

And in doing so, I’ve bared my heart. I’ve written for you some of the very prayers that I have prayed for myself and my business. I’ve included many quotes that have resonated with me over the years. Some from believers and some not. I believe I can learn even from people who believe differently than myself.

I pray my transparency will be a blessing to you. I pray it honors the Lord and that you will honor Him with your life and your business.

Even when it’s hard. Even when it’s messy. Even when it’s not convenient. He is worth it.

**In Christ,**

**Jennifer**

**[www.themagicbrushinc.com](http://www.themagicbrushinc.com)**



## Psalm 91

- <sup>1</sup> *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*
- <sup>2</sup> *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*
- <sup>3</sup> *Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.*
- <sup>4</sup> *He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*
- <sup>5</sup> *You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*
- <sup>7</sup> *A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.*
- <sup>8</sup> *You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.*
- <sup>9</sup> *If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
<sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.*
- <sup>11</sup> *For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
<sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*
- <sup>13</sup> *You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*
- <sup>14</sup> *"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*
- <sup>15</sup> *He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.*
- <sup>16</sup> *With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."*



## 1. Help Me To Be Courageous In My Pricing

Lord, it's scary trying to price my products and my services. I worry that if I price things too high, they won't sell. And then I struggle with feeling bitter when I underprice myself and I KNOW I should have priced things higher. Lord would you help me to find a happy medium? Help me to make a fair living from a fair product and by giving a fair service. Help me to be courageous in my pricing and to stand my ground when my pricing is questioned. Help me to know exactly who to market my services to so that price is not an issue when I am selling to my ideal client. Lord, help me to find my sweet spot with my pricing and help me to be PROFITABLE. I know you give us the wisdom and the talent to gain wealth Lord. So help me to heed your instruction and to be able to glorify you Lord with the income my business makes. Amen.

*1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

*2 Tim 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*

*"Pricing is actually a pretty simple and straight forward thing. Customers will not pay literally a penny more than the true value of the product." - Ron Johnson*

*"Charge what you are worth and do not apologize" – unknown*

*"If you don't value your time, neither will others. Stop giving away your time and talents. Value what you know and start charging for it" – quotenor.com*

My most popular blog post is on charging clients and is at

<http://themagicbrushinc.com/what-determines-the-price-of-painted-furniture/>



## 2. Help Me To See The Value You Put On My Talent

Lord there are days when I take my talent for granted and I forget that you gave me a very personal, very strategic gift that you fully expect me to use. Lord, help me to remember that YOU place VALUE on my gift. You could have given me the ability to be a scientist or an accountant or a nurse, but instead....you gave me the ability to CREATE and to make things pretty in a world that is desperately in need of beauty. Lord you did not give me the desire or the makings to be a brain surgeon, but what I offer instead is the ability to bring beauty to world by the work of my hands. And I thank you for this gift Lord.

You see value in my gift Father and you have entrusted me with this talent. Help me to remember that and to remember my worth. Help me to remember that you yourself love beautiful things or you would have never given us sunsets or rainbows or newborn babies. You could have made the entire world in black and white and we never would have known the difference. Instead, you made it beautiful. You yourself love beauty. Lord let my talent for creating beauty bring you honor. Let it be invested into the Kingdom and multiplied. Let me glorify you with the work of my hands. Let me use every bit of talent you have given me and use it for good and not evil. Let me be found trustworthy of my gift. Amen.

*1 Cor 12 4-7 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."*

*Prov 18:16 "A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great."*

*1 Cor 4:2 "Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."*

*1 Tim 4:14 "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given to you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you."*

*1 Peter 4:20 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

*"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God" – Leo Buscaglia*

*"When your self-worth goes up, your net worth goes up with it" – Mark Victor Hansen*

*"You have a talent that none of the rest of us have. Just find out what it is and use it. It's doing nothing that's the enemy." – Downton Abbey*





### **3. Help Me To Manage My Time**

Lord being a business owner comes with endless pressures on my time. Appointments and jobs and paperwork and clients and the list goes on and on. There are days when I feel like the work will never be done and I can never get caught up. And on days like that, I am tempted to get so discouraged Father. Lord when I'm feeling like this, will you help me to BREATHE? And will you give me creative ways to manage my time? Lord I ask that you would stretch my hours within my workday so that I am able to get done all that is needed during work time. There is no honor in being a workaholic Lord so help me to manage well my calendar and all that you want me to do.

Help me to be focused Lord when I need to be in full work mode. Help me to turn off all distractions and social media and all the other time suckers that the enemy uses to keep me from what needs to be done so I can concentrate on making the most of my time. Lord without you in the middle of my time, I work aimlessly and get little done. Would you be ever-present during my work day so that I can be as productive as possible? I want every minute of every hour to glorify you Lord. I want my time to count towards Heaven. I want to get work done so I can fully concentrate on the non-working parts of my life. I want to honor you with my time Lord. Help me to set boundaries. Help me to make better decisions with my time. Help me Father to overcome distractions and to concentrate. I need you desperately in this area. Amen.

*Ps 31: 14-15 But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.*

*Eph 5 15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

*"Those who make the worse use of their time are the first to complain of it's shortness." – Jean De La Bruyere*

*"Time is really the only capital that any human being has and the only thing he can't afford to lose." – Thomas Edison*

*"Either you run the day or the day runs you." – Jim Rohn*

*"People often complain about the lack of time when the lack of direction is the real problem." – Zig Ziglar*



#### **4. Help Me To Keep Priorities Straight**

Lord I know that if I fail as a spouse and a parent that it will not matter how great of an artist I was. Being a parent and spouse are my FIRST and most IMPORTANT roles here on earth. And yet I feel the constant nagging of work always trying to pull me away from my first priorities. Lord I need your help prioritizing what I need to do. Father help me to say no to those things which are time suckers and yes to the things that YOU want me to do. Help me to remember that it's always God first, my spouse second, kiddos third and my work AFTER that.

Father let me not only RECOGNIZE my priorities but also be able to draw lines in the sand to HONOR those priorities. Open my eyes Lord to where I need to turn my work "off" so that I can serve the needs of my family. And Lord will you help my clients to respect my priorities as well? It hurts my tummy to think of upsetting them and pushing back deadlines and saying "no" to things my clients are asking I do. But I know you will honor my priorities Lord. And even if my clients don't honor them Father, I ask that you convict my heart when my priorities are out of whack and give me the courage to set them straight. Father I know that when I put first things first, it brings you great glory. So let me prioritize properly. I need you Lord. More than ever as work gets busier and life get busier and the demands get greater. I want you right in the center of it all! Amen.

*Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Prov 3: 5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

*"Living in light of eternity changes your priorities." – Rick Warren*

*"We don't drift in good directions. We discipline and prioritize ourselves there." – Andy Stanley*



## **5. Help Me To Outsource Work**

Oh Lord there is so much that I need help with and yet I am terrified of giving up control of certain areas in my business. Father, I need wisdom to recognize the things that I need to have someone else do and then I need the courage to actually let them do it. Help me to not micromanage my business to death Lord, but to trust that I can give up certain areas in my business that I am not good at (like paperwork, emails, ordering supplies) so that I can concentrate fully on the areas that YOU want me to concentrate on.

Lord, help me to hire good help where I need it. Give me exactly the right people at exactly the right time. And help them to do an amazing job for me and for my business to the glory of God. Father, thinking I need to do it ALL for my business in an issue of pride and I pray that you break that spirit in me. I know if I want good boundaries and great growth that I will need OTHERS to come along side me. Give me great foot soldiers Lord and let me be a great leader for my business. I pray Father that I would recognize my weaknesses and recognize the people that can help me to fill those gaps. Let me not be afraid to give up some control Lord. Show me how to get help! Amen.

*Prov 26:10 Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.*

*Eccl 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.*

*"I hire people brighter than me and then I get out of their way" Lee Iacocca*

*"You're only as good as the people you hire" – Ray Kroc*

*"If you hire people just because they can do a job, they'll work for your money. But if you hire people who believe what you believe, they'll work for you with blood, sweat and tears." – Simon Sinek*



## **6. Help Me To Know What To Say Yes/No To**

Lord some days I feel like I'm just being pulled in every direction. People want my help and my services and my answers and my decisions and frankly, I'm worn out. I need help navigating the opportunities/requests that are coming my way. Lord show me what to say "no" to so that I have time to do the things that YOU want me to do. Lord give me the courage to say "no". Lord I am a people pleaser and so saying "no" is hard for me and doesn't come easy. Will you let me be brave and obedient even when I worry what other's will think of my "no's"? Father I want to be more concerned with my obedience to you than I am about offending people. And yet, help me to deliver my no's in a way that is non-offensive. When I do offend Lord, help me to rest easy knowing that my obedience is pleasing to you. Father I am convinced that we never know WHO or WHAT is on the other side of our obedience. Give me courage to say "yes" to the right things and "no" to the things that may look good on the outside, but cause stress and pain to my business and family. I fully believe Father that YOU know what is best for me. Even when I don't understand Lord, help me to weed thru my opportunities and bring honor to you with my decisions. Amen.

*Matthew 5:37 All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*

*James 5:12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.*

*Psalms 32:8 "The Lord says, I will make you wise and show you where to go. I will guide you and watch over you."*

*"Saying no isn't a rejection. It's a protection of our Best Yes answers." – Lysa TerKeurst*

*"You never know who or what is on the other side of your obedience." – Pastor Phillip O'Reilly*

*"A lack of boundaries invites a lack of respect." – unknown*



## 7. Help Me To Bless Others With My Talent

Lord, I pray that you will let my talent bring JOY and BEAUTY to a world that sometimes is dark and discouraging. Father, I pray that I would be a bright spot to someone's day. Let my talent touch people in ways that they may not even realize. Let my social media channels bring hope and life and beauty. I pray the presence of the Lord would be in my client's homes...purely because the presence of the Lord is within me. Lord, I pray my business would be a blessing to employ other individuals with work. And let me not forget to give where appropriately in areas where my talent is needed. Lord you've blessed me; let me bless others.

Help me to remember Lord that if I don't use the talent you have given me, you will give it to someone who will. Father you are going to do what you are going to do in the earth...let your will be done! And, I want to be a part of that. I want to join you on your wild ride. I want to use every ounce of talent you've given me to be a blessing! Father help me to use my talents to inspire, to uplift, to encourage, to exhort, to bless and to bring honor to you! Amen.

*1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

*1 Cor 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

*Luke 12:48 When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.*

*Prov 11:25 The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*

*"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." – Arthur Ashe*

*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." – William James*

*"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back." – Maya Angelou*

*"Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room." – Christine Todd Whitman*



## **8. Help Me To Never Take Lightly The Honor Of Working For My Clients**

I know my clients have many choices of who they could hire to work for them. Lord they could spend their dollars elsewhere and yet they chose to spend their dollars with me. Let me never take that lightly Lord. Let me be appreciative of every client you bring my way. And Father, help me to honor them with my work and my respect and my words. Let me speak of them in a way that is honoring. Let me be trustworthy of working in their home. When I work in someone else's home Lord, you are giving me physical access to their life and help me to treat that with the upmost respect and honesty. Help me to protect their privacy and their belongings. I want to appreciate them Father and make their experience of working with me a special one for them. Father let them never be just another job, just another client. I want them to feel valued and appreciated. Show me ways to appreciate them Lord. Amen.

*Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*"Appreciation is the highest form of prayer, for it acknowledges the presence of good wherever you shine the light of your thankful thoughts." - Alan Cohen*

*"One customer well taken care of could be more valuable than \$10,000 worth of advertising." – Walt Disney*

*"If we don't take care of our customers, someone else will." - unknown*



## **9. Help Me To Hire Good People**

Lord it's scary hiring people to help me. The right people can make or break a business because a business is only as good as it's employees. Lord will you help me to find honest, God-fearing people to work for me? Will you help me to be able to look past the hiring process to the hearts of these people and see not only their skills, but their convictions and their integrity as well. Father when I make the wrong decisions and hire the wrong people, I pray that you will give me the courage to cut them loose from my business with honor. Lord I need armor bearers. I need soldiers. I need your help to find people who have my company's best interest at heart. Would you bring those people to me? Would you help me to not overlook people who could be assets to my company?

Would you help me to find people who are loyal and trustworthy and hardworking? And help me to treat those contractors, assistants and employees well Lord. I want to be known as a great employer, full of integrity. Father where I have been burned by employees in the past, let me forgive and to move on for I know that YOU are my vindicator Lord. I pray for people Lord who hear from you and who will petition the courts of Heaven on my behalf. Give me like-minded individuals Lord. Team players. Honest people. Hard workers. I thank you in advance for them! Amen.

*Prov 26:10 Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.*

*"If you think hiring professionals is expensive, try hiring amateurs." - Red Adair*

*"I am convinced that nothing we do is more important than hiring and developing people. At the end of the day you bet on people, not on strategies." – Larry Bossidy*

*"The key for us, number one, has always been hiring very smart people." – Bill Gates*



## **10. Help Me To Have Energy To Do All I Need To**

Lord I am asking that you would multiply my energy in a way that is supernatural. There are so many demands on my time and my resources and there just don't seem to be enough hours in the day sometimes. Lord would you give me energy when I am exhausted? Will you help me to sleep well at night and to wake up refreshed for my work the next day? Lord will you let the passion that I have for my business and my creativity be enough to energize me? Would YOU and your Word be my Red Bull Father? And my extra shot of espresso? Help me to rest when rest is needed Lord and to listen to my body!

Father the demands of my job often leave me with little time to physically take care of myself and I repent that I have not honored my body better. Father I need your help to take care of myself. I am exhausted and worn out and in need of a touch from Heaven on my body. Forgive me Lord for burning the candle at both ends. And I pray Father that you would give me the desire to take better care of myself. Help me Father to set the things in place that give me the energy I need to run this business effectively. I thank you in advance for it Lord. Amen.

*Isaiah 40:29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*

*1 Cor 6: 19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

*Matthew 11:28-29 ...Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

*Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*"Success is almost totally dependent upon drive and persistence. The extra energy required to make another effort or try another approach is the secret of winning." - Denis Waitley*

*"The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have." – Norman Vincent Peale*

*"The higher your energy level, the more efficient your body. The more efficient your body, the better you feel and the more you will use your talent to produce outstanding results."*  
*Anthony Robbins*

*"Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you." – Oprah Winfrey*





## 11. Help Me To Be Brave Enough To Try New Things

Gosh, sometimes Lord, I feel like I'm stuck in a creative rut. I feel uninspired. I feel bored with what I am doing. Some days, it's the same thing over and over and over and the monotony wears on me. Lord will you inspire me to think outside the box? Would you give me creative ideas and make me more creative than I already am? Would you help me to ignore the fear of failure and instead decide to go for it, knowing that if I fail, I will "fail forward" and try again. Lord let me be inspired by the work of others. Give me the courage to do things MY way, perhaps a way that has not previously been done before. Lord let new ideas and new ways of doing things and new changes inspire me! Father I pray you would give me creative dreams in the night and creative visions during the day. Lord let me not ignore the beauty that you have already put around me as a way of inspiring creativity in me. Father help me to recognize what environments make me feel inspired. Maybe nature, maybe a business group, maybe a craft store. And help me to remember to put myself in those places when I need inspiration! Inspire me Lord. Help my creative juices flow. Help me to dream new dreams and make new things. Help me Father to get out of my rut and into my zone. Thank you Lord! Amen.

*Ps 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

*Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."*

*"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." - Scott Adams*

*"Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. " – Steve Jobs*

*"Happy are those who dream dreams and are ready to pay the price to make them come true." - Leon Joseph Cardinal Suenens*

*Facing my fears of trying something new at <http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-21-being-brave-thru-backstage-jitters-at-the-home-show/>*



## **12. Help Me To Find New Clients**

Lord if I don't have clients, I don't have an income. I need people to buy my products and buy my services Father. Lord will you show me who my ideal client is and then give me ways to find them. Lord help me with divine appointments and marketing ideas and open doors where I least expect them. Will you help me to not overlook those clients who I think may be not even worth my time because I know from experience, those clients often turn out to be the best ones. Lord let people supernaturally find me and my products and even my social media channels. And let them tell others about my business. Let the positive words about my company translate into new customers and new sales Father.

And Lord I need marketing ideas to find new customers. Some days I just want to make stuff and not have to worry about selling myself. Would you supernaturally fill in the gaps Father? Let me have more than enough clients Lord. I pray you would multiply the clients I already have. Let me handle them with the utmost care and respect Father so that you can trust me with more clients. And let the new clients come Lord. Let me have more than enough. Amen.

*Phil 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*

*"Exceed your customer's expectations. If you do, they'll come back over and over. Give them what they want- and a little more." – Sam Walton*

*"Make your product easier to buy than your competition, or you will find your customers buying from them, not you." – Mark Cuban*



### **13. Help Me To Have More Than Enough Money**

Lord part of being a “creative” means that I do what I do because I love it. I love to create. I love to make things. I love to bless others with my creativity. Sometimes it’s hard for me to charge money for something that I love so much and yet, I still have bills and financial demands and people who depend on me to bring in an income. Sometimes it can be difficult to convince people to spend money on my services and products because they think they could do it themselves, not realizing the time and energy that goes into it. Lord help me not to grow bitter towards those customers. And Lord help me find the customers who DO want to hire me!

Lord would you help my business to always have more than enough? Would you bless it financially and let me never lack. Father, I pray for a blessing on my business accounts and for wisdom to steward the finances that you have entrusted me with. I pray Father that through my business, lives will be financially blessed and changed. I bind prosperity and abundance to my business in the name of Jesus and ask Father that you bind the devourer on my behalf. Father I believe that you want to prosper my business financially. Not for my gain Lord, but for yours. Help me to always remember Lord that if I focus on my customers, the money will follow. And I thank you in advance for that. Amen.

*Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.*

*Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*

*Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*

*"If you work just for money, you'll never make it, but if you love what you're doing and you always put the customer first, success will be yours." Ray Kroc, McDonalds*

*"Making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art." - Andy Warhol*

*"Disneyland is a work of love. We didn't go into Disneyland just with the idea of making money." - Walt Disney*



## **14. Help Me To Not Get Taken Advantage Of**

Lord sometimes I'm so eager to please and such a people pleaser that I get taken advantage of. I can feel it about to happen and before I know it, I have committed to something I didn't want to do or know isn't good for me. But then I feel like I'm in a pickle Lord and I always say "I won't let this happen again" and yet here I am Lord. Father, I need boundaries. I need the strength to establish those boundaries as soon as they are getting out of whack. I need help saying no and putting practices in place that help me to honor myself in a way that is healthy. Lord I don't want to be a doormat and YOU don't want me to be a doormat. Lord when I'm about to be taken advantage of, would you help me to foresee it before it happens and be able to put into play healthy boundaries to protect myself. Father I want to believe the best about people but I need your Godly wisdom to make decisions so that I'm not taken advantage of. And Father help me to forgive those people who have taken advantage of my kindness and my generosity in the past. Father, I need you. I need your strength. I need your perspective as not to get jaded. I need you right in the center of my business. Thank you Lord. Amen.

*James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

*Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves"*

*Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves"*

*"Givers have to set limits because takers rarely do." – Irma Kurtz*

*"People learn how to treat you based on what you accept from them." – unknown*

*"What you allow will continue." - unknown*



## **15. Help Me Harbor No Bitterness Towards Rich People**

Lord sometimes I look at my clients and the lives that they live and the homes that they live in and my flesh wants to feel jealous. I try to count my blessings Lord and I am so, so grateful for all you have given me. And yet, at times it's tempting to look at their home and their cars and their vacations and their "stuff" and feel envious. Lord would you help me to not feel bitter or jaded or jealous towards the very people who employ my services and buy my products? Lord, help me to feel nothing but appreciation for their business and genuine happiness for the blessings you have given them. Father I know a root of bitterness in my life will only lead to destruction, so I pray Lord that you would pull that root out of me immediately and replace it instead with a grateful, cheerful heart. I don't want to have any seed of bitterness or envy or jealousy or hatred towards people who have bank accounts that look different than mine. I know financial status is no indicator of happiness or eternal salvation. Help me to be grateful for what I have Lord and grateful for my clients. I need your grace Lord to do this. Amen.

*Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

*James 3:16 "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice."*

*Hebrews 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fall of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."*

*"Blowing out someone else's candle does not make you shine any brighter." – unknown*

*"Jealousy is when you count someone else's blessings instead of your own." – unknown*

*"Comparison is the thief of joy."- Theodore Roosevelt*



## **16. Help Me Speak Words Of Life Over My Business**

Lord words are so important to you. Psalm 19:14 says “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Lord I want to please you with the things I say. The bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue. I pray Father that I would use my words for good and not for evil. Father let me use my voice to encourage and edify and build up and bring life to my business. Father would you let your Holy Spirit gently remind me when my words are not lining up with The Word. Convict me Lord when my words are not in agreement with what YOU say Father. Father I want my words to be a salve to hurting hearts. I want them to be like rain in parched land. I want them to be a megaphone attesting to you and your goodness. Help me Lord to control my tongue. Help me to speak truth. Help me to speak life. Help me to use my mouth for good and not for evil. In Jesus name, Amen.

*Ps 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.*

*Ps 141:3 Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

*Prov 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*

*Prov 16:23 The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction.*

*“Every time we speak, we are prophesying our future.” – unknown*

*“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”- Robin Williams*



## **17. Help Me Find A Mentor**

Lord let me never be so proud that I think I can do this alone. We all need mentors. Father, would you give me a godly mentor who runs all of their business decisions by you first. Lord, help me to find someone who can help me to navigate the waters of my business because they too have made the journey and are willing to help me in mine. Father let me not overlook wisdom when you bring it my way and perhaps are trying to deliver it through someone whom I was not expecting. Lord let me tune my ear towards you so I can learn and make good decisions. Father as I am praying for a mentor, I pray also that you would let me BE a mentor to someone. Let me not be stingy Lord with all I that I have learned Lord. I pray I could be a blessing to someone and help them to come up behind me.

*Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

*Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.*

*Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” — Benjamin Franklin*

*“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.” -John Crosby*

*“Be the mentor you wish you had.” - unknown*



## **18. Help Me To Be A Good Leader**

Lord I'm not sure I ever wanted to be a leader. I didn't have a plan to lead people and lead a business. And yet, here I am Lord. And it becomes more and more clear to be that the more I run my business, the more leading I am required to do. And the more I lead, the more people are watching. And the more people who are watching makes me all the more aware of how desperately I need you Lord. Father if you don't show me how to lead this thing, I will surely mess it up. Lord I need help making decisions and navigating and developing people and I need you to teach me to be a good leader. Father you are the best teacher of all so let me remember to watch what YOU did Lord. Help me to run all of my decisions through the filter of your Word first. Let me lead powerfully and purposefully. Let me lead through my life and my decisions and all that I touch. I want to represent you well Father. Help me in this area. Help me to have good followers because I have led well. And help me lead well because I followed you Father. Amen.

*1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

*2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

*"Nothing so conclusively proves a man's ability to lead others, as what he does from day to day to lead himself." - Thomas J. Watson, Former Chairman of IBM*

*"The three most important ways to lead people are:... by example... by example... by example." - Albert Schweitzer*

*"Good business leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion." - Jack Welch*

*"A leader leads by example whether he intends to or not" – Steve Jobs*





## 19. Help Me To Take Criticism Well

Lord when we make things with our hands and sell things that are beautiful, we can feel sensitive about our craft and our creations. And sometimes we are just sensitive people in general. Father would you help me to take criticism well. Would you help me Lord to not be offended but instead be committed to learning all I can about providing the absolute best product or services for my clients. Lord let me remember that no matter how good I get, that I still need instruction and help from above. And Lord I can learn from my critiques. I pray that you would not let me give them too much attention, but also Lord let me hear what they say, weigh it against your scale of truth and adjust accordingly. I don't ever want to think that I know it all Lord. I want my heart to remain humble and teachable. I need you Father to help me sift through the words that people use against me and remain offended and teachable. Teach me Lord to take criticism well and to grow because of it. Amen.

*Proverbs 11:2 – “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”*

*Ephesians 4:15 “Rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”*

*Proverbs 27:5 “Better is open rebuke than hidden love.”*

*Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”*

*“Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.” - Winston Churchill*

*“I much prefer the sharpest criticism of a single intelligent man to the thoughtless approval of the masses.” - Johannes Kepler*

*“The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.” - Norman Vincent Peale*

*“Too many Christians have a commitment of convenience. They'll stay faithful as long as it's safe and doesn't involve risk, rejection, or criticism. Instead of standing alone in the face of challenge or temptation, they check to see which way their friends are going.” - Charles Stanley*

*“To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.” - Elbert Hubbard*

*“Sandwich every bit of criticism between two layers of praise.” - Mary Kay Ash*



## 20. Help Me To Treat My Employees Well

Lord I so want to do right by the people who work for me and with me. Lord, help me to treat them well. Father, give me the means to financially pay them well and help me Lord to remember their love languages. Father to the ones who needs words of affirmation, help me to speak life into them and cover them with words that are genuine and heartfelt and not manipulative. I want them to know they are appreciated. Father to my helpers who love gifts, nudge me into remembering to bless them on occasion. Father I want the reputation of being an amazing, God-fearing employer. Let my staff talk highly of me and me of them. Let neither of us take the other for granted. I am so grateful Father for the people have you have given me to walk along side of me and to help my business prosper. Help me to honor my employees Lord. Let me do right by them and them by me. I pray for loyal, trustworthy, God fearing, honest employees and thank you in advance for bringing them to me Lord. Amen.

Deut 24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.

*“The magic formula that successful businesses have discovered is to treat customers like guests and employees like people.” - Tom Peters*

*“Employee loyalty begins with employer loyalty. Your employees should know that if they do the job they were hired to do with a reasonable amount of competence and efficiency, you will support them.” - Harvey Mackay*

*“The employer generally gets the employees he deserves.” - J. Paul Getty*



## **21. Help My Family To Be Supportive**

God it's so hard to run a business and be a creative entrepreneur if the people in my home are not supportive. Lord would you convict their hearts and let my biggest cheerleaders be the ones under my very roof. Give them ways to support and help me whether that's thru encouragement and prayer or putting paint away or getting things ready for shipping. Lord let them not feel resentful towards my business. Father, I want my family to see the blessing my business is to our entire family. Lord on days when it's hard on all of us and takes a group effort, would you just knit our hearts together. Would you let us have a "family activate" type of moment? Would you let my business bring fun and adventure to our whole family? And would you spark the "entrepreneur bug" into my little family members. Help them to not resent my business but to be encouraged and motivated by it. I pray one day we will look back on the busy days of being a business owner with great memories and pride. We did this as a family, together. Father let me business bind us together and not tear us apart. I pray you will knit this for us and to God be the glory. Amen.

*1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you."*

*Psalms 25: 16-17 "Turn to me and have mercy on me, because I am lonely and hurting. My troubles have grown larger; free me from my problems."*

*I have a blog post about all of my family helping at <http://themagicbrushinc.com/the-magic-brush-its-a-family-affair/>*



## 22. Help Me To Be Loyal And To Have Loyal People Around Me

Father I want to be a loyal person in business and I want people in my business to be loyal to me. In a world where feelings seem to determine many people's next steps, I want to be one who is loyal... regardless of how I feel. Loyal to my family. Loyal to my convictions. Loyal to my business associates. Loyal to my employees. Loyal to YOU Lord. I don't want to be flaky and wishy-washy. I want my yes to be a yes and my no to be a no Father. Father when other people are unloyal to me, let me not return evil for evil Lord, but let me practice forgiveness. Father I pray you bring me loyal employees and loyal customers. Lord I pray that they would stick with me and my business and defend my honor. I pray you bring people along side of me for the long haul Father. People who will remain loyal not just when things are going well and I've got it all together, but also when things are appearing troubled and I'm a mess. Father, would you surround me with loyal people who love me enough to tell me when I get it wrong and help me to get it right. Let me model loyalty to others Lord. And most of all, let me be loyal to you. Amen.

*Proverbs 18:24 - A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*

*1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.”*

*Proverbs 21:21 - "He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor."*

*Proverbs 20:28 - "Loyalty and truth preserve the king, and he upholds his throne by righteousness."*

*Proverbs 20:6- "Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?"*

*"The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty." - Zig Ziglar*

*"Loyal customers, they don't just come back, they don't just simply recommend you, they INSIST that their friends to business with you." – Chip Bell*

*"I'll take 50% efficiency to get 100% loyalty" – Samuel Goldwyn*

*"Those who appreciate the price of betrayal through experience, honor the value of loyalty by practice, in business and in life." – Anne Armen*



## **23. Help Me To Bring Christ Into My Business**

Father I never want to be ashamed of you. I never want to hide my Christian beliefs. I always want people to know that I am a Jesus lover.....sold out on living for you. And yet we live in a world Father where people are persecuted for their faith. Lord will you make me courageous in including you in my business. Let me not back down from my beliefs in a world where they want us to keep our faith under wraps. Lord I want to be bold in my convictions and bold on my social media and bold to my employees and bold to my customers. And I need you to give me that boldness Father. Lord let me be so sold out for you that I cannot deny my faith. Let it be impossible for me to not weave it into my business. Let my faith be such a part of who I am that I am unshaken when people persecute me because of it. Lord I want to look at everything thru an eternal lens and I want to represent you so well. Father let me have boldness. And yet give me wisdom. Let me be courageous and yet, give me discernment. I know Lord that you will honor every tough thing that you ask me to do. I pray Father that I would see people come to Christ through my business. Help me to make you look good Lord. I want to represent you well in my business. Amen.

*Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

*"Perhaps part of the problem today is that there is a growing cultural demarcation between the sacred and the secular. Increasingly, love and faith are reserved for Church on Sundays, while the workplace demands a focused self-interest and a competitive edge to survive." – Charlie Douglas*

*"When you apply principles of your faith at work – regardless of what that faith is – you obviously know that God expects you to use your talents. He expects you to grow what He has given you. To not do so is akin to wickedness and laziness." – Sandi Krakowski*



## **24. Help Me Find-Like Minded Individuals**

Lord when I find people I can “talk shop” with.... I rejoice. I know they are a gift from you! Thank you Father for giving me people to inspire me.... who get me and understand my entrepreneurial spirit because they have it too. Lord just being around people who think like me ENERGIZES me. What a gift! Lord would you continue to bring people around me who encourage me to think outside the box, who encourage me to try a little harder and dig a little deeper. Father give me friends in this war for my business. Let them understand and empathize with the challenges and ins and outs of being a small business owner. Thank you Father for the people you have blessed me with who are in my creative world. Thank you Lord for foot soldiers in this war for my craft with me. Thank you for my business’s cheerleaders and my support team and my employees and my contractors. I pray Father that you will continue to help me find people who make me want to be better and do better. Lord would you not only bring like-minded people to me to bless me, but would you also let me be a blessing to other like-minded people. Thank you Father for giving me other entrepreneurs to link arms with. Amen.

*Eccl 4:9 – “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”*

*1 Cor 15:33 – “Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character.”*

*Prov 13:20- “Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.”*

*“Everyone is your best friend when you are successful. Make sure that the people that you surround yourself with are also the people that you are not afraid of failing with.” - Paula Abdul*

*“Surround yourself with like-minded people. Success is a group activity.” – Angel Alzona*

*“Who you hang out with determines what you dream about and what you collide with. And the collisions and the dreams lead to your changes. And the changes are what you become. Change the outcome by changing your circle.” – Seth Godin*

*“You are the average of the 5 people you spend the most time with.” – Jim Rohn*

*I have a video on needing one another in business at <http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-26-entrepreneurs-need-entrepreneurs/>*



## 25. Help Me To Bless My Competitors

Father I pray for blessings upon my competitors and their businesses Lord. Father, help me to remember the biblical principle of reaping and sowing and to let no evil thing proceed from my lips about them. Father even when they are unkind and un-Christ-like towards me, help me to never return evil for evil. Lord your word says that I am to pray for my enemies and to bless them. And so I DO pray for them Father. I pray their businesses would prosper and their hearts would be turned towards you. I pray you would give me creative ways Lord to stand apart from my competitors and I pray Father that there would be room for us all to prosper. Let me concentrate more Lord on my clients than my competition. Let me put blinders on when it comes to them and I pray Lord that you would squash jealousy before the seed can even have a chance to be planted in my heart. Lord you say in your word that we are to live in harmony and unity. Help me to do that with my competitors in the name of Jesus. Father I pray I would be so on fire for my clients and for what you are doing MY business that I wouldn't even have time to critique or criticize what they are doing in their business. Father I want blessings on my business, so I pray for blessings on theirs.

*1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*

*Ex 23:22 If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.*

*Matt 5:44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

*Heb 1:13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?"*

*"If you're competitor-focused, you have to wait until there is a competitor doing something. Being customer-focused allows you to be more pioneering." - Jeff Bezos*

*"The competitor to be feared is one who never bothers about you at all, but goes on making his own business better all the time." - Henry Ford*



## 26. Help Me To Appreciate Where My Business Is Currently

Oh Lord why isn't my business growing as fast as I want it to? Lord I'm praying for expanded boundaries and overflowing storehouses and instead some days it feels like my business is growing by inches instead of feet. Lord your word says in Zechariah 4:10 that we are not to despise small beginnings. But Lord, it just seems like my business should be growing faster. Father, give me patience. Help me to trust your process. Help me to mature during this small growth period so that I am mature enough spiritually and emotionally to handle the enlarged territory in the future.

Father, as I'm waiting for growth, help me to not look around and compare my business to other's. Lord I want to appreciate every single thing you have done for me and my business. Comparing ourselves is the thief of joy, so help me to fully appreciate where I am.... right now..... today. Help me to see in my mind where I am headed and like a captain steers a ship, would you steer me in that direction. Help me to remember you are with me every step of the way. Help me to do what I need to do thru you Jesus to see this business prosper. And let me be grateful for where I am, every step of the way because I know in due season, you will move and elevate my business to where you want it to be. Amen.

*Isaiah 54:2-3 – Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out of the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy*

*"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend." - Melody Beattie*

*"'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, and understanding." - Alice Walker*





## **27. Help Me To Stay Humble**

Lord you have blessed me so much. Business is good and prospering and people are so kind and supportive of my creative talent and products. Lord would you help me to remain humble. Let me remember that every good gift comes from above and that too much ego will destroy my talent. Lord I want to honor you with my talent. I want to honor you with my business. Lord, help me to never get too big for my britches and so full of myself that I have forgotten where I started. Help me to never get too big-headed to encourage other creative entrepreneurs who are coming up behind me. Help me to recognize and appreciate my clients and my fans and to remember that without them, I would have no business. This is your deal Lord. I'm just the face on it. Help me to honor you with this business. Help me to bring you glory thru my gift. I thank you for it.

*James 4:6 – “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

*Proverbs 15:33 “Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.”*

*Luke 14:11 “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

*“Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.” - Thomas Merton*

*“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.” - Rick Warren*

*“Never look down on anybody unless you are helping them up.” – Jesse Jackson*

*“A great man is always will to be little.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*“The biggest challenge after success is shutting up about it.” – Criss Jami*

*“A true genius admits that he/she knows nothing.” – Albert Einstein*



## **28. Help Me To Focus**

I feel so passionate about so many things that I want to make this and I want to make that and I want to write this and I want to take pictures of that. I want to browse thru Pinterest and connect on Facebook and hot glue something and write a blog post and do a new painting finish and .....HELP! Lord I know there are only so many hours in the day. Would you help me to focus on what I NEED to do so that I have plenty of time and energy left for the things I WANT to do? Lord there are some things that HAVE to get done to run my business. I'm asking Father for razor sharp focus; the ability to turn off the rest of the world. Help me to disconnect from social media so I can focus, focus, focus on what you have for me. Let me recognize my own personal time-stealers Lord and make better use of my time. Give me the ability to hone in and get things done. I want to be able to mute out the distractions so that I can hear you and so I can focus. Father in this noisy world, I desperately need you! Amen.

*Proverbs 4:25 Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.*

*1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

*1 Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.*

*"When you focus on being a blessing, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance." - Joel Osteen*

*"Concentration is my motto - first honesty, then industry, then concentration." - Andrew Carnegie*

*"As an artist, you have to maintain focus and eliminate the distraction of second-guessing yourself based on the opinions of others." - Dwight Yoakam*

*"You can always find a distraction if you're looking for one." - Tom Kite*

*I have a short video on actually DOING a project instead of just planning it  
<http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-12-from-pinterest-to-progress-making-the-jump/>*



## 29. Help Us To Have Physical Safety

Lord, all creative careers involve some sort of physical effort whether it's climbing ladders for painting or cutting wood for a table or welding earrings or gluing crafts. And things can go wrong anytime one is using tools or at a job site. Lord, I pray for the physical safety of my team and I in the name of Jesus. Father I pray against any schemes of the enemy to bring harm, sickness, illness or injury to my team or myself. Lord I thank you in advance for your hedge of physical protection around my business and my workers that is both high and wide! Lord I ask for a body that feels good and healthy enough to physically do my job to the very best of my ability every single day that you let me work. I thank you Lord for this body you have given me and ask that you would give me the wisdom and discipline to take care of it in a way that makes my job easier. Father would you let me have good practices in place for safety. Help me to see where there may be gaps that could present issues and help me to bridge those gaps in safety. Father I pray for the right insurance and the right coverage and anything else my business may need so that we are protected from every side. Lord I pray your angels would be ever present as we work and that you would give them charge over us. Protect us Lord as we work! Amen.

*Psalm 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

*Ps 91:10 No harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.*

*Ps 121:7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;*

### Psalm 91

<sup>1</sup> *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty,*

<sup>2</sup> *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*

<sup>3</sup> *Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.*

<sup>4</sup> *He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

<sup>5</sup> *You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,*

<sup>6</sup> *nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*



<sup>7</sup> *A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.*

<sup>8</sup> *You will only observe with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.*

<sup>9</sup> *If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"  
and you make the Most High your dwelling,  
<sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you,  
no disaster will come near your tent.*

<sup>11</sup> *For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;*

<sup>12</sup> *they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

<sup>13</sup> *You will tread on the lion and the cobra;  
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

<sup>14</sup> *"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

<sup>15</sup> *He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.*

<sup>16</sup> *With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."*

*"Better a thousand times careful than once dead." – Proverb*

*"Precaution is better than cure." – Edward Coke*

*"Safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy." – unknown*

*"Safety doesn't happen by accident." – unknown*

*"Working safely may get old, but so do those who practice it." - unknown*



### 30. Help Me To See God's Vision For My Business

Lord forgive me for sometimes being only able to see what's right in front of me. Lord I know your plans and dreams for my life are so much bigger than my dreams for myself. Lord if I could see the beginning from the end, I may be terrified by what's in store for my business. So thank you for only giving me a vision for what I can handle. Lord I pray I wouldn't unknowingly "stunt" my business with my words or my actions. I also pray Father that you would stop me from trying to elevate my business on my own accord. I want all of the elevating to come from you Father! I pray Lord that you would give me dreams and visions in my sleep. And in my daydreaming time, would you give me glimpses of where you are taking me Lord. Father, give me ideas to think BIGGER and outside of the creative box that I have put myself in. Lord, I know my business isn't always about painting. It's about people. It's always about people. Help me to see that Father and see how my business can be a blessing. I want to dream bigger with you Father. I want to take this thing as far as YOU want it to go. I want to

*Jer 29:11 For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Isaiah 54:2 Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.*

*Isaiah 14:27 Nothing can stop God's plan for your life.*

*"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." - Colin Powell*

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt*

*"All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds, wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, to make them possible." - T. E. Lawrence*

*"God made dreamers so the rest of the world would have hope." – Sandi Krakowski*

*"The will of God will not take us where the grace of God Cannot sustain us." – Billy Graham*



### 31. Help Me To Tithe

Lord, money can be such a sensitive topic but I want more than anything to have your hand of blessing on my life, on my family and on my business. Lord, help me to understand the biblical mandate of tithing. Help me to wrap my head around the thinking that ALL of my business and all of my work and all of my finances come from you anyway. You are just asking for 10% back. Let it penetrate my heart deeply Lord, that it is NOT because you need my money, but it's because you WANT my heart. And you, in your all knowingness, know our pocketbooks show where our hearts lie. I want my heart to lie with you Father.

Lord, help me to be a giver. Your word says you love a cheerful giver, but help me to give as an act of obedience EVEN WHEN I am not cheerful about it. Lord, you honor obedience. You honor giving. Your word says I can test you in this area. I want to honor you by giving to you what is yours even when it's hard. Father when funds are tight and bills are mounting, help me to be brave with my giving... especially then. Father I understand that to whom much is given much will be required and that Lord when you know you can trust me with a little, that you will bring more. I want to honor you in this area of my life and live with my hands wide open..... unafraid. I know you will take care of my business and you will take care of my family. Let me be a faithful giver Father. Amen.

*Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

*Prov 11: 24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*Mal 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

*2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

*"Giving out of your surplus does not make you generous, it makes your selfishness more tolerable! Giving while you are lacking is what pleases the Lord." — William Branks*

*"The fact that they viewed their wealth as a result of their own hands, without any honor other than lip service being given to the god that had blessed them, gave perfect openings to the liars slithering up their legs." — Lee Goff*



### 32. Would You Give Me Open Doors

Lord I pray for open doors for my business and for my life. Father would you give me divine appointments with people who would come along side my business and help it to prosper. Father I pray that you would also shut doors to my business that you do not want me to walk thru. Make it obvious for me the paths that I am to take Lord. And help me to be brave enough to walk thru those open doors, even when I am scared. Let me walk thru open doors not because I know where the door leads, but because I trust the One who has opened it. Lord I want the open doors that YOU want for me. And I want to be grateful when opportunities come my way that could ONLY come from you. Help me to see those God opportunities and to give you all the glory. Let me always remember Lord that you are a good gift giver. And let me remember also Father that open doors may put me out of my comfort zone. But you will never leave me, nor forsake me. Lord I am grateful for every single open door in my life. And, I'm equally grateful for closed doors. I know Father that what I think is best for me and what you KNOW is best for me are often two different things. Thank you Lord for protecting me with closed doors. And thank you in advance for the doors you are about to open! Amen.

*Rev 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.*

*Isaiah 22:22 I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.*

*Matthew 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

*“Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot.” – Clarence Thomas*

*“You know, God will give favor to anyone who will believe Him. Every day you should confess that you have favor everywhere you go. God will begin to open doors that you wouldn't believe.” – Joyce Meyer*



### 33. Would You Protect My Reputation

Father in a perfect world, we would all get along; there would be no haters; there would be no drama. There would be no ill words spoken about people and their businesses. But we live in a fallen world Lord and there are times when my heart is broken over the things I hear people saying about me. Lord I know they aren't true and you know they aren't true, but it pains me to think that others believe it. Father help me to remember that what people think of me is none of my business. Let me remember Lord that YOU hold my reputation. You will make things right. You will vindicate me. You will protect me. You will honor my attempts at peacemaking. You are the perfect accountant and the perfect judge. My job is just to be obedient. Father I pray for a hedge of protection about my reputation. Lord I pray that I remember what YOU say about me matters more than what other's think of me. Father let me hold my head high. Would you let me sleep well at night because I know regardless of what people may say, I am at peace with the creator of the universe and it is well with my soul. Amen.

*Prov 18:10 The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

*Psalms 118:5-7 When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.*

*Isaiah 41: 11-13 All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.*

*Psalms 91:11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*

*"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us." - Thomas Paine*

*"Because the voice you believe will determine the future you experience." - Steven Furtick*

*"Your freedom will be determined by whether you allow what God thinks and says about you to matter more than what anyone else thinks or says." — Christine Caine*





### 34. Would You Give Me Protection From Evil

Father I know you are my very real help in my time of trouble. I know you command your angels concerning me and you are my rear guard. Father your word says you go before me and you hem me in. Lord would you protect me and my business and my family from the evil in this world. Let me never make them bigger in my mind than what you are Father. Let me concentrate on what your Word says Lord and who YOU are Father. Lord I pray for safety and protection and for guidance and for wisdom for my business in the name of Jesus. I pray any plan of the enemy would be null and void in Jesus name. Father I pray no weapons formed against me or my business would prosper and I thank you in advance Lord for the marvelous work you are doing. Let me remember Lord that worship is WARFARE. And when I need to war for my business Father, I pray you would heed my prayers and give me pray warriors to go with me. Protect me Lord. Protect the ones I love. Protect my business. I give it all to you and I trust you with it Father. Amen.

*Ps 37: 32-33 The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, intent on putting them to death; but the Lord will not leave them in the power of the wicked or let them be condemned when brought to trial.*

*Isaiah 54:17 No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.*

*John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

*Ps 91:10 No harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.*

*Ps 121:7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life.*

*“As long as there is someone in the sky to protect me, there is no one on earth who could break me.” – [www.bestquotes4you.com](http://www.bestquotes4you.com)*



### 35. Would You Help Me To Resist Temptation

Father temptations are all over in this world. And they are in the business world as well. Temptations to fudge a little here or skip a little there. Temptations to complain and murmur and back bite. Temptations on taxes. Temptations on embellishing things. Father, you know.... you know the temptations and you know my weaknesses. Father help me to not give place to the evil one. Your word in Ephesians 27 says that I am not to give place to the devil. Lord don't even let me give him a crack. Father where I am tempted, let Holy Spirit convict me to do right. Where I am tempted to compromise my convictions to keep the peace or self-protect, let me be humble and strong Father. Lord I pray you will strengthen my resolve. Let me weigh all of my business decisions against the scales of your Word Lord and let me resist the temptation to make the *easy* decisions. Father let me remember the saying that "sin will take me farther than I wanna go, it will keep me longer than I wanna stay and it will cost me far more than I wanna pay" (author unknown). Lord I want to be the girl who does the hard stuff because it's the right thing to do Father. I want to make you proud. Give me the strength Lord to do the right thing. Amen.

*Ps 138:3 When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.*

*Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.*

*Luke 22:40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."*

*James 1:13 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life.*

*"Temptation is the devil looking in through a keyhole. Yielding is opening the door and inviting him in" – Billy Sunday"*

*"Every time you defeat temptation, you become more like Jesus." – Rick Warren*

*"Flee temptation and don't leave a forwarding address." – eisakouo.com*



### 36. Would You Bless the Work of My Hands

Lord I pray that you would bless my hands as I work. Let them create something that brings beauty to this world. Let them bring beauty to homes and people's lives and to communities and to entire cities Lord! I pray Father that the work of my hands would be a blessing to all who I come into contact with. Not because I am so talented Lord, but because I know the master artist, the master potter, the one who created beauty. Lord I want to bless others with the gift you have given me. I want the things I make to touch hearts and change lives. I want my gift to bring light where there has been darkness and bring hope to the hopeless. Lord let me never underestimate what you can do through my talent. It's more than just making pretty stuff Lord. Let it help to set people free. I pray that all that I touch Lord would be honoring to you. Amen.

*1 Thes 4:11 And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you.*

*Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.*

*Ecc 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*

*Exodus 35: 35 – He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.*

*“He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.” – Francis of Assisi*

*“When I say artist, I mean the one who is building things..... some with a brush – some with a shovel – some choose a pen.” – Jackson Pollock*

*“Creative work is not a selfish act or a bid for attention on the part of the actor. It's a gift to the world and every being in it. Don't cheat us of your contribution. Give us what you've got.” – Steven Pressfield*



### **37. Would You Protect Me From Jobs That Are No Good For Me**

Lord not every job or every client who comes my way is good for me or my business. And only YOU know Lord who those clients are. Father I know that you KNOW all things and can SEE all things, therefore YOU know best for my business. There have been times that I have not gotten a job that looked so good on the outside and I've been so disappointed. And yet, I have to trust you Lord. You know the beginning from the end, so you know what I need and what I don't. Father, I ask for your hedge of protection over my business.

I need your discernment on who to work for and who not to. Lord, help me to be brave enough to cut ties when I know that a job is no good for me and my business. Father it's scary to be confrontational or turn down work, so would you give me the courage to do what you are asking me to do, even when it's scary. And help me to Lord to trust you even when I don't understand. And Father I pray you always bring my business enough. Enough jobs. Enough income. Enough work to be a blessing to my family. And I thank you in advance Lord for it.

*Ps 121:7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;*

*Ps 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

*Ps 32:7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

*Ps 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

*“Every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was actually being re-directed to something better.” – Dr. Steve Maraboli*

*“When God gives you a new beginning, it starts with an ending. Be thankful for closed doors. They often guide us to the right one.” – A Woman of Faith*

*“What God gives you is yours, what He takes away you don't need.” – unknown*

*“Don't stress about the closed doors behind you. New doors are opening if you keep moving forward.” Kushandwisdom.com*



### **38. When I Feel Like No One Understands My Business**

There are some days Lord when I feel like no one understands what I do. Not even my spouse and my kiddos. My spouse leaves the house for work every day with expectations laid out for him at his job and I..... I have to set my own goals, I have to give myself my own review, make my own deadlines, market my own craft, come up with my own new ideas. Lord I feel like it's hard to explain the pressures of being a creative entrepreneur to people who aren't in my world. Lord when I feel like no one else understands, would you lovingly, in a way that only you can, remind me that YOU understand. You yourself Jesus were a carpenter. You worked with your hands. You had creative skills. Oh how I would love to see your Facebook page, Lord. I can only imagine the advice you would give and the parables you would tell. I know you understand Father. I know you see everything I do and all the pressures I have.

Lord, help me to give grace to those in my world who do not understand the pressures of being an entrepreneur. Help me to find people who DO understand and who can "talk shop" with me. Help me to remember Lord that even when I am lonely, I am never alone. You are right here, just a prayer away and you can handle all my thoughts, all my fears, all my complaints. Thank you Lord for being the BEST shoulder to cry on. Thank you for seeing all that I do and for none of it being in vain. Amen.

Hebrews 4:13 – "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

"If your employees thought like you, they would be your competition and not your employees" – unknown

I have a post on the challenges of self-employment at <http://themagicbrushinc.com/cant-believe-just-came-mouth/>



### 39. When I Feel Like Giving Up

Some days Lord, it would just appear that going back to an office job or throwing in the towel would be so much easier. Running my own business is hard Lord. It's overwhelming. It seems like my 9-5 friends and family do not understand. I feel like a Lone Ranger out here and there are days when I am tempted to give up on this gig. When I feel like this Lord, I pray that your presence would be so close that I could almost touch it. Would you be right next to me Lord as I have one more late night, one more close deadline, one more rough month in sales. Remind me Lord of why I create things and that YOU.... you the best of artists, put these gifts in me to share with the world. Let me courageously plow forward Lord, even when quitting looks like the easy out. And would you give me cheerleaders for my journey Lord? I need soldiers along side of me who encourage me to run the race set before me. Help me Father to let my tantrums be short and my commitment to your dreams for my life be long. I know it's ok to feel frustrated and discouraged for a moment Lord, but don't let me live there. Father help me to feel hope when situations appear hopeless. And help me to speak hope even when I don't feel it. Lord, I need you. Amen.

*Isaiah 40:31 "But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."*

*2 Chron 15:7 "But as for you, be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded."*

*Gal 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

*"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog." — Mark Twain*

*"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." — Nelson Mandela*

*"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up." — Babe Ruth*

*"Don't wish it were easier; wish you were better." — Jim Rohn*

*I have a blog post on facing fears as an entrepreneur at <http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-35-overcoming-the-fear-that-all-entrepreneurs-face/>*



## **40. When I Fear Failure and Rejection**

Lord no one likes to fail. And some days the thought of failing feels like it is looming over my head. On days like this Lord, help me to remember that even if my business fails or my product fails or my idea fails, that I am not a failure Lord. Help me to remember that my craft is what I do, but it is NOT who I am. You say Lord that I am the head and not the tail. You say I am above and not beneath. You say that I am loved and precious and you call me friend. Let me not worry about failing Lord. Let me not grow weary in doing good Father. Would you give me some encouragement today Lord? Not tomorrow, or the next day, but would you give me reassurance TODAY Father that you are right here with me? I'm asking for little kisses from heaven that remind me that I am doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing. Would you help Lord to remember to that just because some things in my business don't work, that it's not a sign for me to retreat, but to reload. Give me new ideas Lord, new direction, creativity from above. When I do fail Lord, I pray I fail forward....onto the next thing for my business. Father help me to remember that more are for me than against me! Rejection is something that may happen to me but it is not who I am Lord. Thank you Father that you never reject me and that your love will not fail. Amen.

*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.*

*2 Sam 22:3-4 My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me. "I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies.*

*"An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail." - Edwin Land*

*"If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative." - Woody Allen*

*"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default." -J. K. Rowling*

*A video on overcoming fear <http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-35-overcoming-the-fear-that-all-entrepreneurs-face/>*



## **41. When I Need Inspiration**

Father there are days when I feel uninspired. Today is one of those days when I feel a little ho-hum and could use inspiration from above. Lord would you let me be still enough and in tune enough with you to see the inspiration that you provide for me every day. Lord, help me to remember that inspiration can come from noticing the colors on the fall trees. Or seeing a new mother stare lovingly into her baby's eyes or reading a book that sparks an idea in me. Lord I want to be sensitive to YOUR ideas and the things YOU are inspired by. I don't want to be so rushed in this world that I miss it. I don't want to be so enthralled by my electronic device that I miss the glorious artwork right in front of me. Help me to take note of the beauty all around me. And help me to find inspiration for my work in it. Thank you Lord for giving us pretty stuff to look at every day. The hope of a new sunrise, the beauty in the way the clouds move quickly thru the sky, the sound of birds chirping, the smell after a summer rain, the insane display of every color in the coloring box in the sky at sunset. You thought of it all Lord. Help me to be inspired by your handiwork. Would you give me ideas and visions and renew that spark of creativity in me Father so that I can think and dream of new things. Inspire me Lord and let me be brave enough to try it. Amen.

*Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.*

*"The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones." - John Maynard Keynes*

*"You see things; and you say 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?'" - George Bernard Shaw*





## 42. When I Need To Establish Healthy Boundaries

Father I am a people pleaser. I get great pleasure out of seeing people excited about my work and the things I create for them. In being such a pleaser though Lord, I tend to overcommit and say yes to too much. I have a hard time establishing healthy boundaries. And then my flesh wants to pout Lord because I know I should be able to do better with boundaries. I know establishing healthy boundaries is a process and one that won't happen overnight. Father would you help me to know what my boundaries are and where to draw them? Father, give me the courage to say no when I need to and not feel the need to explain myself or make excuses. Lord I need wisdom to know what boundaries are needed so that I can be healthy and I also need the courage to put them in to practice. Father would you help me to get braver and braver and braver every time I draw a line in the sand. Would you take away my tummy ache and replace it instead with confidence that comes from having spent time with you. Let me be courageous in my boundary setting Lord. For I know you honor the things that are in the right order. Thank you Father in advance for doing a good work in me in this area. Thank you Lord that healthy boundaries are for my own good and that I will get better at setting them. Amen.

*Matthew 5: 37 "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."*

*"Drive thy business or it will drive thee." -Benjamin Franklin*

*"Daring to set boundaries is about having the courage to love ourselves, even when we risk disappointing others." - Brene Brown*

*"Boundaries are to protect life, not to limit pleasures." - Edwin Louis Cole*

*"No" is a complete sentence." – Anne Lamott*

*"When we fail to set boundaries and hold people accountable, we feel used and mistreated. This is why we sometimes attack who they are, which is far more hurtful than addressing a behavior or a choice." – Brene Brown*



### 43. When I Feel Burned Out

Father I'm burned out and it's my own fault. I've worked too hard for too long and I have not respected your command to rest. And now here I am, tired and frustrated and I've fallen out of love with the very thing that got me to be a creative entrepreneur in the first place. Lord I need rest. I need a vision for this business. I need you to come in and fix what I've messed up and help me to put my priorities back in the right place.

Lord would you give a break from the monotony and give me inspiration. A book, a class, an idea...something to replace my burn out with PASSION again. Lord I'm exhausted and need a touch from heaven. Would you bring me foot soldiers alongside me to help me with my workload? Would you help me to clear from my calendar what I don't NEED to be doing? Will you help me to straighten up this mess? Father, when I'm burned out it does no good for my business. I know I need to learn more about REST. Rest is warfare and it's a discipline that I struggle with. Help me to learn to rest Father in order to re-ignite my passion about my business. Help me to learn from this Lord so I am never here again. Forgive me Lord for letting things get out of order. Help me to fall in love again with my craft and the gift you gave me. I pray you will pull me from this pit of burn-out. Amen.

*1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

*Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

*Exodus 20:8-10 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.*

*"When your soul is resting, your emotions are okay, your mind is okay, and your will is at peace with God, not resisting what He's doing." - Joyce Meyer*

*"Leadership is an active role; 'lead' is a verb. But the leader who tries to do it all is headed for burnout and in a powerful hurry." – Bill Owens*



#### **44. When I Have A Tough Client**

Lord, most of my clients are amazing. But then there are those few, those few who come my way who challenge my peace and who make me want to behave in ways that I know are not honoring to you Lord. Father, help me to see through their yucky actions and see straight to their heart. Lord, help me to hear through their words to understand what it is they are wanting. Even when they are not behaving as I want them to, help me to see them through YOUR eyes Lord and remember that YOU love them. People always have a reason for behaving the way they do and I pray Lord that you wouldn't let me take their behavior personally. Father most of all, I pray that they would be able to see Jesus in me by I react to them. Lord, I've had a few clients over the years that were difficult to work for and as I humbled myself, the situation was almost always diffused. Lord, give me wisdom. Wisdom to draw boundaries. Wisdom to handle situations. And wisdom to represent you well Lord. Father, protect me from the clients who are bad news for my business and give me the grace to handle all the rest!

*Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*"It is so much easier to be nice, to be respectful, to put yourself in your customers' shoes and try to understand how you might help them before they ask for help, than it is to try to mend a broken customer relationship." - Mark Cuban*

*"The golden rule for every business man is this: 'Put yourself in your customer's place.'" - Orison Swett Marden*

*"Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning" – Bill Gates*



## 45. When I Am In Lean Times

Lord I know you see that sometimes during the year, my business is more profitable than others. I have slow months like I am in now and I need your help Lord to ease my fears. Help me to rest well Lord knowing that a harvest is coming just around the corner because I have planted good seeds with my business. Help me to not freak out about the bills this month and where my next gig is coming from and help me to reign in my thoughts. Let me speak LIFE over my business. Give me positive, life giving words to say to build myself and my business up!

Thank you Lord for this down time where I can concentrate on marketing and paperwork that I've put off. Thank you Lord that YOU are my provider, not my business. Thank you Father that you have work coming and clients coming and ideas coming. I pray Father for more than enough in my business accounts and personal accounts. I pray Father that I would not grow stingy during this lean time, but beat the devil at his own game by giving EVEN MORE when things are tight. Lord, let money have no hold on me. Let me fear not.

And at the same time Lord, you know the world does operate on finances so while I am not obsessing about it, but would you bring the finances we need in. Would you give me ideas right now on how to present my business and product in a new way that is PROFITABLE. And let me be able to pay those who work for me. Let me be able to make every bill on time Lord. I know you are rarely early but you are never late Lord. Thank you in advance for financial breakthrough for my business!!!! Amen.

*Deut 8:18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

*Phil 4: 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*Prov 6: 6-8 Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.*



## 46. When I Am In Prosperous Times

Oh Lord I am overwhelmed by your goodness. Thank you Father for the seasons in my business when we are prospering. Thank you Father for the times we land big jobs and I get a big check and life is good. Lord, help me during these times to remember to be a good steward with my finances. Help me to remember the story of the ants in the bible and how they store in prosperous times so they have some left for the lean times.

Lord I pray my business always prospers. I pray you bless this business so I can be a blessing to others. I pray this business is a blessing to my family and my church family and to other families Lord. I pray I stay humble when things are going well financially and that you would help me to make good decisions for where I spend every single dollar that I make. Lord, show me how to use my money to generate more money. And I am grateful for every customer, every dollar that you bring to me. Praise be to God!

*Deut 28:8-11 The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.*



## 47. When I Feel Jealous of Other People's Talents

Lord, I know I have a gift to make beautiful things, but frankly some days I feel uninspired. Some days I feel like a fraud and just “stuck” that I have nothing new and pretty to come up with. On those days, I can sometimes be tempted to look at other people's talents and to feel “lesser than”. Lord sometimes.... if I am really honest, I feel jealous of other people's talents.

Social media, while a blessings in so many ways, doesn't help the “insecure creative”. On occasion, I will look at Pinterest and the self-critiquing begins: “why didn't I think of that?” Or “why can't I paint like that?”. Then I see all the beautiful things the home bloggers are putting on Facebook and I am tempted to do that ugly comparison thing and I end up devaluing and dishonoring the very gift that you very specifically gave to ME.

Lord, would you help me not to do that? Would you help me to appreciate the gifts that you have given me and to not feel bitter or envious towards the gifts you've given to others? Would you give me inspiration in places that I may not think to even look. Help me Lord in times when I am uninspired to see things differently. Help me to see things with your eyes. Lord beauty is important to you or you would not have given us color..... you could have made the world in black and white and we would never have known the difference.

Lord would you give me dreams and visions for my craft that make me more creative than I am? Would you help me to be happy for others and their talents because I am so secure and so grateful for my own talent. I don't want to dishonor you Father by lusting after things that are not mine. Let the beauty that I see others create INSPIRE me to create too.

Thank you Lord for the talents that you have entrusted to me. I pray you will use them to make the world a prettier place.

*James 3: 14-16 - But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*Prov 14:30 - A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

*Rom 13:13- Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.*

*“Comparison is the thief of joy.”- Theodore Roosevelt*

*“The reason we struggle with insecurity is because we compare our behind -the-scenes with everyone else's highlight reel” – Steven Furtick*



## 48. When I Am Dealing With Social Media

Lord, thank you for social media. Thank you, Lord that we can now connect with people across the world in a nanosecond. We can find out news in real time. We have places and apps to advertise our businesses.....for free Lord. What a blessing it is to be a business owner in this day! Lord, I pray your blessing over my social media channels and over social media in general. I pray what the enemy intends for evil, that you would use for good. I pray that my business would have a positive presence on social media. Help me Lord to be uplifting and encouraging and life-giving online. Lord, help me to understand that venting and complaining and pulling others down on social media will not elevate my business.

Father, help me to learn how to navigate this tech savvy world. Would you bring people alongside me who can teach me what I need to know. Father, help me to use social media to grow my business and my platform. Would you help me to be real and transparent and brave enough to share my faith with my followers. Father help me to understand that social media IS social. It's about relationship, not numbers. And I pray Father that you would help me to use my TIME wisely on social media. It can be a time-sucker Father. Help me to keep good boundaries and to not ignore what needs to be done by spending mindless hours surfing. Help me to stay out of the drama. Help me to be a source of life.

Thank you Lord for people like Mark Zuckerberg. I pray blessings over him and the forerunners online who are blazing a trail for us. Let us not be resentful of something or someone who can bring our business to the world. I pray for connections of Godly proportions and supernatural connections on social media Lord. Let me be a bright light in Jesus name. Amen.

*Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

*Col 4: 5-6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

*Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

*"We all have personal brands and most of us have already left a digital footprint, whether we like it or not. Proper social media use highlights your strengths that may not shine through in an interview or application and gives the world a broader view of who you are. Use it wisely."*

*- Amy Jo Martin*

*"You are what you share." – C.W. Leadbeater*

*"Marketing is no longer about the stuff that you make, but about the stories you tell." – Seth Godin*



## **49. When People Are Critical Of My Business**

Lord it hurts when people talk smack on me and my business. The bible says “rejoice when they speak all manner of evil against you for My name’s sake. For they persecuted the prophets who went before you”. Lord I read that scripture and I know what you are saying and yet, words hurt. Father I pray that you would help me to learn to tune out the chatter and that Lord you would rebuke the enemy on my behalf. Father, help me to turn the other cheek and to bless my enemies and to know that when they are speaking out against me, they are revealing more of their character than mine. Lord you are the BEST accountant. You Lord will make this right. The word says “vengeance is mine says the Lord” so Father let me not get emotionally entangled but trust YOU to even the score. I thank you Lord in advance for protecting my business and my reputation. Amen.

*Joshua 10: 8 "And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."*

*Proverb 19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.*

*Rom 12:19 "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord."*

*"Critics and naysayers on social media confirm you are ON TRACK and powerful!!!" – Sandi Krakowski*





## **50. When People Leave My Business**

Father, people come and go in business. I ask Lord that you would help me to not take it personally Father. Where I am tempted to be offended or hurt, I pray that you would help me to see all sides of the equation. If there is an area Father that I could improve on in order to keep good help, let me see that Lord. I don't want to be blind to my own shortcomings Father. In every situation Lord, I want to honor you with my behavior and my words. Lord help me to forgive those who left in a way that was non-honoring to me. And Lord, help me to be a blessing to the ones who are leaving with integrity.

Lord I pray you would let me be a part of someone else's success and because I have been brave Lord, that they will be courageous and brave in their endeavors too. Let me represent you well, even when I am hurt or blind-sided by the people who have worked for me. I pray Lord that I would not react out of my hurt, but out of a love for you Father. I pray that as people leave my company, that they would do so with the utmost integrity and professionalism and that you would help me to react in the same way. Father would you help me to cut down on my turnover by hiring well from the get-go. And help me to find the RIGHT people who will work for me for the RIGHT reasons and who will stay with me for the long haul.

And Father, if I have people on my team who are not FOR me, then I pray you would help them to move out of my business and onto something better suited for them. Father my business is only as good as my employees. I pray for a strong, encouraging team around me! Amen.

*Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

*Hebrews 13:5 I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

*Deut 31 : 8 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."*

"Somebody once said that in looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if you don't have the first, the other two will kill you. You think about it; it's true. If you hire somebody without [integrity], you really want them to be dumb and lazy." — Warren Buffett

"A bad attitude from a chronic complaining employee is like a cancer; it will only spread and infect others. This can take your business down in a nanosecond. You must cut out the cancer and invite them to seek employment elsewhere. Quickly." - Beth Ramsay

"If you wanna hire great people and have them stay working for you, you have to be run by ideas, not hierarchy. The best ideas have to win, otherwise good people don't stay." — Steve Jobs



## 51. When I Need Rest

My boundaries have become out of whack and I'm working too much.... too much! I can feel it catching up on me Lord and I need to physically and mentally take some time off. Lord, help me to respect my rest time as a time to replenish my energy and let me acknowledge that rest is a way to reignite my passion for my craft. Time away from it is actually good for my soul and helps me to honor my talent. Father help me to take adequate downtime, to honor my time with my family and to not feel anxious when I am resting. Resting is GOOD Lord, help me to remember that. Even YOU rested Father. Lord I pray that I would rebuke any feeling of laziness as I rest. Instead Father I pray that my down time would help me to focus more clearly, stay passionate about my business and be a better business owner Lord. Father we all need balance. Will you help me to attain it. Help me to establish boundaries and take time to shut my business off in my mind. Thank you in advance Lord. Amen.

*Exodus 20:8-10 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates..."*

*Matthew 11:28-29 "...Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

*"Take rest. A field that has rested gives a bountiful crop." – Ovid*

*"The mark of a successful man is one that has spent an entire day on the bank of a river without feeling guilty about it." – unknown*

*"One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important." – Bertrand Russell*

*"Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering." – Pooh's Little Instruction Book*



## **52. When I Need Knowledge In Things I Am Not Good At**

Ug. I just want to make pretty stuff. I don't want to do the computer and the taxes and the accounting and the book work and all the behind the scenes things that are necessary for a small business to successfully run. And yet ignoring them will sink my business. Lord, I need you to come in and make me smarter than I am. Father where there is a gap in my business, help me to fill it. Where I need help, help me to find someone. Where I am confused, help to bring clarity. Where I feel unintelligent because I don't understand, help me to get it Lord. Or help me to find someone who will. Father I pray that you would put all the necessary pieces into place so that I can fully concentrate on the fun stuff. Father let me not miss things that I need to be doing in my business. I pray for people to come along side me who are GOOD at the things that I am weak in. Father where there are gaps in my business, would you point them out to me. Where I am weak will you bring me help that is strong. Lord I give all areas of business to you and I trust that you will make me wise in areas I need help in. Amen.

*Prov 1:5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—*

*James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

*“As all entrepreneurs know, you live and die by your ability to prioritize. You must focus on the most important, mission-critical tasks each day and night and then share, delegate, delay or skip the rest.” – Jessica Jackley*

*“I trust the people who are working with me. I delegate.” – Mario Draghi*

*A short video on delegating in business <http://themagicbrushinc.tv/episode-5-delegation-a-must-to-growing-your-business/>*



### 53. When I Have Been Betrayed

Lord there are times when I have felt so betrayed in my business. People have left. They have said things. They have done things. They have stolen from me. They have forgotten every good thing I have done for them. They have misunderstood and misconstrued and left me a mess. Lord, they have betrayed me. And my heart is broken over it.

Lord, you yourself were betrayed many, many times. Let me remember Father that you understand how I feel right now. You understand my confusion and my bewilderment on how this could happen. You understand my desire to want to defend myself and set the record straight. You understand my anger over the situation and you know what happened wasn't right. And yet I know I need to forgive them Lord. Father without you in the middle of this mess, I will surely mess it all up. Lord will you come in and heal my broken heart. Will you help me to see them as you see them Father. Lord show me how to forgive them. Teach me Lord how to replace my thoughts about this situation with YOUR thoughts Lord.

Help me to get past this quickly and help my heart to not harden. I pray Father that you would make right of this. The bible says Lord that YOU are my vindicator and I believe Lord that what the enemy meant for evil, you will use for good. Father even in the midst of betrayal, I want to represent you well. I want to respond with a right heart. I want to learn from this Lord and get past it Father. Would you help me to do that? And would you protect my business despite the betrayal Lord. Let me learn from this and recover from this in a way that prospers my business Father. I need you every step of the way. Amen.

*Mark 14:50 – Then everyone deserted him and fled.*

*Matthew 6:14-15 – For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

*Matthew 10:21-23. - Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

*Psalms 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

*Luke 21:16 But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.*

*John 16:33- I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*



## **Psalm 55**

Listen to my prayer, O God,

do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me.

My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught

<sup>3</sup> because of what my enemy is saying,

because of the threats of the wicked;

for they bring down suffering on me and assail me in their anger.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is in anguish within me;

the terrors of death have fallen on me.

<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling have beset me;

horror has overwhelmed me.

<sup>6</sup> I said, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!

I would fly away and be at rest.

<sup>7</sup> I would flee far away

and stay in the desert;<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> I would hurry to my place of shelter,

far from the tempest and storm.”

<sup>9</sup> Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words,

for I see violence and strife in the city.

<sup>10</sup> Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it.

<sup>11</sup> Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets.

<sup>12</sup> If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it;

if a foe were rising against me, I could hide.

<sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,

<sup>14</sup> with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship

at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers.

<sup>15</sup> Let death take my enemies by surprise;

let them go down alive to the realm of the dead, for evil finds lodging among them.

<sup>16</sup> As for me, I call to God, and the LORD saves me.

<sup>17</sup> Evening, morning and noon

I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

<sup>18</sup> He rescues me unharmed

from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me.

<sup>19</sup> God, who is enthroned from of old,

who does not change—he will hear them and humble them,

because they have no fear of God.

<sup>20</sup> My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.

<sup>21</sup> His talk is smooth as butter,

yet war is in his heart;

his words are more soothing than oil,

yet they are drawn swords.



<sup>22</sup> Cast your cares on the LORD  
and he will sustain you;  
he will never let  
the righteous be shaken.

<sup>23</sup> But you, God, will bring down the wicked  
into the pit of decay;  
the bloodthirsty and deceitful  
will not live out half their days.

But as for me, I trust in you.

*“Anything meant in this world for evil, God can use for good. God is able to take the mess of our past and turn it into a message. He takes our trials and tests and turns them into a testimony.”- Christine Caine*



## 54. When I Am Discouraged

Father some days the bills keep rolling in. And there are problems with my jobs. And I have employee issues and nothing seems to be going right. And on days like this, my heart feels so discouraged. It's days like this that I wonder why I am running this business anyway. On days like this Father, I need your presence and the peace that comes from knowing you intimately. Father I want to feel your closeness and your encouragement. Lord on days like this let me remember that you have given me TOOLS Lord to dig myself out of that dark, lonely place. Father help me to pray. Some days I can only say the name of Jesus and that is enough. Father help me to read my bible. Help me Lord to turn on worship music and worship you IN SPITE of my problems. Help me to be a blessing to someone else Lord. Let me remember to take the focus off of me and put the focus back on YOU and others where it belongs. Let me remember Lord that what I am feeling today is temporary. When I look at my issues through an eternal lens, they seem less daunting Lord. Let me remember you are for me and not against me Lord and that you will never leave me through anything I face. Let me remember Lord that joy comes in the morning. This too shall pass. Amen.

*Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

*Proverbs 13:12 - Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but [when] the desire cometh, [it is] a tree of life.*

*Psalms 138:7 – Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.*

*John 14:1 – Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*

*2 Cor 4:8 -We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit.*

*"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham*

*"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." - Dale Carnegie*

*"In spite of everything I shall rise again: I will take up my pencil, which I have forsaken in my great discouragement, and I will go on with my drawing." - Vincent Van Gogh*



## 55. When I Need a Plan For The Future

Lord being self-employed means I don't have the perks that come with working for a 9-5 job or a business with benefits. Lord I need insurance. I need retirement. I don't have PTO's. I want to take a vacation. I need a plan for our future. Lord I could never go back to working for someone else and yet I am very aware of some of the benefits I am missing out on. Lord I need to be smarter than I am to figure out all this stuff. Father help me to save for retirement even when it seems like there is barely enough for the bills. Father would you help me to plan well and would YOU tell me what I need to plan for. Father help me to take care of these things that I don't want to. Help me to address the hard stuff so I can get back to doing what I love. Bring someone smarter than I along side of me so that I can concentrate on making pretty stuff. Father help me to think ahead, but to not be consumed with worry about my future. Lord I know you have all of the details already worked out and for my good. Father let me trust that although I can't see what is in my future, I trust the One who holds my future. You are a good God and as I honor you with my craft and my talent, I know you will take care of me.... now and down the road. Amen.

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

*Proverbs 16:3 - Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

*Proverbs 16:9 We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.*

*Proverbs 19:21 - Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*

*"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." — Benjamin Franklin*

*"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." — Dwight D. Eisenhower*

*"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now." — Alan Lakein*

*"A good plan implemented today is better than a perfect plan implemented tomorrow." — George Patton*





## 56. When I Need To Be Brave and Courageous

Oh Lord am I scared. Scared of decisions. Scared of what you're asking me to do. Scared of the direction I am headed. Scared I will fail. Father I need a dose of courage. I want to be brave on your behalf Father and I need you so much! Lord help me to see that I am not alone in my decisions, you will be with me every step of the way. Father help me to also understand that I never know who or what is on the other side of my obedience. I want to be obedient. Let my desire to be obedient be stronger than my fear Father. Lord give me courage for the day, for the hour, for the minute precisely when I need it. Let me be the girl who takes a deep breath and goes for it because I KNOW who has me my back. Thank you Lord that you always have me. Thank you that you will catch me and I will not fall. Thank you Lord for stretching me and inviting me on this courageous journey with you. I want my life story to be that I was brave when I could have cowered. I want to be so sold out for all you have for me that I am willing to be put in situations where I am scared. Help me Lord to be brave. Give me the courage of a warrior Father! Let me feel your calming presence and give me grace for the moment. Amen.

*Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*

*1 Chronicles 28:20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.*

*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. Isaiah 41:13 - For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.*

*1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*

*Joshua 1:9 - "I've commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go."*

*"Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway." - John Wayne*

*"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."*  
– Billy Graham

*"Courage is fear that has said its prayers and decided to go forward anyway." — Joyce Meyer*

*"One man with courage makes a majority." Andrew Jackson*



## 57. When I Need To Make Big Decisions and I Need Guidance and Direction

Father there are times when I need to make big decisions about my business. I need to decide on hiring and firing and products and deadlines and situation and helllllllllllp. Lord on days when I need to decide things, help me to remember to ask YOU first. Lord your word says that when I ask you for guidance that you will be faithful to give it to me. So I am asking Lord. Let me not forget Lord to consult with you FIRST. Help me Lord to make the decisions that you want me to make. Father help me to be brave enough to listen to you and not to people. Lord give me strength to make decisions that are not popular, but are right. Father let me be more concerned about obedience to you than I am about pleasing people. Lord I know that if I honor you in my decisions that I cannot go wrong. I pray Father for clarity and courage and the ability to decide and act quickly. Thank you Lord that when you are in the middle of my decisions, I cannot fail. Amen.

*Prov 3: 5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*“Great moves of God are usually preceded by simple acts of obedience.” — Steven Furtick*

*“God doesn’t tell you to do hard things so He can stand back and laugh and watch you struggle. He tells you to do things the things that He knows are gonna work out to your good in the end.” — Joyce Meyer*

*There is an awesome video that I love which so eloquently describes how one person’s courageous decision can change everything for everyone.*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo6fBAT8f-s&feature=youtu.be> – The Butterfly Effect.*



**Dear Reader,**

I pray my devotional has been a blessing to you! I'd love to hear from you on how it resonated with you or touched your heart. Please send me an email to [info@themagicbrushinc.com](mailto:info@themagicbrushinc.com) if you would. That would bless me!

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I have an online tv site at

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Thank you for taking the time to read through my e-book. I pray blessings upon blessings over you and your home and your business. To God be the glory.

In Christ,

**Jennifer Allwood**

