

BOB GOFF



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DREAM BIG; AND UNDISTRACTED

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Catching Whimsy

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GOD LOVES TO GIVE SECOND CHANCES

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful.

But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

PROVERBS 28:13 TLB

I worked briefly at a gas station in high school. The job was pretty simple. If a car pulled up to the full-service island, I was supposed to lift the hood and check the oil, as well as wash the windows while the tank was being filled. Those were the days, right? I would put the gas pump hose in the tank for the customers, ask them what grade of gasoline they wanted, and then start filling it up. When the hose shut off, I would walk to the driver's side, remove the hose, collect the cash, and count out change from my pocket.

One day a car pulled up, and I sprang into action. When the tank was full, the windows washed, and the oil checked, I collected the cash, gave back a little change, and told the driver I hoped they had a memorable day. But as they drove off, I realized I had forgotten to remove the hose from the customer's Buick. I heard the bending of metal and watched in horror as the car took the gas hose and part of the gas pump with him. It turned out to be a memorable day for both of us, and I was fired immediately.

We are all going to make mistakes. Some things will go right in our lives, but more will go wrong. We don't need to keep a won-and-lost tally, and we don't need to let those things define us. Instead, use your failures to inform your next steps. I never worked at a gas station again, but I have pulled up to a couple of them over the years. Now I put my car key by the gas tank so that I will remember to remove the hose before I pull away. It just works out better that way for everyone, and there is less bent metal left behind.

What failure have you experienced that you continue to beat yourself up over? Bring it to Jesus today and ask Him to help you grow stronger and bolder because of it, not weaker and more timid.

**God isn't impressed by our accomplishments or distracted
by our failure; He delights in our obedient attempts.**

SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE HELPS EVERYBODY GROW UP

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:14-15

When our children were young, we would take boat trips each summer in the Pacific Northwest. During the days, we would explore shorelines, count starfish, catch crabs, and skip rocks. In the evenings, we would find a cove to anchor in for the night. Where we were, the tide changes the water level twelve feet twice a day, so even when the boat is stopped, it is always moving up and down and spinning in circles around the anchor. As a result, it is important to know if the boat is moving closer or farther away from rocks along the shore. I got in the habit of waking up every few hours at night, looking out one of the windows to see if we were drifting toward a problem. I would usually pick out a tree on the shore or another fixed point and see where our boat was in relation to it to get my bearings.

After a terrific summer, we returned to San Diego. In the middle of the first night at home, I instinctively went to the window after a few hours of sleep to see where I was, trying to find a fixed point I could recognize and wondering why there was a swing set and a palm tree in the cove I thought we were anchored in. It took a while before I realized I was no longer on a boat.

Just like it was important to know where the boat was in relation to the dangers around it, we need to know where we are in our lives. Paul wanted his friends to avoid getting pushed around by the winds and waves of life. He said the way to reorient ourselves is to speak the truth in love, even if the truth is that we're drifting toward danger. Make a quick assessment of where you are right now. Spot the rocks and pinch points in your life then you can take confident steps forward and bring your areas of confusion to Jesus.

Find someone you can call or meet with and talk about the place you find

yourself in. You will know they are the right person if they speak the truth to you in love.

You are surrounded today with love and truth and massive possibilities. Figure out who you are and then take action.

WE GROW IN OUR LIVES WHAT WE PLANT IN OUR HEARTS

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

There is a difference between two very similar sounding words: *further* and *farther*. Here's a quick way to know which one to use. *Farther* is used to talk about literal distances, but *further* is used for metaphorical distances.

When it comes to the relationships that matter the most to us, we want to go further and deeper, but too often we settle for simply going farther and logging more time rather than pursuing greater depth.

I don't know anyone who wants to get to the end of their life and have their spouse say, "You know, you were the best roommate I have ever had." Of course not. We are hoping for something truly exceptional. But we need to remember that we grow in our lives what we plant in our hearts.

If you want to experience more remarkable relationships with those you are closest to, plant a row of whimsy and wonder in your friendship field. If you want an outstanding marriage, scatter seeds of awesome along the pathway. If you have kids and want your relationship with them to be outstanding, put in motion a few unlikely experiences.

Don't stand back and passively watch what happens with the people you love; lean in and tend to those important relationships. Invest in ways that will take you further in with each other, not just farther along in the timeline.

**What move can you make today to put wheels on
your desire to go deeper and further, rather than just
keeping things shallow and logging more time?**

MONEY CAN'T BUY LOVE, BUT WE STILL NEED TO DECIDE HOW WE'RE GOING TO HANDLE IT

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 TIMOTHY 6:10

I remember getting my first paycheck in high school. The minimum wage was \$2.10 an hour then (I'm that old), and I had worked after classes for a month to score one hundred dollars. By my calculation, I was rolling in cash. Where would I put it all? Stocks? Bonds? Pork belly futures?

While one hundred dollars seemed like an immense amount of wealth, it was peanuts compared to the one-thousand-dollar paycheck I received when I got out of college. I felt like I should open a bank and start making high-interest rate loans. Then, when I got out of law school and started working in the justice field, I received a check for ten thousand dollars. What in the world?

With each different phase of life, it seemed there was another zero added to my definition of what was a lot of money. But thankfully, what I have found along the way is that how I deal with money doesn't have to change, no matter how many zeros are attached.

I can be wise and generous with what I'm given when I have much, and I can be wise and generous with what I'm given when I have little. Regardless of my situation, I have to consciously make a choice and decide what my interaction with money is going to be like. And you do too.

The Bible talks a lot about this. Almost two thousand verses and half of the parables Jesus told were about money. Put that up against just under five hundred verses about our faith and our prayers. Obviously, this matters a lot to Him, so we need to put some good thought into how we will approach money in our own lives.

You and I get to decide what our relationship with money is going to be.

**Make a plan that honors God and execute it.
Hope without a plan is just a wish.**

DON'T GO SMALL ON THE BIG THINGS GOD HAS INVITED YOU TO PURSUE

We constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9

We are sometimes tempted to compare what we are doing with what someone else is doing. But God doesn't want us to be like each other. He wants us to be like Him and to pursue the unique calling we are each given.

But let's get real. How do we even know what our calling is? The concept of calling is both simple and complicated. Our first calling is to Jesus. He calls our names and hopes we will not only hear Him but do something about it. We are also called to love the people around us, to be a reflection of God's heartbeat wherever we go. But what most people mean when they talk about calling is the role God has uniquely positioned each of us to play. So how do we get there?

To find more clarity about your calling, do an audit of your experiences and desires and drill down on your capabilities. What lights you up? What are you good at? What is lasting and important and meaningful and purposeful? What has worked in the past? What did you bounce back from when the wheels wobbled? These all point toward a calling.

As you go through today, ask yourself these questions and get clear on your current calling. Don't get stuck reliving or relitigating roles and opportunities you have grown out of, and don't go small on the big things God has invited you to pursue. You are a new creation each day, and things are supposed to change over time. So expect your conversations with God also to shift over time.

**Welcome those new conversations with God and the
new opportunities He brings your way today.**



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this sneak peek from

Catching Whimsy
by Bob Goff.

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