

# PREFACE

During the course of our lives we are required to take actions, hazard leaps, and make decisions that necessitate faith. The challenge is to “jump” into action without knowing the outcome, having faith all the while that the answers will be revealed at a later stage. This book is the result of my taking one such leap! For me, deciding to answer God’s call and write a book was much the same as jumping from a plane without a parachute, trusting that God would still my doubts, reveal the answers I sought, and guide me to a safe landing.

God has blessed me with many talents, but in all honesty, writing was certainly not one of them. So why should God choose Jackie Sayles to write a book? Why not an obviously more talented modern Hemingway or Emerson? For many days I’d pray, trying to make God understand that He’d chosen the wrong person. Many were the nights I tossed, trying to convince Him to change His mind and let me free. Finally, He managed to make me understand that it had been because I was the “wrong” person that I was chosen! Only in this way could He make sure the person writing the book had little option but to go to Him for the help, direction, and the inspiration that was needed.

The essential ingredient for any leap into faith is undoubtedly trust in God. A total reliance on His guidance through prayer, plus being armed with the knowledge and confidence that everything is for His purpose, helps us gain the patience needed to wait for His answers and reasons. These come of course, but solely in His time!

According to Webster the word parable is “a short, simple story, usually of an occurrence of a similar kind, from which a moral or religious lesson may be drawn.” The parables in this book have been gleaned from the stories of my life and those that

have touched it. It is not intended as an autobiography, but merely as an account of truths that have been made apparent to me as I sort through life and the lessons it has taught.

When I started my writing, it was not my intention to “convert” or indoctrinate people to Christianity. To my mind this type of action only turns folk away from the Truth. As Marianne Williamson states in her book, *A Return to Love*,

*“Something that’s important to know about spiritual wisdom is that, when spoken at the wrong time, in the wrong place, or to the wrong people, the one who speaks sounds more like a fool than a wise one.”*

In truth, however, it is not MY intentions that are important! The purpose and objective of this book can be only speculation on my part and most certainly isn’t to be mine at all; it is purely God’s. He has simply commissioned me to write it! It is He who has guided me through the process, and it is He who has asked my daughters to use their gifts and talents to help compile it. The amazing bi-product is, of course, the fact that I have fallen totally and irretrievably in love with God’s word. I have developed an insatiable appetite for the Bible.

As the book progressed, it gradually took on a character and a personality of its own. It became apparent that my stories revealed some important, basic situations that we all meet in our world today. The most important truth being, that like any other person who converts to Christianity later in life, I had doubts, seemingly insoluble questions and inborn prejudices to overcome. Ironically, my worst prejudice had been my own feelings about Christians, and especially those that were “Born Again.” Thus, the book deals with problems that encouraged honest questions. These questions have answers that are found in an ancient book, a Book as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago.

Having read each real life parable, I encourage the reader to search for similar parables in their own lives. Hopefully, they will use these examples as a springboard to discovering meaningful, relevant scripture. The true revelation comes when we

recognize that each of us can and should write a book of our own personal parables. It is by recording our experiences that we can best understand that everything that happens in our lives happens for a reason. It is this reason that gives us meaning and purpose: two essential ingredients of wholeness that need to be recognized and heeded.

My leaving the comfortable life I had in Palm Beach with the income I had grown to enjoy and expect was truly a “leap into faith,”-- and it is still a source of wonder to me how every problem that materialized seemed to dissolve or disappear. Doors were opened that made my transition one of the easiest and most trouble free there could have been. So many small miracles, or “God incidences” as my daughter Vicki has labeled them, occurred prior to and during this period in our lives. They serve to remind us that with God, all things are possible, even when it comes to my writing a book!

*Jackie Sayles*

*“I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. Since I know it is all for Christ’s good, I am quite content with my weaknesses.”*  
*2 Corinthians 12: 9-10(NLT)*