



OUR STORY

Then the Lord answered me and said, “Write the vision and engrave it plainly on [clay] tablets So that the one who reads it will run. For the vision is yet for the appointed [future] time it hurries toward the goal [of fulfillment]; it will not fail. Even though it delays, wait [patiently] for it, because it will certainly come; it will not delay.

Hab. 2:2–3 AMP

We have heard it stated over the years that when something terrible happens, out of your greatest tragedy, God will pull you up out of the ashes and renew

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your spirit. We have also heard that out of your greatest misery, God will birth your greatest ministry.

Leah and I have learned that out of your misery, God will bring about a time of restoration and rest. When He is ready, this can be followed by a time of preparation. Whoa! But one may ask, “Brian, what is this time of preparation? What does that look like?”

I like to share with people that when you are born, the Lord gives you certain gifts and talents. We may very well know exactly what they are and learn to use them. But as we found out later, there were some gifts that we had that we did not know we had and when ready, the Lord provided a dream and a vision to show us what He had in store for us next.

As my friend Mary Priddy once asked me, “Brian, did you ever think that you would be doing what you are doing now?” To which I replied, “This was not on my bucket list. In fact, it wasn’t even anywhere near the top ten, twenty, or top fifty!”

In my thirties, I thought I would be in financial planning, helping make an impact in people’s lives with their finances. In my forties that dream was still alive

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and thriving. In my early fifties, a change in my health began a change of direction into music and recording. At the age of fifty-four, change happened again, but this time more severely. It was not a loss of my health that changed, but the loss of our only daughter and child, Victoria, to a murder.

Devastation and not knowing what I would do next became the order of the day. But, instead of emptiness and anger and loss of willpower to work, the Lord provided another gift. From this tragedy I would be blessed with a new gift, one of encouragement. This gift would help others and give them hope and encouragement from the scriptures and our Lord.

In a dream thirty months later, the Lord would provide another new gift, the gift of writing. The thought of me writing anything was never at the forefront of my mind. In fact, I even hated to have to write letters to people. Just ask my wife, Leah. She had to write all of my letters in the early years of my insurance career.

From this came our first book, *From Misery to Ministry: A Walk of Faith*. Out of the ashes, God would birth a new ministry called Hazak Ministries. *Hazak* is

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a Hebrew word which means strength and encouragement. That vision He placed in our hearts was to bring a message of hope, healing, and encouragement to a lost and hurting world.

Be ready. There is a gift waiting for you!