Jesus, Take The Wheel

101 Inspirations for Your Daily Christian Walk

Mark Bowser
Jesus, Take the Wheel

Free Sampler

101 Inspirations for Your Daily Christian Walk

By Mark Bowser
Contents

Introduction

SECTION ONE: A New Beginning

INSPIRATION #1: In the beginning of time, God created the earth and along with it man and woman, and He bestowed greatness with each one, a greatness unique to each individual which, if developed, will shape the world to righteousness.

INSPIRATION #2: Make sure what goes into your mind is positive because what comes out is always what went in.

INSPIRATION #3: We are all beautiful in the eyes of God.

INSPIRATION #4: Man must learn to crawl before he can walk and one must walk before he can run.

INSPIRATION #5: Self-dignity and self-esteem are the greatest needs of every individual. Respect and love for oneself is vital for survival and a happy fulfilling life.

INSPIRATION #6: Self-love is the kind of love that motivates a person to greatness.

INSPIRATION #7: When it is all said and done, at the heart of the champion is LOVE!

INSPIRATION #8: A man’s actions choose his future.

INSPIRATION #9: I have faith in Jesus Christ; therefore I am.

INSPIRATION #10: A winner is not a perfect human being. There are no perfect human beings. A winner is an imperfect human being striving to be better.

INSPIRATION #11: Patience is a weapon which can reveal miracles.

INSPIRATION #12: PEACE - a calm emotion with tremendous strength.

INSPIRATION #13: Jesus said to me, “Mark, no matter how many times the crucifixion is replayed, there is always one conclusion - THE RESURRECTION!”

INSPIRATION #14: Everyone has a little child within him that needs to come out and play from time to time.

INSPIRATION #15: Happiness is always created from the inside, not from the outside.
INSPIRATION #16: Be happy where you are, but work toward the future.

INSPIRATION #17: An idea is the greatest investment.

INSPIRATION #18: Motivation without direction is dangerous. Motivation with positive direction is success!

INSPIRATION #19: Hope is a little thing that carries big dividends in the journey of life.

INSPIRATION #20: Integrity and character go hand and hand.

INSPIRATION #21: Great strength comes from within, not from without.
What is a Jesus Take The Wheel Inspiration?

A Jesus Take The Wheel Inspiration is a thought or idea that God has touched me with. When God gives me such a thought I write it down in what I call my Power Nugget Book. That little personal book has turned into this full-fledged book you are about to read.

I am not sure I ever planned on publishing my Power Nugget Book. I know I didn’t expect this to be my first book. But God had a different idea. He took this book and moved it up the priority list for my life. It is exciting to experience God in our lives.

Experiencing God is what this book is all about: experiencing His love, His touch, and His goodness in our lives. The book is linked together by three sections: A New Beginning, The Road That Leads To Success, and Going All The Way. These sections will lead you step by step to success. There are some similarities within each section. One reason for this is that success, like life, is a journey, which has some constants along the road, such as faith, love, attitude, and hope.

Well, my friend, you are about to embark on what I hope will be an exciting adventure with God. My hope and prayer is that through this book God will use His hand to touch your heart, spirit, and your success. Enjoy the journey ... called life. God bless you!

MAKE IT A GREAT DAY!
Mark Bowser
SECTION ONE

A New Beginning

Have you ever wished you could have a do-over in life? That you could just start again. That you could stop the cameras by saying, “CUT! Stop rolling. Let’s do that again. TAKE TWO: ‘My Life.’” Wouldn’t that be nice to be able to do that? Well, the truth is, we can start again. That is what this first section, “A New Beginning,” is all about. Within this section you will discover the way to start over.

Some of you are pleased with your life and that’s great. You are already successful but you need a new beginning for a new adventure. I believe you will also find this section very helpful.

Wherever you are right now is where you need to begin. So let’s join together and take one step at a time with a new beginning.
INSPIRATION #1:

In the beginning of time, God created the earth and along with it man and woman, and He bestowed greatness with each one, greatness unique to each individual that, if developed, will shape the world to righteousness.

I know something about you. I may not know you personally but I still know something about you. That something is this: YOU were born with the seeds of greatness and created by the Creator of the universe to be a champion. If you choose to tap into your greatness, then you will live an extraordinary life. We may not all be famous. We may not all be financially rich. But we all have greatness to make a difference in this world. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”

History tells us a wonderful story about the greatness of individuals. It goes something like this. The year was 1815. The date was March first. This was the day that all of Europe will remember. It was as if all their nightmares were coming true. On that day, a small British ship sailed very quietly to dock on the French Riviera. A man stepped off the boat with a fire in his eyes. The man looked as if he were on a mission. All of Europe shivered at the thought of the return of this man. The nightmare was back. His name was Napoleon.

Napoleon had been exiled to the island of Elba, which is off the coast of Italy. During this period in his life, Napoleon didn’t want to live and he attempted suicide. He carried a pouch around his neck that contained poison. He swallowed the poison but he did not die. He suffered cramps and convulsions and then he recovered.

Napoleon spent less than a year on Elba. He knew that the Allies had many differences and couldn’t solve them at the Congress of Vienna. Napoleon hoped to exploit this weakness to regain what he thought was his right to power. After his recovery from the poison, Napoleon escaped from his British captors and stole one of their ships. Now he had just stepped off this stolen ship to begin his revenge on a frightened Europe.

The Allies immediately put their differences aside and joined forces to confront the tyrant. One of the men Europe looked to defend them against Napoleon was the Duke of Wellington. Wellington was a British hero determined to stop Napoleon. Wellington commanded the combined forces of Great Britain, Prussia, Belgium, and The Netherlands. A line was drawn in the sand and a battle was fought. That battle was to become one of the greatest military victories in all of history. The battle was called “The Battle of Waterloo.”

Before the battle, Wellington was in Brussels preparing for his standoff with Napoleon. Accompanying the Duke was a member of the British Parliament named Thomas Creevey. As they were walking through Brussels Park they noticed a lonely British redcoat staring at a statue. Wellington grabbed Creevey by the arm and said, “There, look at him! It all depends on that article whether we do business or not. Give me enough of them and I am sure of victory.”

On June 18, 1815, the line was drawn in the sand. Wellington had with him 67,661 men and 150 artillery guns. Napoleon had 71,947 men
and 246 artillery guns. Because of heavy rain the night before, Napoleon chose to wait till close to noon to attack. This decision may have cost him the victory. The battle began at 11:25 in the morning and would last until 10:00 that evening. Napoleon pummeled the front of Wellington’s line. Wellington’s troops fought earnestly. Finally, all hope for victory was put on the British infantry. These solitary redcoats put together made an impressive stand. These boys stood their ground. They would not give up. They believed in their leaders. They believed in their cause. They began to believe in themselves. They did have greatness within them. The line in the sand stood and finally Marshal Gebhard von Blucher came and reinforced Wellington with his Prussian troops. Napoleon was forced from the battlefield licking his wounds. This battle finally closed the book on Napoleon’s quest to rule Europe. Europe was safe again.

YOU, like the British redcoats, have greatness within you. Tap into your greatness and be the best YOU you can be!
INSPIRATION #2:

Make sure what goes into your mind is positive because what comes out is always what went in.

Most of us have probably heard the statement “garbage in; garbage out.” Well, that is a realistic representation of how our brains work. If we continually think depressing thoughts then we will begin to live a depressing life. But on the other hand, if we continually think happy, positive thoughts then we will live a happy, positive life. This is why it is vital that we pay attention to what we are putting into our brains. It is vital that we fill our brains with the good stuff of life. Begin reading good books. Begin watching moral entertainment. Begin focusing on what is positive, hopeful, and good. If we will do these things, then we will live a fulfilling, empowering life.
INSPIRATION #3:

We are all beautiful in the eyes of God.

The late chaplain of the United States Senate, Peter Marshall, used to tell a story titled “The Keeper of the Spring,” which I think illustrates beautifully how God looks at each one of us. The story is about a man who lived in a forest in the eastern Alps overlooking an Austrian village. This old man had been hired years ago by a wise town council to make sure the mountain waters flowed freely into the wonderful spring which flowed into the quaint village.

The old man faithfully year after year removed leaves, twigs, and everything that could contaminate or clog the flowing water. As a result, the village spring was an attraction for vacationers and swans alike. The village was peaceful, happy, and blessed.

One night, years later, another town council began talking about the almost mythical keeper of the spring. They wondered, “Why are we paying this man? Does anyone ever see him? This money could be used for better purposes.” As a result, they decided to terminate the services of the old man.

For a while, everything stayed the same. The spring was beautiful and the village blossomed. But then came autumn. The trees began to loose their grip on their leaves. Twigs and branches broke off the trees and fell into the stream.

One day, someone noticed something different about their wonderful spring. It was changing to a different color. Soon a haze came over parts of the spring and a sickening smell began to hover around it. The vacationers left the lovely village. The swans decided to look for a new home.

The town council called an emergency meeting. They realized what a terrible mistake they had made by firing the old man of the forest. They immediately hired him back. The old man got to work and performed the miracle again. Within a few weeks, the life-giving water was flowing freely and surely to the village spring. Soon all was normal, healthy, and blessed.

Many times we treat people in our lives much like the town council treated “the keeper of the spring.” We appear to have no use for them and we take them for granted. But God looks at each of us much differently. He sees the beauty in each one of us. After all, He created us in His own image. When we look at people the way God sees them it puts a whole new light on them. Who knows? (God knows) ... there may be a “keeper of the spring” in your neighborhood.
INSPIRATION #4:

Man must learn to crawl before he can walk and one must walk before he can run.

What would happen if a baby attempted to walk before it crawled? Most likely the baby would fall down, right? What would happen if someone attempted to perform brain surgery before he graduated from medical school? The patient would probably die.

Every goal has steps to reaching that goal. It is important not to skip too many steps. If you do, you are likely to stumble and fall. There are things we need to learn through the journey. There are things that have to be done before we can move forward. Success is a balance between patience and assertiveness. Find that balance and you will soon find yourself sprinting towards your goal.
Self-dignity and self-esteem are the greatest needs of every individual. Respect and love for oneself is vital for survival and a happy fulfilling life.

Gary Smalley and John Trent tell a wonderful story in their book In Search of the Blessing. The story is from the Civil War. One of the greatest heroes for the Union Army was General Chamberlain. He was very brave. He had nine horses shot from under him, was wounded many times, and was awarded the Medal of Honor. President Lincoln and General Grant respected Chamberlain very much so they chose him and his men to be the honor guard for Confederate General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

When the surrender was complete, General Lee began to ride down the road with Union soldiers standing on either side of him. The Union soldiers began to laugh and make fun of the enemy’s leader. Chamberlain was not going to stand for this. He silenced his men and forced them to stand at attention, present arms, and salute General Lee as he made his way down the road.

Why did General Chamberlain force his men to do this? I believe it is because General Chamberlain understood the power of respect to an individual’s self-esteem. General Lee deserved their respect. General Lee needed their respect. Their show of honor must have put a little joy into what was probably the worst day of General Lee’s life. If we lose our self-respect then we lose who we are. General Chamberlain helped General Lee keep his self-respect. Now, my friend, let us go and do the same for someone in our lives.
INSPIRATION #6:

Self-love is the kind of love that motivates a person to greatness.

Is it possible to love someone else if we do not love ourselves? Jesus said we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. What if we hate ourselves? Does this mean we should hate our neighbors? No, Jesus meant for us to love our neighbors with grace and servitude. Jesus also knows how hard this is to do if we have trouble loving ourselves. Jesus wants to give us a positive self-esteem, which creates a healthy self-love.

How can we have this kind of self-love? I think the first step is to realize that we are children of God. God loves us and we are created in His image. In fact He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us. Now, that is LOVE! Since God loves us so much maybe we could love ourselves too.

There is a great poem written by an unknown author that expresses the importance of self-love. It is titled "The Man in the Glass."

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,  
And the world makes you king for a day,  
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that one has to say.

For it isn’t your father or mother or mate,  
Whose judgment upon you must pass;  
The one whose verdict counts the most  
Is the one who you see in the glass.

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,  
And the world makes you king for a day,  
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that one has to say.

For it isn’t your father or mother or mate  
Whose judgment upon you must pass;  
The one whose verdict counts most in your life,  
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you are a straight-shooting chum,  
And call you a wonderful person  
But the one in the glass says you’re only a bum,  
If you can’t look yourself straight in the eye.

That’s the one to please, never mind all the rest,  
For you’re with you clear up to the end,  
And you have passed your most dangerous, difficult test,  
If the one in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down your pathway of years,  
And get pats on the back as you pass  
But your final reward will be heartache and tears,  
If you’ve cheated the one in the glass.

Let Jesus Christ, the author and creator of all love, help you make friends with the "one in the glass."
INSPIRATION #7:

When it is all said and done, at the heart of the champion is LOVE!

The nine fine-tuned athletes lined up at the starting line. This is what they had trained for. The race was the 100-yard dash. As the gun was raised, tension filled the air. BANG! The gun was fired. The athletes broke out in an awkward trot instead of a graceful gait. You see, this was the Seattle Special Olympics. Special was an understatement for this race of champions.

One of the contestants stumbled and fell to the ground. The young boy began to cry. The other eight athletes heard the cry in pain. They paused, turned around, and went to help their fallen comrade. One girl with Down Syndrome kissed the fallen athlete. She said, "This will make it better." They helped the little boy to his feet and they all joined arms and crossed the finish line together.

That is what being a champion is all about. The true victory in life is love.
INSPIRATION #8:

A man’s actions choose his future.

The kind of life we will live is determined by the kind of day we choose to live. Mike Murdock says, "The secret of your future is hidden in your daily routine." Because of this it is vital that we consciously choose good habits.

There is a great story titled The New Leaves. As the story goes, young Tommy was fast asleep when all of a sudden he heard a voice say, "Wake up!" Tommy woke up with a start and saw a little boy about his same age standing at the end of his bed. The boy was dressed in the whitest clothes Tommy had ever seen.

"Who are you?" asked a startled but not frightened Tommy.

"I'm the New Year," said the boy. "I've brought you your leaves."

"What leaves?" asked a bewildered Tommy.

"Your new ones, of course. My daddy tells me bad things about you."

"And just who is your daddy?"

"The old year, of course," said the boy. "He says that you are greedy and that you don't treat your sister very nice. He also said you threw your book in the fire. Tommy, all of this must stop."

A little fear began to creep into Tommy’s mind as he said, "Oh, I must change, you say?"

The boy in white said, "If you don't change then day by day, year by year you will become worse and worse until you become a horrible man who has not a friend in the world. Do you want to be a horrible man, Tommy?"

A now very frightened Tommy sputtered out the word, "No."

"Then you must change today. Here, take your leaves." The boy handed Tommy what looked like white notebook paper. "Read one of these every day and soon you will be a nice boy."

On each sheet read little action steps like, "Help your mom and dad," "Be nice to your sister," and "Pick up your toys."

With that the New Year said, "Good-bye, Tommy. I will be back when I am old to see if you have been a good boy. Remember, bad boys make bad men and good boys make good men."

The New Year opened the window and was gone. The wind blew in the window and tossed the leaves out of Tommy's hand. "My leaves!" exclaimed Tommy. Tommy’s mother came into the room to see what the commotion was about.

Tommy looked around the room for his leaves but he couldn’t find even one. With confidence and conviction in his voice Tommy said, "Oh, well. But I can change without the leaves to remind me. I will not be a horrible man when I grow up." Tommy kept the promise to himself and he grew up to be a very fine man.
INSPIRATION #9:

I have faith in Jesus Christ; therefore I am.

Have you ever heard the saying, "I think; therefore I am"? It is a good one and a true one but I think there is more to life than thinking. That something is faith. I am a Christian, which means I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and died for my sins on a cross almost 2000 years ago. Faith is more important than thinking.

I grew up in the church and I was always taught at home and in church who Jesus Christ is and what He did to save me from my sins. Ever since I was a very little child, I have always believed in Jesus but I never knew what it meant to be a born again Christian until many, many years later. You see, even though I believed in Jesus, I always held a little of myself back just for me. Jesus wants us to surrender all of ourselves to Him. I had no problem with God having control of 95 percent of my life. I just wanted to maintain control of the remaining 5 percent. I soon discovered that that little 5 percent can and did get me in all kinds of trouble.

Things got so bad in my life that I felt they couldn't get any worse. I felt as if I had hit rock bottom. This was a good place for me because I saw only one direction to go and that was up. And when I looked up, I truly discovered Jesus Christ. On a December day in 1991 I made a decision. The most important decision I or anyone could make. I decided to follow Jesus. On that day I gave my life 100 percent to Him and I asked Him to forgive me of my sins and to come and live inside of me through His Holy Spirit and make me the champion He created me to be. And God has done all of that and much, much more. And since that day my life has been terrific. Now, I still have problems like everybody else but the difference is I now see the problems as challenges that God is solving and using to make me a better person.

I look back at that time of my life and don't recognize that person. I'm not the same person anymore. I regret the pain I caused in people’s lives before I knew Jesus in an intimate way. I hope those people have forgiven me. Some of them I have not been able to personally express how sorry I am. I knew that my personal contact, even to ask their forgiveness, would have caused more pain in their lives. But there may be a day when they will allow me to approach them and express the love of Christ that is in me. It is possible that they may be reading this book. If that is so, then I ask your forgiveness. The guy you knew doesn’t exist anymore. He’s dead. I am a new creation in Christ. Jesus Christ has saved me and washed away my sins and my past.

Do you need someone to wash away your sins like chalk from a chalkboard? That One is Jesus Christ. Where is your faith rooted? Have you ever thought about trusting Jesus? He is what life is all about. As the Bible says, Jesus is "... the way, the truth, and the life. And the only way to get to God."
A winner is not a perfect human being. There are no perfect human beings. A winner is an imperfect human being striving to be better.

Sometimes I can be a perfectionist. Because of this, I am sometimes too critical of myself and others. What I have to remind myself of is that we aren’t perfect. Because of this fact, we will make mistakes. Sometimes they will be stupid mistakes. Well, that’s part of life. When we make a mistake, we have to own up to it and then forgive ourselves. If the mistake can be fixed then fix it. If other people make a mistake, then forgive them. Mistakes are part of life. When they happen, we need to look for the good in them. What can we learn? Where did we go wrong? How can I improve this situation? How can I show people I love them in spite of their imperfectness? Where do we go from here? These are the questions of a winner and you are a winner.
INSPIRATION #11:

Patience is a weapon that can reveal miracles.

Patience is something with which I have difficulty. I am a go-getter who doesn’t like to wait. But the truth is, we all need to learn patience. Through patience and persistence is usually how success happens.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Dr. Thomas Cooper took on the tedious task of editing a known dictionary. He also improved it in other ways including adding thirty-three thousand words. Dr. Cooper had already been working on his project for eight years when his hateful, ignorant wife went into his library and burned every note he had on the project. She believed she was saving him from killing himself from too much study.

A short time later, Dr. Cooper went into his library and found the burnt mess. He inquired about who would cause such tragedy. His wife boldly and proudly said that she had done it. Dr. Cooper looked at his wife and said, “Oh, Dinah, you have just caused me a lot of trouble!” He then sat down and began another eight years of work to replace the notes she had destroyed.

Wow! Now that’s patience. My friend, do you have that kind of patience? Do I? I don’t know. I hope I would possess the same courage and conviction as Dr. Cooper to start again. Only with God is it possible for us to be like Dr. Cooper and live such patience, forgiveness, and persistence. I don’t know about you my friend, but I am going to allow God to work His miracle in me.
INSPIRATION #12:

PEACE — a calm emotion with tremendous strength.

Where does peace come from?

Norman Vincent Peale used to tell a story about a high steel worker by the name of Nick. They were building a stack, which was 600 feet in the air, up near Gary, Indiana. Now 600 feet is about 60 stories. One particular day, Nick was teamed up to work with a guy whose name he didn’t know. All he knew was that the guy was called Preacher. Now Preacher was a very calm fellow. He never cussed or went out drinking with the other guys. Because of this, he was known as Preacher. Preacher was working on the high steel to earn money for a little church down south, which was in debt. And on this day, Nick and Preacher were teamed up as partners.

Nick and Preacher were to work from inside a little trolley car that rode on the outside of the stack. It was moved up and down the stack by two little trolley wheels. They got up to about 500 feet when something out of the ordinary began to happen. There was the sound of fractured steel, as one of the trolley wheels broke loose. The cage came crashing back against the stack. It was held up in the air only by the one remaining trolley wheel.

Finally, Nick and Preacher regained full consciousness and began to realize the situation they were in. Nick looked at Preacher and said, “If that other trolley wheel gives way we’re goners!”

Preacher looked at Nick and said, “Don’t worry, Nick. God will take care of you.”

What did he mean, God would take care of him? Just in case Preacher didn’t understand the situation they were in, Nick explained it to him again. He said, “Preacher, I don’t think you get it. If that trolley wheel breaks loose we’re going to be killed.”

With a small smile forming on his face, Preacher said to Nick, “Don’t worry, Nick. Even so, God will take care of you.”

That was when Nick saw for the first time in his life complete faith and confidence in Almighty God. Nick then realized that Preacher knew that even if that cage broke loose and came crashing down 500 feet to kill them, God would take care of them.

Well, the two men were rescued and it has been quite some time since that situation took place but Nick says that every time he goes through Gary, Indiana, and sees that stack shining brilliantly in the sky he thinks of that faithful day he learned to trust Almighty God.

PEACE — where does it come from? It comes from God.
INSPIRATION #13:

Jesus said to me, “Mark, no matter how many times the crucifixion is replayed; there is always one conclusion - THE RESURRECTION!”

Many times God will speak to me through a thought. It usually is a very clear thought which is the answer to a problem I’m struggling with at the time. This was one of those thoughts.

I can sometimes be very hard on myself. I’ll beat myself up over and over for past sins. I repent to God for the same thing many times. We only have to repent once. God forgives and forgets. The Bible says He separates us from our sin as far as the East is from the West.

This is what God was reminding me of through this Power Nugget. No matter how many times we read the story of Jesus’ crucifixion, the conclusion is always the same - The Resurrection. He died for our sins and was done with it once and for all. He did not have to die over and over again. Once was enough. Jesus Christ finished the first time. When we truly repent (which means turning away from our sin) He forgives once and for all. That’s why He is our Savior and Lord of all.
INSPIRATION #14:

Everyone has a little child within him that needs to come out and play from time to time.

During a dinner party the host’s children came into the dining room and began walking around the table completely naked. The hosts were so embarrassed that they continued talking as if nothing strange was happening. The guests obliged and followed suit. As the children left the dining room, there was a moment of silence around the table. One of the children was overheard saying, “See, I told you. It is vanishing cream.”

Children have a way of bringing a spark to life. They are so simple, happy, honest, teachable, and curious. Just because we are adults doesn’t mean we are to lose these qualities. I think these are some of the qualities Jesus was talking about when He told us to be childlike. As adults, we are to lose the foolishness of a child but hang onto the positive aspects of childhood. This will add tremendous spark and joy to your life.

There is a story of a mother firefly that was taking her children for a walk. As they approached a very dark woods the mother firefly said, “All right children, line up and do NOT shine your light no matter what happens. There are owls in here and if they see you they will swoop down and eat you.”

Well, all the children lined up in a single file with the youngest at the end. After a little while, the mother firefly saw a light coming from behind her. She said, “STOP! Who lit their light?”

The youngest admitted, “I did, Mom.”

“I told you not to. Why did you do it?”

The littlest firefly looked at his mother and said, “Well, Mom, when you gotta glow, you gotta glow.”

Let your light so shine by taking on the positive qualities of childhood and let the child in you come out and play.
INSPIRATION #15:

Happiness is always created from the inside, not from the outside.

Where does happiness come from? Is it given to us? Can we earn it? Happiness is given to us. It is ours for the asking. Happiness is a choice. We decide how happy or unhappy we will be. Wisconsin Odd Fellow wrote a poem titled “Happiness Is Within” which says, “It’s not so much the world outside that makes us laugh or smile; it’s more the thoughts within our hearts that make life seem worthwhile.”

I know a story about an old wise man. This wise man lived in a small town. Every day this man would sit outside the local gas station and watch the cars go by. Every once in a while a car would stop and he would have the opportunity to talk with a neighbor or even a tourist passing through. On this particular day, the old man’s granddaughter joined him at the gas station.

After some time, a car pulled up to the station. A man got out of the car and started to look around. The wise old man did not recognize the stranger and figured he was a tourist. The tourist came up to the older man and asked, “What kind of a town is this? Is it a nice place to live?”

The wise old man looked at the stranger and asked, “What kind of town are you from? Is it a nice place to live?”

The tourist said, “It’s an awful town. Everyone is critical of each other and negative about the future. They gossip all the time too. I am glad to be leaving.”

The old man said, “That’s how it is in this town too.”

After an hour or so, another car drove up. This time it was filled with a family of strangers. The mother jumped out in a hurry with two small children and asked where the restroom was. The old man pointed to a ragged, decrepit sign and the woman thanked him and hurried off with the children.

The father got out and walked up to the wise old man and his granddaughter. He asked, “What kind of town is this?”

The old man asked, “What kind of town are you from?”

The young father looked at the old man and said, “It’s a great town. I wish we didn’t have to leave. Everyone is very close. There is always a friendly hello and smile throughout the day. I feel we are leaving family.”

“That is exactly like this town,” said the old wise man.

After the nice little family had driven away the old man’s granddaughter looked up at her grandfather with a puzzled look and said, “Grandpa, why did you tell the first man this was a terrible town and the second man it was a great town?”

The old man looked down at his beautiful little granddaughter and lovingly said, “Sweetheart, the truth is that people see exactly what they want to see. Our attitude is what makes the difference. The attitude we have determines whether it is an awful or marvelous place in which to live.”

Well, there we have it. We choose whether we are going to live a happy or unhappy life. Abraham Lincoln said, “People are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” Well, I don’t know about you but I have made up my mind. I’m going to live a happy life!
INSPIRATION #16:

Be happy where you are, but work towards the future.

Mary Sherman Hilbert shares the story about her neighbor, Ruth Peterson. When the stress of life seemed to be closing in on her, Ruth Peterson would go to her special place. Her special place was the beach. The sounds of the waves, the crisp clean air, and the signs of life always seemed to cheer her up. One day as Ruth was on her beach, a little girl was building something in the sand. The little girl saw Ruth and spoke, “Hello, I’m building.”

“I can see that,” said Ruth not really interested. She would have rather been left alone. “What are you building?”

“I don’t know,” said the little girl. “I just like the feel of the sand.”

About that time a bird flew by. It was a sandpiper. “That’s joy,” said the girl.

“What do you mean?” asked Ruth.

“My mom says that sandpipers come to bring us joy.”

Ruth desperately wanted to be left alone. She was depressed and felt smothered by the world. But the little girl wouldn’t let up. “What is your name?” asked the girl.

“My name is Ruth Peterson.”

“I’m six years old and my name is Wendy.”

“Hello, Wendy.”

As Ruth strolled away the little girl called to her, “Come back Mrs. P. and we will have another happy day.” As much as Ruth hated to admit it to herself she felt better. Wendy had brought a little sunshine to her stormy day.

The next few weeks were very busy for Ruth and she didn’t have time to go to the beach. One day, Ruth said to herself, “I could use a sandpiper.” She grabbed her coat and went to the beach. She had forgotten about Wendy as she was walking on the beach. All of a sudden she heard, “Hi, Mrs. P. Do you want to play?” All Ruth needed was to have to deal with this little kid. Ruth had things on her mind and wanted to be left alone but being polite she asked, “What did you have in mind?”

“I don’t care. What do you want to do?”

“How about charades?”

“I don’t know what that is,” said Wendy.

“Then why don’t you just walk with me?” As they were walking along Ruth asked Wendy where she lived. Wendy pointed to a home among a row of cottages. Ruth thought it a little strange to be living in a summer cottage during the winter.

“Where do you go to school?” asked a now curious Ruth.

“I don’t go to school. Mommy says we are on vacation.”

As Ruth said good-bye to Wendy to head for home, Wendy left Ruth with the same sunshine as before. Wendy had said it had been a happy day.

Three weeks went by and now tragedy had struck Ruth’s family. Ruth’s mother had died. In great distress, Ruth went to her beach. She hoped she wouldn’t have to deal with Wendy today. She didn’t know if she had the strength. But as usual Wendy was there. Ruth said, “Please leave me alone today. I need to be alone.”

“Why?” asked the puzzled child.

“Because my mother died.”

“Then this is not a happy day. Did it hurt when she died?”
What a question! “Of course it hurt,” said a shocked Ruth. Ruth did not understand Wendy’s situation. She was too engulfed within herself to see Wendy’s needs. Ruth walked off, leaving the little girl there on the beach.

The next time Ruth went to the beach Wendy wasn’t there. Ruth thought this was strange and went up to the summer cottage and knocked on the door. A young woman, who appeared to have been going through her own tragedy, answered the door.

“Hi. I’m Ruth Peterson. I didn’t see Wendy today and wondered where she was.”

“Please come in,” said Wendy’s mother. “I’m sorry if Wendy has been bothering you.”

“Oh, no. She is a wonderful child.” Ruth discovered she truly enjoyed her times with Wendy.

“Wendy died last week. She had leukemia.” A wave of despair struck Ruth. This unexpected news rocked her.

“Wendy enjoyed the beach,” continued Wendy’s mother. “When she asked to come here we couldn’t disappoint her. She seemed to be healthier here. She wanted me to give you something, Mrs. Peterson.”

Wendy’s mother went and got an envelope and handed it to Ruth. Inside was a drawing made with crayons. It was a picture of a beautiful beach, the glorious sea, and a bird. Underneath Wendy’s masterpiece she had printed: “A sandpiper to bring you joy.”

Ruth was overwhelmed with emotion. She and Wendy’s mother spent the next few minutes crying together as they mourned for this special happy little girl named Wendy.

We can learn a lot from Wendy. She was a happy girl. Even through her pain, she was happy right where she was. I also believe she looked towards the future for what she called “happy days.” We can be happy where we are. We can believe in a positive future. We can strive for that future. The result is a present, future, and memory of “happy days.” As Almighty God spoke through the Apostle Paul, “I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13 NCV).
INSPIRATION #17:

An idea is the greatest investment.

Not too many years ago when I was struggling in my life, I heard five powerful words spoken by motivational speaker Les Brown. The words he spoke touched my heart. His words were, “You’ve got greatness within you.” Since the day I heard those words, it has been my understanding that one of the most powerful forces in the universe is a positive idea that is acted upon. I acted upon that idea and my life was ever changed for the better. Thanks, Les!

How about you? Do you have any good ideas stored in your brain that you never bothered to act upon? Well, I challenge you now to pull those ideas back out. Dust the cobwebs off the ideas and run with them. TAKE ACTION! You may discover your life is forever changed like mine. WOW! What an idea!
INSPIRATION #18:

Motivation without direction is dangerous. Motivation with positive direction is success!

There is the story of an American soldier by the name of Murphy who was part of an American Tank Unit fighting with the British in the Libyan Campaign. The young G.I. soon found himself and his unit many, many miles deep into the desert. They went days without seeing any action. Boredom set in. One day, the commanding officer of this unit found this young man walking across the sands as if on a mission. The only problem was that the young American was wearing swimming trunks.

The commanding officer shouted, “Murphy! What on earth do you think you are doing and where are you going?”

“Well, sir,” said Murphy. “It is such a nice day and I have a few hours off so I thought I would go for a swim.”

“You must have been out in the sun too long. The ocean is 500 miles away.”

“Boy!” said Murphy. “It’s a beautifully large beach, isn’t it, sir.”

You see my friend, of all the problems Murphy may have had, motivation wasn’t one of them. However, he did have a big problem when it came to direction. A friend of mine likes to say that you run into trouble when your mind gets idle. In our case (as well as Murphy’s) that is true. My friend and I will find ourselves talking about all kinds of bizarre stuff when we have no direction for our motivation.

So, what’s the answer? The answer is purpose. If you have a purpose for your life (not to mention your day or week) then your motivation will have a positive focus. And, positive focus plus motivation equals success. Later on in this book we are going to talk about how to obtain a positive focus through goals.
INSPIRATION #19:

Hope is a little thing that carries big dividends in the journey of life.

Webster defines hope as, “A desire of some good, accompanied with a belief that it is attainable...” The Bible talks about faith, hope, and love being of tremendous importance with love being the most important. As we can see, hope is a necessary ingredient to live an empowered life. When we believe something good is attainable we are more likely to take action to achieve it. Also, our thinking will be right. We will begin to visualize ourselves as successful. We will begin to believe in our dreams. We will begin to see the possibilities of those dreams realized.
INSPIRATION #20:

Integrity and character go hand and hand.

There is a troubling trend flowing through our country. That trend is the idea that character isn’t important. People have begun to believe that what they do in their personal life doesn’t affect their professional life. Nothing can be further from the truth. If a man would abuse or lie to his wife and family then how could he be trusted in anything else? The answer is: HE COULDN’T!

Our character is important. It does mean something. Who we are goes with us no matter where we are.

An 1800’s French statesman by the name of Alexander de Tocqueville made a study of American democracy. He wanted to discover what made America so special. This is what he found out as he so eloquently wrote in his piece titled “The Greatness of America.”

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her democratic congress and her matchless constitution, and it was not there.

“Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.

“America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

Character does mean something. But don’t worry if you aren’t pleased with the character you are portraying today. You don’t have to stay the way you are. Decide right this moment to begin living a life of integrity, which means truthfulness, uprightness, and wholeness. Change what you believe and you will most certainly change who you are.
INSPIRATION #21:

Great strength comes from within, not from without.

The strength that carries us through life is not found in muscles of steel but in a muscle of the heart. Another way of explaining it is the spirit of a person. When a person gives his/her life to Jesus Christ then the Holy Spirit will come and live inside that person. The Holy Spirit is the strength inside a person. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the same. In fact, they are the three in One. So, it is Jesus that lives inside of us. With Jesus inside and beside us we have the strength to overcome life’s struggles. The Bible promises us this in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength” (New Century Version).
CONCLUSION

Well, there you have it, 21 Inspirations in this sampler of “Jesus Take the Wheel.” I hope you have enjoyed your journey through this book.

More importantly, I hope you have found it helpful, motivational, and inspiring. I am convinced that if you adopt these Inspirations into your life you will discover a brand new world of success.

Even the most successful person can improve, and isn’t that what life is all about? You may be nearing the end of the journey of this book, but your journey of life is ever beginning.

Trust in Jesus Christ and give Him the wheel. If you will do this...he will take you all the way!

Next, I invite you to enjoy all 101 Inspirations in “Jesus Take the Wheel”. Send them to friends and loved ones with the right words at the right time. See how God can work actively in your life with the perfect words for the perfect time.

Pick-up your copy of this eBook today in the Amazon Kindle store by visiting http://tinyurl.com/cfnj5wd

God bless you always!
AudioInk Publishing was founded on the principle that “everyone has a story to tell”.

“You tell the story, we tell the world”

AudioInk Publishing is dedicated to providing authors and speakers the opportunity to “Tell their story” through the different mediums available; keynote speeches, audiobooks, eBooks and physical books.

Visit our Website: www.AudioInk.com and see what we’re all about.

Copyright © 2013, All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Distributed by AudioInk Publishing

For ordering information, please contact AudioInk +1-425-526-6480