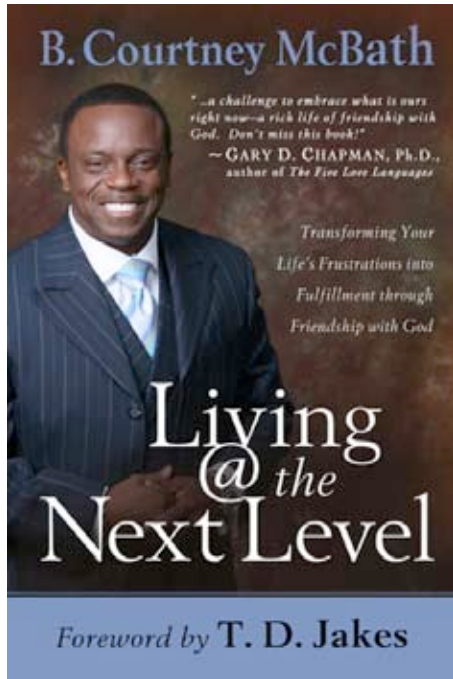


Living at the Next Level

Courtney McBath



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With all of our talk today about breakthroughs and miracles and getting to new levels in life, we so often miss the point. We thought our struggles were about whether we succeeded in achieving some finite set of goals or made enough money to own investment property. We've fought our battles as if they were over externals, and we've kept our eyes on the prizes and rewards of this world. Meanwhile, God has been wooing us, calling to us, and trying to let us know what it's really all about. The Next Level, our journey, the substance of life and who we are – these are all about walking in the cool of the day and sharing an intimate friendship with our Creator.

While many of us have entered friendship with God through Jesus Christ, we may not be experiencing a vibrant, intimate relationship with Him. Maybe you simply haven't realized that God wants to be close to you. The Bible calls Abraham "the friend of God," but could God, the Creator, really want the same for us today (James 2:23)? Maybe you haven't been able to picture what a friendship with God should look like. Since you haven't known how to enjoy intimacy with God, you've languished, knowing Him only from a distance, experiencing emptiness in your heart and a longing you haven't quite been able to identify.

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What is your next move in the midst of recession and upheaval personally and globally? What steps should you take in order to fully experience this friendship and fully embrace the “Next Level”?

1. Accept the fact that you are already in the Promised Land and you’re His friend!

God wants you to discover all that He has for you and expand your horizons. Giants are the proof that you’re in the Promised Land - they don’t live in the wilderness! So since you’re here stop asking to get there and explore your friendship with God.

2. Recognize that the place of limitations is the place where God can get glory from your life!

I call it the principle of the “stacked deck”. When the circumstances of life seem insurmountable, when you feel the enemy has an advantage- this is the place where God places all the attention on Himself. This is the Next Level and the birthplace of miracles.

3. When your “angel” appears, get up quickly!

The angel represents the message from God, the revealed word for your life. When you begin to see the “light”, don’t lie there in the darkness but get up quickly. When God challenges to do the impossible move forward in faith and watch Him make the difference.

4. As you come out of limitations find people like Rhoda in Acts 12 who will encourage you!

For too long we have allowed the wrong people to have speaking parts in our movie and it may be time for a directorial change. People like Herod who mean us no good seem to speak into our future more than the people like Rhoda who see our potential. Change some roles and find a friend who sees God at work in your life even in your time of “limitations”!