

Beyond Greatness
You Can Surpass Yourself

Dr. Robert L. Lawson

Copyright©2020 Robert L. Lawson

ISBN: 978-1-62249-xxx-x

Published by
The Educational Publisher
Biblio Publishing
Columbus, Ohio
BiblioPublishing.com

PREFACE

I saw a post from a Facebook friend of mine, Doug Heyne. Here's what it said.

"Your diet is not only what you eat. It's what you watch, what you listen to, what you read and the people you hang around. Be mindful of the things you put into your body emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically."

If you have a strong desire to achieve unparalleled levels of success, it is absolutely imperative that you stand guard at the door of your mind and control your thoughts, as James Allen has pointed out in his masterful treatise, *As A Man Thinketh*, "You become what you think about all day long"

The poems in this book were written with the intent to help you to become your highest self. This book is a vast treasure trove of wisdom, insight, and inspiration designed to help you to transcend your greatest accomplishments. Your life mission and purpose is not finished yet. Go Beyond Greatness. Why? Because you can surpass yourself. So many times, it is as Emerson has pointed out, "The ancestor of every action is a thought." Every action that you take as a result of your thoughts either moves you closer to your most essential and productive goals or farther away from them. Your ability to develop and maintain a laser focus is the final piece of the puzzle that enables you to finish your course. As you move forward, sometimes life gets in the way. Please realize that's okay too. You can only live one day at a time. That means, unfortunately,

that you cannot control everything that happens in your life. You must accept that as a fact and deal with it. Be pragmatic. Do not become anxious. Take a deep breath. Remember, “It is not the getting off track that will stop you; it’s the never getting back on.” Be patient and resume your activities when you are in a position to do so.

Contents

Preface	iii
Contents	v
Acknowledgements	ix
Beyond Greatness – Part I	xi
Spiritual Insights	xv
Introduction	xxi
Achievement	1
Action	2
Be a Trailblazer	4
Character	6
Commitment	7
Confidence	9
Destined for Greatness	10
Discipline	11
Enthusiasm	13
Faith	14
Higher Still	15
Imagination	17
KOKO – Keep on Keeping on	18
Knowledge	20
Looking Beyond the Mirror	21
Mastering Change	22
Motivation	23
Perception	24
Potential	25
Purpose	26
Stand Tall	28
Still Standing	29
Success is By Design	31
Teamwork	32
The Fight	33
The Goal	36
The Knowledge of Life	38
The Power of Consistency	41
The Run for the Gold	42

Unstoppable: The Warrior's Song – A Tribute to Senator John McCain	45
Expect Greatness	48
The Finisher	49
Greatness Awaits	50
The Gamer	51
Your Best is Yet to Come!	53
Nuggets of Wisdom: On the Road to Greatness	54
The Power of the Mind	56
Someone's Child	57
Leadership	58
The Measure of a Man	61
Destiny	63
Mindset	64
The Eye. of the Tiger	66
When Someone says it Can't be	67
Be Relentless	68
The Essence of Greatness	69
Driven	70
The Power of Focus	71
Just Do It	72
The Path Made Clear	73
The Recipe for Greatness	74
You Can Surpass Yourself	75
The Big Mo	76
Thinking	78
The Poet	79
Vibrations	81
The Student	82
The Oath	83
Greatness	85
The Declaration	86
Integrity	87
The Soldier	89
The Code of Excellence	90
Start Hard and Finish	92
Your Highest Self	93

The Success Manifesto	94
Watching Greatness	95
Transformation	97
Your Spiritual Compass	98
Follow Your Intuition (FYI)	99
That Extra Gear	100
Never Quit and You Will WIN!!	101
The Blessing is in the Belief	102
A Tribute to H.W. Bush	103
The Teacher	105
The Gift	106
The Gift of Inspiration	108
The Winner Within	109
Thumbprint	111
Just be Yourself	112
The Essence of Your Spirit	113
Tiger Woods	114
Dare to be Great	116
Be All That you Can BE!	118
Be Everything you Can	119
I Stand in No One's Shadow	120
The Will to Act	122
A Tribute to Tiger	123
Face the Challenge	126
The Phenomenal Encourager	128
Your Golden Ticket	130
Memorial Day	132
A Tribute to Mothers	134
The Spirit of Giving	136
Thanksgiving	137
An Ode to Veterans	138
Your Vote Matters	139
The Masterpiece	140
America	141
The Heart of a Champion	142
Called to Greatness	144
The Gift of Life	145

A New Breakthrough	146
Tempo	148
Beyond Greatness Insights – Part 2	149
Beyond Greatness	154
About the Author	155

Acknowledgements

I am deeply grateful to God for surrounding me with an abundance of loving, caring, nurturing people with a growth-oriented mindset. Here are just a few of the people who have made a significant difference in my life.

Anytime you reach a chapter in your life where you become stagnant and hit a plateau, seek God's guidance and direction for your life and just watch him work his magic in helping you to get where he wants you to go next. His miraculous power and will can further transform your life by surrounding you with those individuals who will support you in your endeavors, by offering encouragement or opening doors for you that you had thought were closed. This is when you realize that the supernatural force of God is unmatched. The illimitable measure of truth and goodness with which He fills your heart, soul, body, mind, and spirit will serve as a catalyst to inspire others to transcend greatness.

Those individuals to whom I must give deference are, my wife, Dr. Shannon L. Lawson, my mother, Mary Irene Payne, my grandmother, Ethel Wayne Lawson, my aunt, Nora Faye Lawson my uncle, Hollis, my sons, Robert L. Lawson Jr., James Allen Lawson, Michael Emerson Lawson, my friends or professional colleagues, Ella Coleman, Arley Owens, Ilinda Reese, T.L. Champion, Kent Wise, Patricia Opong, Julius Cartwright, Nate Cadogan, Henry Ford, Audrey Wiggins, Willie Johnson, Chad McKibben, Michael Jennings, Holly Woodruff, Jon Saxton, Keith McGuire, Patrick O'Donnell, Brady Womack, Clifford Riley, Elsie Shabazz, Debra N. Keith Simmons, Holli Pellman, Darian Pellman, Mark Anthony Garrett, Tracy Garrett, Christine Carter, Joan Murphy, Rose Wilcher, Sonia Scott, Allyssa Mefford, Jake Bapst, Susan Haft, Sandy

Petrie-Forgey, Delyssa Edwards., Dr. Clyde Evans, Rosemary Evans, Gene Murphy, Robin Murphy, Lorraine Smith, Rev. Wayne Aaron, Tony Murphy, Perianne Germann, Andrea Holmes, Dywayne Nicely, Dr. Jitendra Patel, Dr. Manilchuk, Dr. Patricia Wingard-Carson, Judge Margaret Evans, Lynda Pitts, Sandra Kilgore, Martha Cosby, Glenna Scott-Abbott, Leila Scott, Lucretia Scott-Scalia, Dr. Gene Armstrong, Elaine Armstrong, Christian Scott, Jerry Underwood, Dr. Andrea Faulkner, Jim Frazier, Alfred Abbott, Bobby Long, Kim Riley, Kim Conner, Wendell Payne, Keith Harlan Payne, Gene Payne, Rita Marlene Payne, Freda Lawson, Kasia Patkowska, Aleta Polley, Jeff Fisher, Nancy Thornsberry, Jim Garrett, Nichole Clark, and many, many others too numerous to mention here.

Beyond Greatness Insights

Part 1

Anthony Robbins has often said that “success leaves clues.” It certainly does. For years now, some of our best writers and visionaries have tried to open up our minds and our limited ways of thinking to embrace a much deeper understanding and application of spiritual success principles. If you’ve read any of these passages in a book I’ve written called, *The Gamer or Greatness Awaits*, I’m repeating them here for an important reason. I’m hoping you see the powerful insights hidden in the words. If you are able to discern and analyze the powerful connections between these passages, perhaps the significance of their content as well as their intent will serve as a “trigger” to unlock even more of your vast potential and thrust you into a higher realm of thinking and doing that shatters the myth of boundaries that only exist in our minds because we allow them to do so.

For example, it was Mihaly Csikszentminalyi in his masterful book, *Flow*, who said, “Mystical heights are not obtained by some super human quantum jump but simply by the gradual focusing on the opportunity for action in one’s environment which over a period of time results in such a perfection of skills and becomes so thoroughly automatic that it seems spontaneous and other worldly.” What most people fail to realize about that passage is this. It seems spontaneous and other worldly because it is. What you can see with your eyes and feel with your heart is not all there is. There’s more. Spiritual phenomena in the non-material world is at work guiding you and enabling you to control the natural

flow of things in your life that your five senses cannot comprehend.

The poet, Lord Byron, was adamant about this proposition. Here's what he said, "From my youth upward, my spirit walked not with the souls of men nor looked upon the earth with human eyes. The aim of their existence was not mine, the thirst of their ambition was not mine. My griefs, my joys, my passions and my powers made me a stranger." Byron's youthful observations and the recognition of this greatness that lay in his own heart has placed him heads and shoulders above many of his contemporaries. This is exactly what Robbins was talking about when he said, "Success leaves clues."

Byron was quick to point out to the masses of people who followed him that as the Bible so clearly illustrates, there's a distinct difference between the soul and the spirit. Understanding this distinction and actively applying what you understand about it can empower you to transcend greatness.

It is my belief that the most successful individuals who exhibit the highest levels of integrity are those individuals who fully realize that their lives are under the direction and guidance of a much higher power. I call it God. As you think about what inspires you, reflect on these very powerful and insightful words of Patanjali. "When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bonds, your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and you find yourself in a new great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be."

Anytime you challenge your conscious mind to explore new ways of doing things, to implement new

strategies, to expand your sphere of influence, to take risks that you've never before taken, the more opportunities you will have to position yourself to move beyond greatness. Formulating ideas, releasing them and following through on them are basic requirements wholly essential and necessary for the obtainment of the greatest good and the highest levels of personal, professional, corporate and spiritual success possible.

To the believer and the achiever in you, the latin terms, *altius, citius, fortius*, the olympic equivalent of higher, faster, stronger will propel you to unparalleled heights of success and accomplishment. Once you reach a level of confidence that exists inside yourself where you truly believe in yourself, there will be nothing that can stop you. It was Emerson who said, "Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind." Books in our society are filled with the stories of those individuals who were told a particular thing that could not be done and yet, over a period of time, these same individuals yielded an unmatched sense of internal fortitude and self-awareness, stuck to a rigid path of self-determination and though faced with what appeared to be insurmountable odds amidst improbable resistance, figured out a methodology to accomplish the task anyway. Each time that happens, oh what a powerful legacy and example it becomes for those individuals who come after them to seek out a way to achieve the impossible by removing the (IM) or by placing an apostrophe between the (IM) to make it possible. It is this measure of tenacity and unequalled resilience in certain men and women who have encountered incredible opposition along life's journey and have gone on to prove the naysayers wrong that represents the incredible power and determination of the human will.

In the end, it will be those who say, “Even though you underestimated my ability to do well in life, I have surpassed even my own expectations of myself. I want all others to know that this same power which resides in the heartbeat of my soul is indeed the same, familiar, resonate, spiritual quality that lies deep within your own genetic makeup as well. It is lying dormant and just needs to be awakened.”

Once discovered and acted upon, this illimitable measure of truth will serve its owners incredibly well by assisting them in completing the tasks for which they were framed. So powerful are those who have been chosen to walk this path that was pre-determined for them prior to the beginning of time itself. Much is required of those who would dare take on this mantle to fulfill their own destiny. Your free will determines your life choices and your life choices will determine the level of your impact upon self and others. Oprah Winfrey’s book, *The Path Made Clear*, inspired me to write a short poem that bears the same title. You will find it in this little volume of work. Oprah so eloquently and adeptly reminds us that we’re already on the path. Don’t waste your life searching for fortune and fame. Maintain your dreams and goals but also remain cognizant and appreciative of what you already have. The simple abundance that is already prevalent in your life is indeed a virtuous blessing. Enjoy it as you move further along the path of your life’s destiny. Sometimes the highest reward on life’s journey lies in your ability to be your true, authentic self. It is as John Ruskin has said, “The highest reward for an individual’s toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it.”

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

We must learn to write as the universal spirit impregnates our minds and hearts as it calls us to a predestined encounter to fulfill the purpose for which we were framed.

Is it any wonder that the flow of divine intelligence permeates the fabric of our hearts and minds with an infusion of spiritual sagacity that unleashes within us the pent-up frustrations of a spirit that enables us to call forth those things that are not as though they were because in the spiritual realm, they are the manifestation of your true destiny?

These promptings and insights are indeed a rare glimpse of what can be as nature seeks to reveal its true self to your genuine soul. It is you who must realize the very greatness that has always been held in captivity to the false self that can only relate to the five sensory attributes of carnal insight.

It becomes a truly remarkable discovery when the soul, which is earth bound or five sensory transcends its material existence and finds itself free to connect with the immaterial world where those spiritual bound forces are eager, ready, waiting, and able to introduce you to the real authentic power that will catapult you into a realm of unmatched contentment and bliss that you never even knew existed.

The more you believe in and understand this real power of releasing and creating, the more you understand the value and true material of your soul and all that it was meant to be until it was deceived into thinking that it has false limitations that in reality do not exist in the unseen immaterial world. It is in fact regret free and full of truth. Look out for the soul that finally makes this startling discovery for then

there truly will be no limitations for what the spirit of men and women can truly accomplish.

In all reality a man or woman's true sustenance and meaning is not tied directly to their achievements or to their feelings. Their true destiny resides on a much higher plane where truth is revealed through a light which envelops and resides in the core of their spirit that draws them deeper into the manifestation of truth and the father of life which in my mind is called God. This is what I understand. God's desire is for all of us to recognize the essence of his true nature through his son Jesus Christ. This is what he said, "No man cometh unto the father but by me", coming into the presence of the Holy Spirit through his son Jesus Christ is the only way the true manifestation of spiritual guidance can reveal itself to the true nature of men and women.

God's powers and his abilities are unlimited and when a person resolves to die to self and takes up the mantle of the almighty God, his powers become one with almighty God.

According to Emerson, "those who are capable of humility, of justice, of love, and of aspiration, stand already on a platform that commands the sciences and arts, speech and poetry, action and grace for whoso dwells in this moral beatitude already anticipates those special powers which men prize so highly."

Stop worrying about the outcomes. "Do not be anxious, instead – live in the moment and understand that the process is the thing you need to be unraveling". As you do so, you will come closer to the genuine you and God's true intention for the manifestation of your purpose. "Life purpose", the more you can let go and let God, the more you will be able to allow God to transform you into the authentic nature of your true self. As you allow and permit God

to work through your being to accomplish this magnificent task, the more you will be in alignment with his will for your life and the more you will be in a position to discover your inner greatness, what it is, what it represents and symbolizes.

Emerson understood it clearly when he said, “What I must do is all that concerns me, not what people think. This rule equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinions and it is easy in solitude to live after our own, but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.” What needs to happen is that you get pulled from a world of cognitive pain, anger, suffering, murder, disease, misgivings of the mind, physical maladies and get placed squarely in the middle of a wisdom so consuming and powerful that its essence in a nonmaterial world is unmatched and unequalled because it resides in pure unadulterated light and spirit. This was to be the nature of your true authentic self in the first place. The solitude is a deep understanding that one realizes when they are alone with God...This is when you discover truth “ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” Free from your fake self and the limitations of the (earthbound) soul that can only experience life through the material void (the five senses) as it transcends or surpasses itself and passes into the immaterial world to operate on a much higher frequency (spirit world) of immaterial knowledge and wisdom where all of your spiritual sages and guides reside.

When God created man, the master builder, he also gave him a mastermind that would enable him to solve the many issues with which he would be

confronted and to unleash his creative energy as a means and a measure of instilling great confidence in the masses of people in the world in an effort to improve the human condition. If our purpose is not to lift each other up then I challenge you to tell us what should it be? If our purpose is not to better the lives of others, then I challenge you what should it be? If our purpose is not to create opportunities for others so they may use their talents, gifts, skills and abilities to empower others, then I ask you, what meaning does your life have? Is it your desire to be a dictator, or absolute monarch who desires that people bow to your every whim and fancy? Is this to be your shallow legacy? Is this how you wish the world to remember you? Or do you prefer to have the world remember you as someone who strove to make a positive difference in someone else's life, someone who encouraged others to develop their confidence level in themselves and use their knowledge and their skills to lift someone else to a higher standard of living from where they currently are. That would be how I want to be remembered. To me, the care you can demonstrate for the betterment of someone's soul and guide it into the realm of spiritual stability is the essence of real, genuine authentic power as well as a demonstration of real leadership. It is a measure that strives to achieve perpetual excellence.

According to Dr. Wayne Dyer, "We are all spiritual beings having a temporary human experience."

We live in a finite world and yet I can easily discern and feel the powerful connection of infinite intelligence guiding me and pushing me forward into a realm that transcends my own limited imagination. It's the powerful desire of my internal soul that seeks its spiritual essence.

Everywhere I look in nature, even though I cannot see its physical manifestation, I can certainly feel its