

the source

WINTER 2011

gaining

MOMENTUM

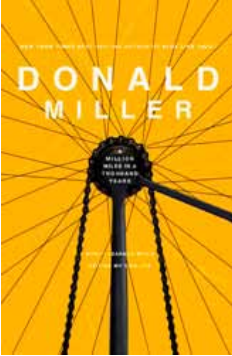


Spiritual Health Assessment

	Almost Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Almost Never
1. I attend weekly worship services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. My daily prayer life is consistent.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I am comfortable explaining my beliefs to others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. My daily activities show that God is my highest priority.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I read the Bible consistently for study and devotion.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. I joyfully give my time, talents and money to the ministries of my church.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I show compassion to the poor by sacrificially reaching their needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I actively pursue relationships with those outside my faith and core beliefs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. I gather regularly with a small group of believers for community and accountability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I enjoy meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. When life changes or uncomfortable issues arise, I seek biblical answers and Godly wisdom.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. I am able to praise God through difficult times and see them as opportunities to grow.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. I am quick to confess sin to God and to those whom I have offended.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. I seek out relationships with neighbors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. I look for ways to serve my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Commit to taking your 'Almost Never' to 'Sometimes' your 'Sometimes' to 'Frequently' and your 'Frequently' to 'Almost Always.'

BOOK REVIEW



(Available at retailers everywhere)

The book, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life*, centers on realizations that the author, Donald Miller, became aware of while editing his successful memoir, *Blue Like Jazz*, into a screenplay for a movie. In writing the screen play and editing the book's events into a proper and interesting movie dialog, Miller learns more about the elements which comprise a life story. Through examination of the elements that made up his life story, Miller concludes there is a difference between the story that one is living and the story one wants to be living. The book is mainly about living a better story and highlights the idea that in order to live a better story one must deliberately act in ways that will make a better story.

-Review by Ryan Moore

(Order at a local christian bookstore or amazon.com)

Recommended Books from Gospel Publishing House

Order at 1-800-641-4310 or www.gph.org



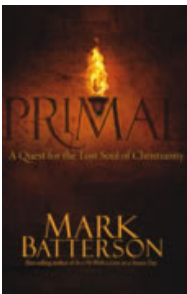
Wild Goose Chase

By Mark Batterson

Batterson says we all have cages -- and we all have a primal longing to be uncaged. Our cages can burst open when we see that our Savior did not suffer on the cross to keep us safe.

Item Number: 03TW0113

Price: \$13.99



Primal

By Mark Batterson

Help your church become great at the Great Commandment: to love God with all your heart. Batterson's latest work, *Primal*, will challenge and encourage you to return to this ancient truth of the Church.

Item #03TW0741

Price: \$17.99

What a Towel Salesman Taught Me About Passion

Christmas, a couple of years ago, I was at the mall with my family. It was just after the Black Friday madness started and hordes of angry shoppers were packed in the colorful wings like stale sardines. I had my three-year-old by the hand and we were just leaving The Children's Place when I heard a loud booming voice to my left saying, "Now watch this!"

He had passion ringing out of his ears, and it was contagious

All at once, those angry shoppers stopped and turned to look at a man who looked a lot like Billy Mays standing beside a kiosk. In his left hand he held a long yellow towel, and in his right hand was a two-liter bottle of Coca-Cola. Now that he had our attention, he threw the towel onto the table in front of him and proceeded to pour the entire bottle of Coke onto the towel. His voice had demanded silence, and now the Sears' wing of the mall leaned in to hear the "glug-glug" sound of the bottle. I am not sure what I was expecting, but it was not what happened next. Mr. Mays' look-a-like held up his index finger, smiled a knowing grin, and even gave Billy's famous line, "But wait! There's more!"

He picked up the soaking wet towel and held it over a glass bowl. He wrapped both hands around the towel and wrung

it out. The crowd of people and I watched with jaws dropped as Coke gushed from the towel and filled the bowl. In seconds, the salesman poured the soda back into the bottle and held the towel out for all to see. The bottle was once again completely full and the towel, ladies and gentlemen, was bone dry! Then he held out the towel and several of us touched it-dry to the microfiber touch.

You may have guessed by now, that this was the Sham-Wow demonstration. It was amazing. What I found more amazing though, was the confidence of the salesman. He was more than confident, he was absolutely certain. He had passion ringing out of his ears, and it was contagious. He sold out of Sham-Wow towels in minutes and had to apologize for the short supply, which were several hundred boxes. I worked in sales several years ago and have seen many pushy people through the years, but I have never seen a passion like this guy had.

The towel was pretty impressive, but I am confident it is not what sold the majority of those towels. This Billy Mays look-a-like sold those towels because he knew his product inside and out, and more than that, he was head over heels in LOVE with his product. His passion caught on.

Reversed Resolution or Passionate Pursuit

It is the beginning of a New Year, and

most people are drawn into the classic New Year's resolutions. People are resolving to stop overeating, go on an unspecified diet, and quit other addictions they may struggle with. While the efforts to stop bad habits may seem noble, they are usually pointless. Here's why; guilt rarely, if ever, achieves anything. Even if people do start out with good intentions, most eventually fall back into their old ways.

Stopping a habit creates a void in your life. Habits to which you have developed an attachment, no matter how badly you feel afterward, is something to which you are still attached, and to take it away out of guilt leaves one feeling deprived.

Passionate living is what we are made for, and it is a gift from God

What if we replace resolutions with passion? Instead of resolving to stop something we do not want to do, we decide to pursue the ONE THING we have dreamed of doing for years? Some of you may be thinking of goals. Even though goals are good if they are not driven by an insatiable passion, they will not get you very far. Passion drives us in a way that few other emotions can. It certainly drives us forward more than guilt, and when it is mixed with intention and action, it is virtually unstoppable.

What could you do if you took the dream that has been burning in you for so long and actually decided it was time to go for it? Maybe, it is time to stop daydreaming and start setting up a plan to pursue that dream. You could begin to do things right now that will set the plan in motion. For you, it may be writing that screenplay, or auditioning for that community play. Maybe, it is bringing your GPA up in ways you never thought possible, not just for the grade, but for the most knowledge you can get. It could be facing your fears and asking that person out—the one who makes you melt every time you are around them.

Whatever it is, it begins now, and it begins with the one passion that is burning inside of you. It is definitely risky, but everything worth pursuing in life is. Passionate living is what we are made for, and it is a gift from God. Sometimes, God uses towels to show us.



Bryan Thompson is a freelance artist and writer, helping churches, individuals, and organizations develop creative solutions for media and advertising. He blogs regularly at Thompsonland.tk, and you can follow him on Twitter @ [thompsonland](https://twitter.com/thompsonland). Bryan lives in Springfield, MO, with his wife and three daughters.

I have always pictured the Biblical character, Caleb, as grizzled and powerful—the kind of man who eats beef jerky for breakfast and seasoned gravel for lunch, and who starts life strong and seems to get stronger. Consider these verses:

Joshua 14:10b-12a (NIV): So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11 I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. 12 Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day.

Though Caleb was let down by co-workers, forced to wander due to the weakness of others, and outshined by his closest friend, he does not become bitter or burned out. In fact, as he ages, he walks toward more adventure showing no weakness.

What can we learn about avoiding burn-out from Caleb? Consider these things:

1. Caleb followed God wholeheartedly (Joshua 14:9). Living to please God helps us stay focused, true, and full of faith. In Numbers 13 and 14 we read the story of the spies who entered the Promised Land to check things out. The twelve men reported seeing the same thing, “a land flowing with milk and honey,” but also described their observations of fortified cities, giants and more. Caleb and Joshua knew that God was leading and would take care of things, but the others were weak and afraid.

Caleb lived wholeheartedly, not allowing inconvenience, fear, or his own selfish desires change his way of life or his view of circumstances. Knowing our purpose and having faith in God in the midst of

whatever we face can keep us from worry, fear, stress, or the tendency to withdraw. Following God’s agenda wholeheartedly rather than trying to add ours to the mix, leads to much greater peace.

2. Caleb honored the Sabbath. We do not see any specific examples of this, but Caleb was present when God gave the 10 Commandments. One of the Commandments requires God’s people to honor the Sabbath, so following God wholeheartedly means honoring the Sabbath. It is easy to think that working hard is more holy than following God’s plan to rest and focus on Him. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA, challenges us to, “divert daily, withdraw weekly, and abandon annually.”

3. Caleb had healthy relationships. Joshua and Caleb were close friends with Moses as their mentor. Godly mentors can help keep us on a healthy path, and great friends can help us debrief in the midst of stressful situations. I have wondered if Caleb mentored anyone—it would have been a good move. Also, those closest to him helped him keep his focus and wholehearted attention on God, rather than pulling him away from the life he knew was right.

4. Caleb was in great physical shape. How did he do it? As an 85 year-old man he was “just as strong” as he was when younger. Strong leaders exercise regularly which helps to keep minds clear and priorities focused. I often think I am too busy to exercise, but then I see the reports of President Bush on his bike rides or President Obama playing basketball and realize I do not have a very good excuse.

5. **Caleb pursued dreams.** Though he had to wait years to see his dream come true, Caleb never stopped pursuing what he knew was ahead. As an old man, he saw a mountain where giants lived, but still pursued the dream and fought the men to take that mountain. Having dreams, purpose, and a reason to exist, helps to keep us from burning out.

6. **Caleb had a healthy perspective on life.** Joshua and Caleb saw things correctly, even when the other spies gave a bad report. This caused the children of Israel to make poor choices that affected everyone. They had to wander for 40 years because others did not believe them or trust God. We see no evidence of bitterness, or “if they’d just listened to us” words of discouragement. Joshua, being vested with power and authority after Moses’ death, likely outshined his

equally-as-brave friend. Still we see no jealousy from Caleb.

If we can follow the example Caleb sets for us, and laugh along the way, hopefully we will be just as strong when we are 85 years old as we are today. Most people have a busy schedule, but if one lives a wholehearted life pursuing dreams, having healthy relationships, taking time for God and time to rest, staying or getting in shape, and approaching difficult things with faith it will keep one from burning out and give us the strength to march on toward taking our hill.



Matt Wilkie serves as the intern director for Convoy of Hope, and works with long term teams to show compassion around the world. You can read about the internship at www.convoyofhopeinternship.org.

A promotional graphic for a cruise. It features a large cruise ship sailing on the ocean, framed by palm trees and a sunset background. The text is arranged as follows: a circular badge in the top left says "5 Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise"; the dates "April 4-9, 2011" are in the top center; the ship's name "Carnival Destiny" is written in a large, elegant script across the middle; below that, it says "Sponsored by the Assemblies of God and the Church of God"; and at the bottom, it says "To Register, visit singles.ag.org or call 888-373-8687".

5 Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise

April 4-9, 2011

Single Adult Cruise

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Carnival Destiny

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the SOURCE

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EVENTS 2017

February 25-26, Marianna, FL

2011 West Florida District Christian Ed. Conference
Young Adult Ministry Training Sessions (4)
Contact: Mark Jakelsky, wlfesctres@embarqmail.com
850-482-2898

March 5, Fort Wayne, IN

Single Adult Ministry Training
Contact: Don Williams, First AG
donwilliams@firstassembly.org
260-490-8585

March 11, Rapid City, SD

Single Adult Ministry Training
Contact: Darcie Decker
darcie@usmore.com

April 16, Salem OR

Live, Learn, Lead Single Adult & Young Adult Training
Contact: Pastor Sam Miller, The Peoples Church
Sam.Miller@peopleschurch.com
503-304-4000

April 30, Kansas City, MO

Live, Learn, Lead Single Adult & Young Adult Training
Contact: Pastor Rich Avila, Sheffield Family Life Center
ravila@sflc.net, 816-241-4831

For more events, visit us at

youngadults.ag.org singles.ag.org



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