

Editor's Comment

PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

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In this life, people face many challenges that affect their social being. This editorial is dedicated to those who have faced these challenges and who did not give up.

Many people have faced the loss of loved ones or someone they knew.

Many people have faced diseases or other ailments that got in the way that kept them from achieving their goals.

Many people have endured broken friendships and relationships over little, petty arguments.

We may wonder why we must take on these challenges. Often times, challenges prove to be stepping-stones in building our faith and giving us more self-confidence. Consider such hurdles as tests; if you prepare yourself, you will know how to handle them when the time comes.

When we are faced with adversity, we often times react negatively, which I think we should not do. Instead we should look at such personal challenges as just that, challenges that help us to define our purpose and our relationships

with others.

If you lose a friend over a petty argument, do not claim it as an incurable disease. Claim it as a test and prepare yourself for things to come.

Losing a loved one does hurt, but remember as you cry that life, like a river, is still moving on. Get up, handle your pain and keep going.

Do not give up, even when these challenges get tough.

Take these adversities as tests to move you to the next level. And remember that these experiences help replenishing you along the highway of life.

Some situations do come unexpectedly, which is why many people fail the test. They do not know how to react to situations except through negative behavior, somewhat like a student who fails a test and then wants to drop out of school.

When unexpected situations come, and you pass, know that you have conquered defeat and that whatever new challenge occurs tomorrow, you will be better prepared to handle it.

Preparing yourself for the unexpected by having courage and a sound spiritual base is a fail-safe formula for tomorrow.

DEFINING SUCCESS

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Success is not necessarily gaining fame; it is the achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted. It is an accomplishment that follows a plan for an intended purpose, for example attending college or graduating from law school. Being able to execute a plan and achieve a desired result signals for many whether or not a person is successful. A person must be willing to fail in some points, only to prevail in others. According to Winston Churchill, "Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

"The Lord gives us a plan to follow. It is outlined in His commandments. And all those commandments are designed to build stability within us. We are not to excuse our failures and weaknesses: We are not to say we are made the way we are, and thereby justify our sins. The Lord expects us to rise above our weakness, become strong, and pattern ourselves after Him" (Anonymous author).

I hope to encourage you with this poem I wrote to encourage myself:

By the Way

Excuse me Mr. Sweat,
I noticed you were upset.

I was wondering what was wrong
And I thought I'd sing you this song:

*"Talent is not hard to find,
Use your soul, heart and mind.
Honesty is the key to success,
Do not cheat to be the best.
Insight helps you commit yourself,
Try not to base life on greed or wealth.*

*A positive attitude can help you
everyday,
Wouldn't you want others to treat you
the same way?*

*Acknowledging God will help you if
you are a beginner,
You will grow into a holy man
To later help another sinner."*

*You may be experiencing difficult
situations,
But I'll be the one to simplify any
complications.*

*Whenever you need to talk,
I am Jesus and I'll help you start your
walk.*

If you continue to stay focused on your goals you will walk right into your success. Every person must recognize their key to success in their goals and dreams as they strive to make their goals come true.

*Note: Notice that student's ideas of success differ under the **Viking Gossip** section of *The Compass*.

The Compass

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Please send your letters to the editor and poetry to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must include writer's signature, address, and telephone number.

Poetic Realm

A Nigga and A Man

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NIGGA AND A MAN.

A NIGGA IS SOMEONE WHO'S SORRY.

THEY ARE THE ONES MAKING BABIES AND NOT TAKING ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AS A DADDY.

NIGGA SIT AROUND THE HOUSE WITHOUT A JOB.

MAKING A SO-CALL LIVING BY GAMBLING, DOING DRUGS, OR LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO ROB.

AND THEY ARE EITHER SHACKING WITH SOME LADY.

OR STILL LIVING WITH AND EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THEIR MOMMY.

NIGGAS ARE THE ONES DRESSING SLOPPY AND KEEP A NAPPY HEAD.

AND MOST OF THESE NIGGAS END UP IN JAIL, HOMELESS, A DRUNK, DRUG ADDICT, OR DEAD.

NOW A MAN SOMETIMES MAKES MISTAKES, BUT ISN'T SORRY.

NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE A DIPLOMA OR A COLLEGE DEGREE.

BUT A MAN IS ALL ABOUT TAKING CARE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.

HE HAS A REAL LEGAL JOB AND CAN TAKE CARE OF HIS BABIES.

A MAN WILL RESPECT WOMEN AND DOESN'T BRAG ABOUT HIS SEX LIFE.

AND THE ONLY WAY HE WILL MOVE IN WITH A WOMAN IS IF THEY BECAME HUSBAND AND WIFE.

A MAN'S HAIR AND CLOTHES IS ALWAYS NEAT.

YOU WON'T FIND A MAN LOOKING LIKE A NASTY BUM OFF THE STREET.

A MAN WORKS HARD EVERYDAY.

NO MATTER HOW MANY OBSTACLES ARE THROWN IN HIS WAY,

HE KEEPS GOING,

WORKING HARD AND STRUGGLING

BECAUSE A MAN WILL NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS,

ESPECIALLY WHEN HE KNOWS HE CAN HAVE THE BEST.

SO LADIES WHEN YOU BEGIN TO COMPLAIN HOW YOUR BOYFRIEND

OR HUSBAND IS SO SORRY.

OR HOW HE'S SO LAZY.

THEN YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

YOU HAVE FOUND YOURSELF A NIGGA, NOT A MAN.

KIMBERLY HOCKADAY

Glory, Glory

Glory, Glory

Christ has opened our eyes

Now, we can see

And are able to distinguish

The wheat from the weeds

Darkness die

Wherever we bring the light

We have a new song in our hearts

Listen to the lyrics we recite:

Jesus loves me, yes I know

For the Bible tells me so

Every step we take on this

Spiritual journey, we grow

Why me worry, why we worry

God is in control

We are saved souls

Out to save souls

Bring the truth

That liberates

We are all here by divine purpose

Not by mistake

If you were not here for a reason

You could've been taken out

Last season

Did you ever take the time to calculate

All the treason

And things that happened before the

eyes of God

That he found displeasing

Brother, sister, God spared you

That means you have a job to do

He's a miracle worker

Look at all the things he brought us

through:

Sickness

Slavery

Disease

Rejection

Bondage

We were once blind, now we can see

That the Lord is filling our cup with

peace

Emptying out the confusion

Because He's the God of peace

And not the author of confusion

Life is restored

When we step out on faith

As we believe,

Our doubts are being erased

When we speak things into existence

Angels move on our behalf

When we speak the name of Jesus

Demons tremble - we laugh

We laugh a joyful laugh of victory

While the devil chew on the gum of

defeat

Do a joyful dance unto the Lord

Who said we had to be on beat?

Rejoice my people

It's freedom time

No longer do we work for Satan

We resigned

Now, our hearts are designed

To serve you, Lord

The slaves even praised you

While they were on board

And in the cotton field

Singing spiritual hymns

Step by step by step

It was faith walks that led them to

freedom

And it's gonna take faith

To walk into our deliverance, healing, and

destiny

And it's gonna take faith

To give life to our visions, and to do

God's will

And it took faith

To ask God to come into our lives

And because of your faith, think of what

He has done for you yesterday... just

think...

So why lose faith today

~ James Hill

HAVE A NICE AND SAFE THANKSGIVING.
REMEMBER TO SAVE SOME FOOD FOR THE
REST OF THE FAMILY!