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## The future is in your hands

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These days, it seems not a day goes by that someone does not ask me my opinion on the future and what it is going to take to achieve greatness.

I am reminded of something Kathy Caulton once said: "When you are looking into the future, it's important to know which questions to ask. You don't need to ask, 'Do I have what it takes to be successful?' The answer to that is a resounding 'yes.' The key question is, 'Am I willing to pay the price for the success I desire?'"

I believe we all have a choice. We can either languish in the past or use the past to spring into the future. We must choose and we must be willing to pay the price for our choices.

The first choice that must be made is to choose hope over fear. Even more so, we must reject those that prey on the potential of fear. There is nothing new about fearmongers. More than 450 years ago, during the Renaissance, Michel Eyquem De Montaigne reminded us that, "life has been filled with terrible misfortunes; most of which never happened."

With fear out the window and hope as our partner, we next must have expectation. And I mean the kind of expectation where there are no self-imposed boundaries. One of my favorite quotes on expectation of greatness is by Marianne Williamson: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

"We were born to make and manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

We have hope. We have expectation. Now we need to throw off the bindings of the past and execute on destiny. These days, it is too easy to be defined by the baby-elephant syndrome.

Ever wonder why when you go to the circus the elephants have small ropes around their legs attached to an equally small stake? It starts when they are babies. Their trainers tie the baby elephants to stakes with ropes they cannot break. So, they give up. As the elephant grows, it assumes it cannot break free. It quits trying even though as a full-size adult it could easily break the bindings that hold it.

What strings are holding you back from executing your destiny?

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