

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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Deal is Done—Transcend Time

In May 2007, my mother passed away. She had a home in Florida that we needed to sell, so we listed with an agent. At that time, the Florida housing market was beginning to tank, so we were unsure how long it would take to get an offer. During **July 2007**, we also decided that it was time to move from our home of 17 years, so we placed our home on the market as well, only we decided to sell it ourselves (sale by owner). At this point, the Virginia housing market had not begun to suffer, and, in fact, homes were selling in our community. We figured it wouldn't take too long to get an offer. Boy, were we wrong!

On **August 3, 2007**, I was praying and heard: ***The deal is done.*** I naturally thought this meant that we would be getting an offer on our place. No offer came; however, **17 days** later (August 20), we received an offer for my mother's home that was located in a place called ***Sungate***. On September 12, exactly four months after my mother's death, we closed on her place. We figured this must have been the deal that I heard was done, but, frankly, we were a little disappointed because we figured we had to sell our home first in order to make the move we were planning.

As we look back, we realize that if we had sold our home at that point, we would have made the wrong move. Initially, we knew that it was time to move, but the question was where. We had several options, and the one we were leaning toward in August 2007 would have been a disaster if we had taken that route. Father knows best, and He overruled our plans. Thank God!

We kept praying and seeking the Lord regarding our potential move. Looking back, it must have appeared to those in our neighborhood that we did not have a clue as to what we were doing. They would ask us where we were moving to, and we generally gave some vague answer that must have made people scratch their heads wondering what we were up to. At one point, we even told people we were moving across town to a new development that was in a rather isolated area. It simply looked like we were trying to get out of the neighborhood, not knowing where we were going. Sort of sounds like someone we have read about. Whom could that be? O, how about Abraham (Hebrews 11:8)?

Well, as we continued to pray, there was another dynamic at work. My wife's aging mother was being cared for by her older sister, and it was becoming too much for the sister to handle their mother's 24/7 healthcare. Having been through some of this with my parents, we knew how taxing it could be on the body and soul of the caregiver. The solution was for us to move to the area where the mother and sister live, which is in another state. We were at peace about moving out of the state that had been our home for the last three decades, but we were not entirely settled on such a move. To be honest, I was the one that was not entirely settled on the matter. Until!

One day I was seeking the Lord and a word from the book of James came to my heart: *Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin* (James 4:17).

This word became *rhema*, a living word, to me, and I knew the course we had to take. So, on one of our trips to visit my wife's mother and sister, I began to look around the area. I didn't have to look very long before I found a development and a style of house that we both liked. Actually, I only had to look at one community. On November 23, 2007, we signed a contract to build a house that we would (and did) move into on May 16, 2008. Frankly, we were not sure whether we had made the right choice. It was a big risk

for us to sign a contract on a new house and not have our current house sold. It went against all that I had planned in order to pull off this big change in our lives. Unfortunately, we had not sold our previous home by the time moving day came. At this point, we turned the marketing of it over to a real estate agent.

Backing up a bit, on February 1, 2008, prior to our move in May, I received a rather interesting word: **Transcend time**. The word *transcend* means "to go beyond the limits of." In other words, "transcending time" means to go beyond the limits of time. But how do we, who are stuck in time, do this? I will give an illustration of the answer shortly.

On May 15, 2008, after physically living in our home for **17 years**, we packed and moved to our new home, which is in a place called **Sun City**. Recall, we previously sold my mother's home in **Sungate**. To us, this spiritually symbolizes the destiny set before the Lord's people. It is a picture of passing through the gates of the celestial and holy city, **New Jerusalem**, which is illuminated by the glory of the Son of God. New Jerusalem is the city of the sons of God, shining as the Sun (Matthew 13:43).

Over the entire time that our property was for sale, we had many people look at it, but no offers were made, in spite of us continually lowering the price and offering other enticements. I had people tell me that we needed to plant a seed of faith (i.e., give money to a man's ministry) if we expected to sell our home. In other words, we needed faith and money to get heaven to move on our behalf. I even spoke to one couple that had done this and their home sold immediately at their asking price. Others prayed for us by making the typical demands that one would expect from most Christians, including binding the enemy. I even presented the case before the divine court to transfer the deed, since all things belong to God anyway. In spite of all this activity, nothing happened until 14 months after we moved out of our previous house to when we had a fully executed contract. The number **14** means **deliverance**.

On June 24, 2009, we finally received an offer on our property. The selling price was not what we expected; it was a low-ball offer. After some negotiation, we arrived at a price that we could live with, even if it was much lower than what we wanted or needed. On July 16, 2009, we had a finalized contract. The initial offer called for a closing on July 28, 2009. However, a few days later, we received an addendum to the contract; the buyers wanted to move the closing to **August 3, 2009**.

I felt a nudge in my spirit to look at my daily journal, and I was shocked to be reminded that on August 3, 2007, I heard: **The deal is done**. In other words, exactly two years earlier, the Lord had told me that the deal to sell our home would be consummated on August 3. He did not tell me what year it was going to occur, but He most definitely gave me the month and the day. With this new information, we both began to wonder if this were true. Would we literally close on the sale on August 3, or would it be around this date? I began to realize that this was the Lord's doing and that we had to stand on this as a word from the Lord. As the 3rd neared, all was set for the closing, but then on the 2nd, the air conditioning system stopped working. At first, some fear and, frankly, agitation, rose up in both of us, but we held to the word. It turned out that the fix for the system was simple, and the closing took place on the 3rd as the Lord had promised.

By the way, our home sold for \$x17,000 (not important to reveal the actual price), and our house before this one sold for \$x17,000. We had physically lived in our last home for **17 years**. Also, we received a contract on my mother's place **17 days** after August 3, 2007. The number **17** stands for **victory**.

I am still processing all that the Lord is teaching us through this experience, but the one thing that is for sure is, God transcends time. When the will of heaven is declared, we can be assured that it will take place *on earth as it is in heaven*! What we need to do is line up with the will of heaven, stand, and wait until we see it occur on earth. **Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven**. This is life in the kingdom of God. It is the life of victory, a life that is not limited by time.