



IN THE O.B.S.C.U.R.E. IS OUR C.U.R.E.

BY MIRIAM SMITH STEVENS

THE THANKFUL REVOLUTION LEGACY GROUP, LLC.

Welcome to the Journey of Transformation

Greetings, Beloved!



Hi there! I'm Miriam Smith Stevens, the heart behind The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC. My journey through life's ups and downs has taught me the power of reclaiming your voice, bouncing back from trauma, and finding a renewed sense of purpose. I'm passionate about helping others navigate their own paths to transformation, drawing from my own experiences to offer support and guidance.

Before we begin, I would like to open with a prayer.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging Your presence in our lives. You are the God who sees us, even in our most obscure moments, just as You saw Hagar in the wilderness. Lord, I ask that as we journey through this reflection, you will open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of Your love and provision, even in times of despair. May this message resonate deeply within us and remind us that Your promises stand true, no matter the circumstances we face. Help us to see beyond the pain and trust in Your plan, just as Hagar did. Thank You for being our refuge, our hope, and our guide through the wilderness seasons of our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Welcome to the Journey of Transformation

Imagine waking up to a nightmare so overwhelming that it alters your very existence. That was my reality—a catastrophic event that unraveled everything I once held dear: my home, my income, my joy. Each day became a battle for survival, with every decision teetering on the edge of life and death. I felt utterly broken, my spirit crushed under the weight of despair. Yet, against all odds, a glimmer of hope pulled me through, as if guided by a divine hand.

After experiencing a traumatic event that left me feeling isolated and shattered, I wanted nothing more than to hide from the world. Consumed by fear and uncertainty, my dreams felt irreparably shattered.

Yet amid this darkness, I found solace in prayer and faith. I held on to the belief that I was not alone—that God would not forsake me. This unwavering faith became my lifeline.

As I emerged from this harrowing darkness, I discovered an inner strength I never knew I possessed. My life, once shattered, began to rebuild itself piece by piece. I refused to be defined by my trauma and chose to embrace the C.P.R. + N.O.W. process. **Crisis leads to Pivot leads to Rebirth, Renewal, Reclaim, Refresh, Resuscitate, Rewrite, and Remind into New Beginnings Is Our Witness.** This journey taught me that our most profound wounds can lead to our greatest victories.

Through a moment I like to call my “Cup of Soup” epiphany, I realized that gratitude can be the key to thriving. After my son handed me a cup of soup during a moment of despair, he prayed for me, and in that moment, I found a spark of joy. I screamed out, “Lord, thank you for this cup of soup!” This unexpected gratitude ignited a laughter that broke through my heavy spirit, reminding me to give thanks in all circumstances. It was in this moment that I began to understand that my story could be rewritten.

Now, I stand before you not just as a survivor, but as someone who has transformed anguish into purpose. I’ve learned that healing is a personal journey where grace is embraced, and shame is left behind. Your life is uniquely precious and vital; you are important, valuable, and needed in humanity. You should never feel ashamed of your journey. There is no need to remain hidden in the shadows of your past experiences or to live as a victim of abuse. You can thrive and rewrite your story.

N.O.W. Change: New Beginnings Is Our Witness

N.O.W. Change stands for New Beginnings Is Our Witness. It represents the idea that embracing new beginnings and transformations serves as a testament to personal growth and the positive changes we can make in our lives. It highlights how starting fresh and moving forward can be a powerful example of change and renewal.

Let’s work together to turn your darkest moments into a beacon of new beginnings. I invite you to embark on this journey with me, where we’ll explore the depths of your potential and create a life filled with purpose, joy, and gratitude.

Why Are You Important to Me?

After experiencing a traumatic event that left me feeling utterly broken and isolated, I wanted nothing more than to hide away from the world. Consumed by fear and uncertainty, it seemed like my dreams were shattered beyond repair. Yet amid this darkness, I found solace in prayer and faith, holding on to the belief that I was not alone, that God would not forsake me. This unwavering faith became my lifeline.

Even though I lost so much—my job, my home, my financial stability, and the joy in my heart—I refused to be defined by my trauma. I chose to embrace the C.P.R. + N.O.W. process: **Crisis leads to Pivot leads to Rebirth, Renewal, Reclaim, Refresh, Resuscitate, Rewrite, and Remind into New Beginnings Is Our Witness.** While I am not a licensed mental health counselor or medical doctor, my journey from despair to a life filled with thanksgiving, peace, and renewed purpose has given me a unique perspective and strength.

Through The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC, I am here to support you on your own path. Whether you’re grappling with traumatic experiences or simply seeking a fresh start, I offer a compassionate ear and a caring heart. I want to help you become the best version of yourself and

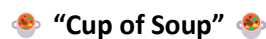
achieve your dreams. It's never too late to pursue what you truly desire—I am living proof of that. Let's work together to turn your aspirations into reality and make your dreams come true.

Our Mission

Today, I am dedicated to helping others navigate their challenges and emerge stronger. It doesn't matter if you personally went through a traumatic life event; just having a listening ear and a compassionate heart is what we all need to get “unstuck” and moving into our purpose while we can be here on this planet. With The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC, we offer a compassionate, faith-driven approach to personal transformation. My goals are to support you in:

- **Reclaiming Your Voice:** Finding and expressing your true self.
- **Rebounding from Trauma:** Turning past pain into a source of strength.
- **Resuscitating Your Life:** Infusing your life with renewed energy and purpose.
- **Renewing Your Mind:** Shifting your mindset towards positivity and growth.
- **Rewriting Your Story Narrative:** Crafting a new and empowering life story.

It Started with a “Cup of Soup” – What?



This movement began after I had a traumatic life experience in October 2008. After hitting rock bottom—job loss, income loss, and barely existing—I had an epiphany of sorts. God, through the prayer of my son and a “cup of soup,” allowed me to find a new way of thinking. I asked my son to purchase a convenience store cup of soup with the little bit of change we could find. In a moment of hopelessness, my son microwaved the soup and began to pray for me after handing me the steaming cup. In between his pleas of “God please help my mom,” I screamed out, “Lord, thank you for this cup of soup!” That exclamation startled both of us, and we erupted into laughter.

From that day, God broke the depressed, lifeless, contrite spirit off of me and reminded me that in “all things,” we should give Him thanks. Thus, The Thankful Revolution was born. This is why it all started with a cup of soup and gratitude.

The C.P.R. + N.O.W. Methodology

I use the C.P.R. + N.O.W. approach to guide you through this transformative process:

- **Crisis:** Recognize and acknowledge the challenges you face.
- **Pivot:** Make a pivotal decision to change direction and embrace new possibilities.
- **Rebirth:** Allow yourself to grow and evolve into a new version of yourself.
- **N.O.W. (New Beginnings Is Our Witness):** Embrace every new beginning as a testament to your resilience and potential.

Why Work with Me?

Although I'm not a licensed mental health counselor or medical doctor, my personal journey has given me profound insights into overcoming adversity and finding hope. I offer a listening ear, a caring heart, and a wealth of experience in transforming life's challenges into opportunities for growth. Whether you're dealing with trauma or simply seeking a new direction in life, I'm here to support and empower you.

The Heart of Compassion

As I reflect on my journey, I'm reminded of Hagar and Ishmael from the biblical narrative. Their story resonates deeply with me, illustrating the feelings of being unnoticed and cast aside, as if no one cares. Yet I want you to know that I do care. God cares.

Just as Hagar cried out in her despair and was met by God's comforting presence, I am here to provide that safe space—a compassionate ear and a listening heart. Your struggles matter, and you are not alone. I am dedicated to walking alongside you as you navigate your path toward healing and transformation. Together, we can rewrite your narrative and turn pain into purpose.

Let's embark on this transformative journey together. Contact me today to start reclaiming your voice, rebounding from trauma, resuscitating your life, renewing your mind, and rewriting your story. Your new beginning awaits!

Why This Message Resonates with Me:

I have always felt a deep connection to the story of Hagar and Ishmael. It is a story of survival, despair, and divine provision—something I've experienced firsthand. Hagar's life, her journey, and her profound encounter with God reflect much of what I've endured in my own life, particularly during one of the most traumatic moments I faced in October 2008. Like Hagar, I found myself in a wilderness, both literally and figuratively, when an unknown attacker invaded my home. In that terrifying experience, I was left broken and lost, much like Hagar after she fled into the desert. My world was shattered, my hope diminished, and I felt abandoned in my pain.

Yet, just as God heard Hagar's cries, He heard mine. In the same way that He provided a well of water for her amid her desert experience, He provided me with the strength and courage to rise from my trauma. Hagar's story is more than just a biblical tale; it reflects God's unwavering faithfulness, even when we feel cast aside. And so, I relate to this message deeply, because I too have walked in the wilderness, and I too have found God's provision in the most unexpected ways.

Now, let's immerse ourselves in the full story of Hagar and Ishmael. I want you to imagine what it must have been like to walk in her shoes, to feel the weight of her burdens, and to experience the hope that God provided her in her darkest hour.

The Story of Hagar and Ishmael: A Journey of Despair, Hope, and Divine Provision

Imagine yourself as Hagar, a young Egyptian servant, bound by circumstances you never chose. You were taken into Abram's household, living under the rule of Sarai, his wife. You served faithfully, but something changed the moment Sarai grew weary of waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. She could not bear children and in desperation, she offered you, her maidservant, to Abram to conceive a child on her behalf. You had no choice; your body was given over to a plan not of your making.

Soon, you found yourself pregnant, carrying Abram's child. And as the child grew inside of you, so too did the tension in Sarai's household. Sarai became jealous and bitter, treating you harshly, as though the very sight of you reminded her of her own barrenness. The pain and rejection became unbearable, and in a moment of sheer desperation, you fled into the wilderness.

Genesis 16:1-16 (The Voice Translation):

Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. She had an Egyptian servant named Hagar, so Sarai said to Abram:

Sarai: "Look, the Eternal One has not seen fit to bless me with a child. So, please, go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I will be able to have children through her."

Abram listened to Sarai's advice. After they had lived in Canaan for 10 years, Abram's wife Sarai took her Egyptian servant Hagar and gave her to Abram as a wife. So Abram slept with Hagar, and she conceived. Once Hagar realized she was pregnant, she started to despise Sarai. Then Sarai said to Abram:

Sarai: "This is all your fault! Since she's become pregnant, I am despised. Let the Eternal One judge who is to blame—you or me."

Abram: "She's your servant, not mine. So do to her whatever you think best."

Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she ran away. The special messenger of the Eternal One found Hagar by a spring of water out in the desert (the spring along the road that leads to Shur).

Messenger: "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from? And where are you planning to go?"

Hagar: "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai."

Messenger: "Go back to your mistress and change your attitude. Be respectful and listen to her. I will give you more descendants than you can count. Look, you are pregnant, and you will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, which means 'God hears,' because the Eternal One has heard your cries of distress. Ishmael will be a wild sort of man, free and open, untamed and fearless; his hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him. But he will live free, defying all his relatives."

The Eternal One's messenger said these things to Hagar, and she called the Eternal One, who had been speaking to her, "El Roi," which means "God who sees me," for she said, "I have gone on living here and seen the back of the One who sees me!" That is why the well she was at is called Beer-lahai-roi, which means "well of the Living One who sees me." It is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named the child Ishmael, just as the messenger had predicted. Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.

Now imagine the tension that still lingered in Abram's household, even after Ishmael was born. Sarai, still barren, watched as her husband doted on the child. And the years passed until, miraculously, Sarai herself conceived and bore a son, Isaac, the child of promise. But with Isaac's birth came a deeper divide between Sarai and Hagar. Sarai could not bear the thought of her son sharing his inheritance with Ishmael.

The day came when Isaac was being celebrated, and you, Hagar, felt the sharp sting of rejection once again. Sarai demanded that you and your son be cast out into the wilderness.

Genesis 21:8-21 (The Voice Translation):

When Isaac grew and was ready to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge banquet to celebrate the occasion. But Sarah noticed Ishmael—the son of Abraham and Hagar, the Egyptian servant—laughing and playing with her son Isaac. She became jealous and demanded of Abraham:

Sarah: “Throw this slave woman and her son out right now! The son of this slave woman will not inherit anything from Abraham. Isaac is my son, and he will inherit everything!”

Abraham was troubled by what Sarah was asking him to do, especially concerning his son Ishmael. But God spoke to Abraham:

God: “Do not be troubled about the boy and your servant Hagar. Do what Sarah is asking, because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. As for the son of the slave woman, I will take care of him. I will raise up a great nation from him, because he is your son too.”

Abraham got up early the next morning, took some food and a container of water, and gave them to Hagar. He placed them on her shoulders, gave her the child, and sent her away. Hagar carried her son into the desert, wandering aimlessly. When the water ran out, she left the boy under one of the bushes and walked away. She sat down across from him, about a hundred yards away, saying to herself, “I can’t bear to watch my son die.” As she sat there, she began to sob violently.

But God heard the voice of the boy, and the special messenger of God called out to Hagar from heaven:

Messenger: “Hagar! Why are you so upset? Don’t be afraid. God has heard the voice of your son over there. Get up, pick him up, and hold him in your arms, because I will raise up a great nation from him.”

Then God opened Hagar’s eyes. She looked up from her despair and saw a well of water not far away. She went over, filled the container she had, and gave the boy a drink. God watched over him for the rest of his life. Ishmael grew up, lived in the wilderness, and became an expert archer. He settled in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother found him a wife from her homeland of Egypt.

Walking in Hagar’s Shoes:

In that moment, you were Hagar again—desperate, afraid, wandering in the desert with your child, your last bit of hope fading with each passing moment. You had no water, no direction, and no idea how you would survive. You reached a point where you couldn’t bear to see your child die. You felt utterly abandoned and forsaken, much like the wilderness that surrounded you.

But in your moment of deepest despair, God intervened. Just as He had before, He sent His messenger to remind you of the promise He made to your son. In the midst of your hopelessness, God opened your eyes to the provision right in front of you—a well of water to quench the thirst of both you and your child.

What must you have felt in that moment? Relief, gratitude, awe. God, the One who sees you, never left you. Even when the world cast you aside, He never did. He heard your cries. He saw your pain. And He provided.

This is the God who sees us—the God who provides for us in our wilderness moments. Hagar's story is one of pain and rejection, but also of hope and divine provision. It's a story that reminds us that no matter how lost or abandoned we may feel, God never leaves us. He hears, He sees, and He provides.

Reflection:

Hagar's journey, like many of ours, was filled with moments of heartache, rejection, and fear. Yet, it was also filled with divine encounters and miracles that came amid her wilderness experience. When life casts us out, when the world turns its back on us, God opens our eyes to the wellspring of His provision. Let us remember that no matter how desperate our circumstances, the God who saw Hagar sees us too. He hears our cries, and He provides for our needs in ways that we could never imagine.

My Personal Reflections: Feeling Obscure & Outcast – Relating to Hagar

O.B.S.C.U.R.E.

Often within the obscure moments we experience and endure, our cure for deliverance is present. In fact, even within the actual word "obscure," we find "cure" at its end. The journey through trials, trauma, and challenges might seem like a wilderness of hopelessness, but the other side of these obscure moments often reveals God's promise and provision. The process is where the cure lies, and it resonates deeply with my own life and story.

The story of **Hagar and Ishmael** is one of hope, promise, and process. I see it as a mirror to my own journey—an enduring path filled with fear, uncertainty, and eventual triumph. In October 2008, I too was thrust into a harrowing situation when an unknown trespasser broke into my home, assaulted me, and left me feeling physically and emotionally devastated. In that moment, I felt as though my wilderness had come, where hope seemed lost, and fear was overwhelming. But like Hagar, I found myself desperately clinging to God's promise, needing His intervention to guide me and my son through the dark.

God did not abandon me in my wilderness. Like Hagar, who found the provision of water in the desert, God showed me that my well of hope had been there all along. I just needed to shift my perspective and trust Him to provide. In the depths of despair, God's word came alive to me, and I realized that even in our darkest moments, His promises never fail.

O.B.S.C.U.R.E. =

Often Overtly Beaten and Behind Secrets & Scars & Scare Tactics Causing – CRISIS that Creates Unimaginable – Unveiling of the Rescue and Emancipation Exit

O.B.S.C.U.R.E. Breakdown

O – Often Overtly Beaten

- **Definition:** This represents the feeling of being openly oppressed or suffering from various forms of abuse (physical, emotional, or mental). It reflects how individuals can feel battered by life's circumstances and relationships.
- **Scripture:**
 - **Isaiah 53:5 (NIV):** *"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."*
- **Real-Life Example:** A person may experience bullying at school or workplace harassment, leading to emotional scars. Despite the pain, they find healing through community support and faith.
- **Application:** Recognize your struggles and seek healing. Share your story with trusted friends or counselors to help process your pain.

B – Behind Secrets & Scars & Scare Tactics

- **Definition:** This speaks to the hidden pains, traumas, and the tactics used to instill fear and control over others. These tactics often stem from past experiences that are not openly discussed.
- **Scripture:**
 - **Psalms 34:18 (NIV):** *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*
- **Real-Life Example:** Many individuals hide their past traumas, which can lead to anxiety or depression. A survivor of abuse may carry deep scars but often feels pressured to maintain secrecy about their experiences.
- **Application:** Encourage openness by sharing your story and offering a safe space for others to share theirs. Healing begins when we bring our secrets to light.

S – Scars

- **Definition:** Scars represent the lasting effects of our painful experiences. They remind us of what we've endured but also serve as symbols of survival and strength.
- **Scripture:**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV):** *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles."*

- **Real-Life Example:** A person who has gone through a life-threatening illness may bear physical scars but can inspire others through their testimony of recovery and resilience.
- **Application:** Embrace your scars as part of your journey. Use them to help others who may be facing similar struggles.

C – Causing – Crisis

- **Definition:** This highlights how obscure situations can lead to crises—unexpected events that challenge our stability and well-being.
- **Scripture:**
 - **James 1:2-4 (NIV):** *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”*
- **Real-Life Example:** Losing a job can cause a financial crisis, pushing someone to rethink their career path and priorities.
- **Application:** View crises as opportunities for growth. Ask yourself what you can learn from these experiences.

C – Creates Unimaginable

- **Definition:** Refers to the unexpected and often unimaginable challenges that arise from our obscure moments. These can be transformative if viewed through the right lens.
- **Scripture:**
 - **Ephesians 3:20 (NIV):** *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*
- **Real-Life Example:** Someone might face a debilitating injury that prevents them from pursuing their passions but finds new avenues for creativity and purpose through adaptation.
- **Application:** Stay open to new possibilities. You may discover strengths and opportunities you never knew existed.

U – Unveiling of the Rescue

- **Definition:** This speaks to the moments when we finally see a way out of our struggles—a rescue from our pain and confusion.
- **Scripture:**
 - **Psalms 40:1-3 (NIV):** *“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”*
- **Real-Life Example:** After a long battle with addiction, an individual experiences clarity and support, leading them to recovery and a renewed sense of purpose.

- **Application:** Trust that help is on the way. Look for signs of support and healing in your life.

R – Rescue and Emancipation

- **Definition:** This signifies liberation from the bonds of our past and present struggles, emphasizing the need for both spiritual and emotional freedom.
- **Scripture:**
 - **John 8:36 (NIV):** *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*
- **Real-Life Example:** A person may find freedom from a toxic relationship through counseling, learning to value themselves and reclaim their identity.
- **Application:** Seek freedom in all aspects of your life—emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Embrace the transformative power of God’s love.

E – Exit

- **Definition:** This represents the final step towards healing and transformation—the ability to step out of our obscurity and into the light of God’s promises and provisions.
- **Scripture:**
 - **Isaiah 43:19 (NIV):** *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*
- **Real-Life Example:** After years of struggling with self-doubt, an individual finds their calling and steps into a role that aligns with their passions and purpose.
- **Application:** Embrace new beginnings. Let go of past limitations and step boldly into the future God has for you.

Let’s Explore Further

The journey through **O.B.S.C.U.R.E.** highlights that while we may face various challenges and hardships, they serve as a pathway to understanding God's promises, healing, and transformation. By applying these insights and scriptures, we can find the hope, strength, and resilience needed to overcome our obscured moments and emerge into the light.

O.B.S.C.U.R.E. Breakdown with Examples and Applications

O – Often Overtly Beaten

- **Definition:** Experiencing direct oppression or suffering due to various life circumstances.
- **Example:** A student bullied at school may feel beaten down emotionally and psychologically.
- **Life Application:** Recognize when you’re feeling overwhelmed or oppressed. Acknowledge your feelings and seek support from friends, family, or mental health professionals.

B – Behind Secrets & Scars & Scare Tactics

- **Definition:** Hidden pain and trauma that shape our experiences and often remain unspoken.
- **Example:** A person who has been in an abusive relationship may keep their scars hidden, fearing judgment or disbelief.
- **Life Application:** Create a safe space for open conversations about difficult topics. Sharing your experiences can help alleviate the burden of keeping secrets.

S – Scars

- **Definition:** The marks left behind from past pain, representing both trauma and survival.
- **Example:** A survivor of a serious illness may carry physical scars but uses their story to inspire others facing similar challenges.
- **Life Application:** Embrace your scars as part of your journey. Use them as a testimony of resilience to inspire others who are struggling.

C – Causing – Crisis

- **Definition:** Unexpected events that create turmoil and challenges in our lives.
- **Example:** Job loss can lead to a financial crisis, causing stress and uncertainty about the future.
- **Life Application:** In times of crisis, focus on what you can control. Create a plan to navigate through the challenge and lean on your support network for guidance.

C – Creates Unimaginable

- **Definition:** The extraordinary challenges that arise from our obscure moments.
- **Example:** A sudden health diagnosis may initially seem like a setback but can lead to a reevaluation of priorities and a healthier lifestyle.
- **Life Application:** See challenges as opportunities for growth. Ask yourself what you can learn from your current situation.

U – Unveiling of the Rescue

- **Definition:** Moments of clarity where we see a way out of our struggles.
- **Example:** After months of depression, an individual attends a support group that provides the encouragement they need to seek professional help.

- **Life Application:** Be open to the possibility of change. Stay alert for signs of support, whether through people, resources, or divine intervention.
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R – Rescue and Emancipation

- **Definition:** Achieving freedom from past burdens and embracing a new, liberated life.
 - **Example:** A person leaving a toxic relationship learns to set boundaries and prioritize self-care, reclaiming their sense of identity.
 - **Life Application:** Actively pursue freedom in your life. Set personal boundaries and engage in self-care practices that nurture your well-being.
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E – Exit

- **Definition:** The process of moving out of obscurity and into the light of hope and promise.
 - **Example:** Someone who has overcome addiction shares their journey publicly to inspire others who may be struggling.
 - **Life Application:** Step into new opportunities with courage. Embrace change as a vital part of your personal growth.
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Reflection Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** What does feeling as if “overtly beaten” look like in my life?
 - **Answer:** It may appear as constant stress or anxiety, often resulting from external pressures such as work, family responsibilities, or societal expectations.
2. **Question:** Are there secrets or scars from my past that I need to address?
 - **Answer:** Yes, acknowledging these can help me heal. Writing them down or speaking about them with someone I trust can initiate this process.
3. **Question:** How do I typically react to crises in my life?
 - **Answer:** I may initially feel overwhelmed, but I can learn to approach crises with a more strategic mindset, focusing on solutions rather than problems.
4. **Question:** What are some unimaginable challenges I have faced that led to personal growth?
 - **Answer:** Overcoming a serious health issue taught me resilience and a deeper appreciation for life’s simple joys.
5. **Question:** How can I recognize moments when I’m being rescued from my struggles?

- **Answer:** These moments often come as sudden realizations or the support of friends, family, or mentors. I need to remain open and attentive to them.
 - 6. **Question:** What does “rescue and emancipation” mean to me personally?
 - **Answer:** It means finding freedom from past pains and embracing who I am meant to be, fully liberated from my fears and doubts.
 - 7. **Question:** What steps can I take to exit my current obscurity?
 - **Answer:** I can set specific goals for myself, seek support, and commit to actions that align with my values and aspirations.
 - 8. **Question:** How can I incorporate these reflections into my daily life?
 - **Answer:** I can start journaling my thoughts, practicing gratitude, and actively seeking support when I face challenges, ensuring I stay connected to my goals.
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Incorporating This Framework into Daily Life

1. **Daily Journaling:** Write about your feelings, challenges, and breakthroughs. Reflecting regularly helps process emotions and keeps you accountable.
2. **Support System:** Surround yourself with people who uplift you. Regular check-ins can foster openness about struggles and victories.
3. **Mindfulness Practices:** Engage in meditation or prayer to help clarify thoughts and connect with a higher purpose.
4. **Goal Setting:** Create small, achievable goals to transition from obscurity to clarity. Celebrate these milestones.
5. **Share Your Story:** Open up and share about your journey with others. It can be therapeutic and inspire those who may be facing similar challenges.
6. **Self-Care Routines:** Prioritize activities that nurture your mental, emotional, and physical well-being, such as exercise, hobbies, or relaxation techniques.
7. **Education and Growth:** Seek resources—books, workshops, or online courses—that promote personal development and resilience.
8. **Stay Open to Change:** Life is a journey; be willing to adapt as you learn more about yourself and your circumstances.

By exploring these components of **O.B.S.C.U.R.E.**, you can cultivate a deeper understanding of your own journey and use these insights to navigate life's challenges more effectively.

Lessons from Hagar:

Hagar's story teaches us that even in moments when we feel unseen and abandoned, God remains present, watching over us. When she fled from the abuse of Sarai, feeling isolated and unheard, God came to her, promising that her son, Ishmael, would become the father of a great nation. Her wilderness moment could have been her undoing, but God showed her that the wilderness wasn't the end of her story—it was part of the journey towards His promises.

Genesis 16:13 beautifully expresses her realization: "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"

Like Hagar, after my traumatic experience, I felt invisible cut off from hope, much like her journey in the desert. But God's intervention in my life, like Hagar's, came through a shift in perspective. I stopped dwelling on the trauma and began to focus on the unseen provision that was always there.

O.B.S.C.U.R.E. in Action:

Often, we are overwhelmed by situations where our past hurts and trauma cast shadows over us. In those dark moments, like Hagar, we often feel overtly beaten, behind scars, secrets, and scare tactics that create a crisis within our souls.

- **Affirmation:** "I acknowledge the past but will not let it define my future."

But, like Hagar, there is a **breakthrough** moment. When Hagar was at the end of her strength, God showed her the well of water—her breakthrough moment where despair turned into provision.

- **Affirmation:** "My breakthrough is here; God is opening my eyes to new possibilities."

Similarly, when we confront the challenges, we begin to see **solutions**. Hagar's journey reminds us that God is not absent in our struggles; rather, He is unveiling a cure to our situation that we couldn't see before.

- **Affirmation:** "I believe that hidden solutions will be revealed to me as I trust God."
-

Finding Our Cure in Obscurity:

The story of Hagar and her son Ishmael provides a powerful example of how God uses obscure moments to reveal His hidden provision. The same holds true in our lives when we find ourselves wandering in our own personal wilderness. God's provision, promises, and plan often become clearer in these moments of obscurity when we turn our focus from our circumstances to Him.

Isaiah 43:19 reminds us: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Here's a deeper exploration of finding the cure within our obscure moments, integrating the C.P.R. + N.O.W. process and connecting it to the story of Hagar and Ishmael. This framework can help illustrate how crises can lead to transformative growth and resilience.

Finding Our Cure in Obscurity

The Story of Hagar and Ishmael: A Narrative of Obscurity and Hope

Hagar, a servant of Sarah, found herself in a situation that many would deem hopeless. After giving birth to Ishmael, she was cast out into the wilderness, feeling abandoned and unseen. As she wandered in the desert, the weight of her circumstances pressed heavily on her heart. Yet, it was in this desolate state that God intervened, showing her that even in her obscure moments, there was a hidden well of provision awaiting her discovery.

A Walk in Hagar's Shoes

Imagine Hagar, burdened by rejection and fear, trudging through the arid landscape, her heart heavy with despair. She had done everything expected of her, yet she felt unloved and unwanted. As she sat down, convinced that she and her son would die in the wilderness, she cried out to God, her heart echoing with the pain of isolation.

Suddenly, God's voice broke through her despair. He assured her that He saw her plight and had plans for her son, promising that Ishmael would become a great nation. God opened her eyes to see the water well nearby, a source of life she had overlooked. This moment marked a pivotal shift for Hagar, illustrating that even in our darkest times, God's provision is often right before us, waiting for us to shift our perspective.

C.P.R. + N.O.W. Process: A Pathway to Understanding

The C.P.R. + N.O.W. methodology stands for **Crisis leads to Pivot leads to Rebirth, Renewal, Reclaim, Refresh, Resuscitate, Rewrite, and Remind into New-Beginnings is Our Witness**. Here's how it relates to Hagar's journey and how we can apply it in our lives.

1. Crisis: Recognizing Our Struggles

- **Hagar's Crisis:** Hagar faced the ultimate crisis of survival, rejected and alone.
- **Personal Application:** Identify your personal crises—what challenges have left you feeling lost or hopeless?

2. Pivot: Making a Choice to Change

- **Hagar's Pivot:** In her moment of despair, Hagar chose to cry out to God instead of giving up.
- **Personal Application:** What is one change you can make today to shift your perspective?

3. Rebirth: Embracing New Beginnings

- **Hagar's Rebirth:** After encountering God, Hagar embraced a new life for her and Ishmael, filled with promise.

- **Personal Application:** What new beginnings are you willing to embrace despite your current circumstances?
- 4. **Renewal: Finding Fresh Strength**
 - **Hagar's Renewal:** God renewed Hagar's hope by revealing His provision.
 - **Personal Application:** How can you seek renewal in your life? Consider activities that uplift your spirit.
- 5. **Reclaim: Taking Back Your Power**
 - **Hagar's Reclaim:** Hagar reclaimed her identity as a mother chosen by God.
 - **Personal Application:** What aspects of your identity or dreams have you neglected that you can reclaim?
- 6. **Refresh: Finding New Perspectives**
 - **Hagar's Refresh:** Hagar's perspective shifted when she saw the well, realizing God's provision.
 - **Personal Application:** Reflect on your circumstances—what new perspectives can you adopt to see the good?
- 7. **Resuscitate: Breathing Life into Dreams**
 - **Hagar's Resuscitation:** God breathed life into Hagar's hopes for Ishmael's future.
 - **Personal Application:** What dreams or goals can you resuscitate in your life?
- 8. **Rewrite: Changing Your Story**
 - **Hagar's Rewrite:** Hagar's story transformed from despair to one of promise and purpose.
 - **Personal Application:** How can you rewrite your narrative to focus on hope rather than hopelessness?
- 9. **Remind: Holding onto God's Promises**
 - **Hagar's Reminder:** Hagar was reminded of God's promise to her and Ishmael.
 - **Personal Application:** What promises from God can you hold onto during your obscured moments?
- 10. **N.O.W.: Navigating Our Way Forward**
 - **Hagar's Navigation:** Hagar navigated her path forward by trusting in God's provision and promises.
 - **Personal Application:** What steps can you take right now to move forward in faith?

The Hidden Cure: A Shift in Focus

In the obscurity of our lives, we often overlook the blessings and provisions that God places before us. Just as Hagar's eyes were opened to the well of water, we must seek to shift our focus from our problems to God's promises.

Isaiah 43:19 reminds us: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." This verse encapsulates the essence of finding our cure within obscurity—recognizing that God is actively working in our lives, even when we cannot see it.

Reflection Questions for Daily Application

1. **What current crisis am I facing that feels overwhelming?**
 - **Example Answer:** I feel overwhelmed by my job loss and uncertainty about the future.
2. **How can I pivot my perspective to see this situation differently?**
 - **Example Answer:** Instead of focusing on what I lost, I can view this time as an opportunity for growth.
3. **What new beginning can I embrace in my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** I can start a new hobby or learn a new skill that I've always been interested in.
4. **What actions can I take to find renewal in my spirit?**
 - **Example Answer:** I will dedicate time each week for self-care and spiritual practices like meditation or prayer.
5. **What parts of my identity do I need to reclaim?**
 - **Example Answer:** I need to reclaim my passion for writing, which I set aside during difficult times.
6. **What fresh perspective can I adopt in my current situation?**
 - **Example Answer:** I can view this challenge as a stepping stone to a better job or a new career path.
7. **What dreams have I let fade that I can resuscitate now?**
 - **Example Answer:** I've always wanted to start my own business, and now I can explore that possibility.
8. **How can I remind myself of God's promises in my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** I will keep scripture visible in my home to remind me of God's faithfulness.

Conclusion

Finding our cure in obscurity is a journey of faith and revelation. Just as Hagar discovered her well of provision, we too can find hidden blessings in our challenging moments. By implementing the C.P.R. + N.O.W. process, we can transform our trials into opportunities for growth, healing, and renewal. Embrace your journey through obscurity, and trust that God is with you every step of the way.

Set Up to Be Set Up for a Step Up

In life, we often find ourselves in challenging situations that feel unjust, much like the story of Hagar. Whether it's being wrongfully accused at work, facing layoffs due to circumstances beyond our control, or being cast aside in personal relationships, these moments can leave us feeling abandoned and powerless. Yet, just as Hagar's story ultimately led to her empowerment and divine provision, we too can see these setups as potential setups for a step up in our lives.

The story of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, and the king is a powerful illustration of how deception can lead to unforeseen consequences and complicated relationships. Below is a deeper exploration of how Abraham's actions influenced the trajectory of Hagar's life, turning her from a princess into a maidservant.

Historical Background Context

1. The Journey of Abraham and Sarah

Abraham (originally named Abram) and Sarah (originally named Sarai) were called by God to leave their homeland in Ur of the Chaldeans and journey to the land of Canaan. During this journey, they faced various challenges, including famine. In the face of danger, particularly concerning Sarah's beauty, Abraham resorted to deception to protect himself.

2. The Deception of Abraham

When they arrived in Egypt, Abraham feared that the Egyptians would kill him to take Sarah, who was exceptionally beautiful. To protect himself, he told Sarah to say that she was his sister rather than his wife.

Genesis 12:10-13 (NLT):

10 At that time, a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner.

11 As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him and then we can have her!' 13 So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you."

3. The Consequences of Deception

A. The King's Actions

As a result of Abraham's deception, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, took Sarah into his household, believing she was merely Abraham's sister. This decision was driven by the desire to benefit from the beauty of Sarah without knowing the full truth of her relationship with Abraham.

Genesis 12:14-15 (NLT):

14 And when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty. 15 When the palace officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. Their conclusion was that she was taken into his palace.

Pharaoh's actions reflect the common practices of the time, where royal men could take beautiful women from foreign lands as part of their harem.

B. Hagar's Role

During this time, Hagar, who was likely a daughter of Pharaoh or a royal servant, was given to Abraham and Sarah as a maidservant. This transition from a princess or noblewoman to a servant came as a direct consequence of the deception that Abraham perpetrated. The shift in her status can be understood as follows:

- **Hagar's Background:** As a servant given to Sarah, Hagar would have initially held a position of some privilege, but she was still under the authority of her masters. The details of her lineage and status before this moment are not explicitly stated, but being associated with Pharaoh suggests a noble background.
- **Forced Circumstances:** Hagar's transition into servitude highlights the fact that she was caught in the middle of a situation driven by the deception of Abraham and the decisions of Pharaoh. Hagar's life changed dramatically because of the actions of others, demonstrating how one person's choices can have widespread effects on others.

4. Implications of the Deception

A. The Cycle of Deception and Control

Abraham's deception not only placed him and Sarah in a precarious situation but also set off a chain reaction that impacted Hagar's life. Hagar's fate was now tied to the whims of Sarah and Abraham, as well as Pharaoh's interests. This scenario illustrates how deception can entrap multiple parties in a cycle of control and subjugation.

B. Hagar's Resilience

Even though Hagar was thrust into this situation, her story also exemplifies resilience. After becoming pregnant with Abraham's child, Hagar found herself in a position where Sarah's jealousy led to further conflict.

Genesis 16:4-6 (NLT):

4 Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant, she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong—you or me!"

6 Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

This demonstrates that even in the wake of deception, Hagar maintained a voice and agency, eventually leading to her encounter with God in the wilderness.

5. Practical Applications

- **Deception and its Ripple Effects:** Reflect on how our actions can affect not just ourselves but others around us. This emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity in relationships and decision-making.
- **Agency in Adversity:** Hagar's story teaches that even when we find ourselves in difficult or unfair situations, we can choose to respond with strength and resilience.

Reflection Questions

1. **Have I ever experienced a situation where someone else's deception impacted my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** Yes, a coworker took credit for my work, affecting my reputation in the office.
2. **How can I ensure that I act with integrity in my decisions to avoid causing unintended harm to others?**
 - **Example Answer:** By being transparent in my communications and considering how my choices affect those around me.
3. **In what ways can I find strength and resilience during challenging times?**
 - **Example Answer:** By leaning on my support network and seeking guidance through prayer or meditation.
4. **How do I respond when I feel unfairly treated by others?**
 - **Example Answer:** I try to remain calm and assess the situation rationally before reacting emotionally.
5. **What lessons can I learn from Hagar's experience about overcoming adversity?**
 - **Example Answer:** Hagar showed that even when faced with hardship, I can seek out my own path and find my strength.
6. **How can I support others who may be in a similar situation of feeling trapped or taken advantage of?**
 - **Example Answer:** I can offer a listening ear and practical support, encouraging them to seek opportunities for empowerment.

Conclusion

The story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar illustrates the complexities of human relationships and the consequences of deception. Hagar's transition from a princess to a maidservant exemplifies how external actions can drastically change one's life circumstances. However, her journey also highlights resilience and the possibility of finding strength amid adversity, reminding us that we can navigate our own life challenges with faith and determination.

Recap Summary of The Backstory of Hagar and Ishmael

So, this backstory gives us an understanding of Hagar's plight and the circumstances that led to her being cast out into the wilderness, we must delve into the events leading up to her situation.

1. Abraham and Sarah's Journey

Abraham (then Abram) and Sarah (then Sarai) traveled from Ur of the Chaldeans to Canaan, guided by God's promise. During their journey, they faced challenges, including famine.

Genesis 12:10-13 (NLT):

10 At that time, a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner.

11 As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him and then we can have her!' 13 So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you."

Abram's deception put Sarai in a precarious position, highlighting how she was treated as a pawn in the game of survival.

2. Hagar's Introduction

During their journey in Canaan, God promised Abraham that he would have a son, but as years passed without fulfillment, Sarah became impatient. In her desperation, she offered her servant, Hagar, to Abraham to bear a child.

Genesis 16:1-4 (NLT):

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children, but she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal.

3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife.

4 Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

Hagar was thrust into a complex situation, becoming a means to an end without any agency in the decision-making process.

3. The Aftermath of Hagar's Pregnancy

Once Hagar became pregnant, the dynamic between her and Sarah changed. Hagar began to look down on Sarah, which led to tension between the two women.

Genesis 16:5-6 (NLT):

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant, she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong—you or me!"

6 Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

Sarai's harsh treatment of Hagar forced her to flee, illustrating the emotional and physical hardships placed upon her without her consent.

4. Hagar's Rejection and the Wilderness

After fleeing, Hagar found herself in the wilderness, where she encountered an angel of the Lord who provided comfort and direction.

Genesis 16:7-13 (NLT):

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur.

8 The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

9 "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied.

10 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her authority. 11 Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

12 And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael, which means 'God hears,' for the Lord has heard your cry of distress."

13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."

In her moment of despair, Hagar encountered the God who sees her, providing her with direction and a promise for her future and her child.

Set Up to Be Set Up for a Step Up: An Analysis

Life can feel like a series of unfair setups—situations where we are not to blame yet bear the consequences. Here's how we can view these moments as setups for stepping up:

1. Acknowledge the Set Up

Just like Hagar, who was caught in circumstances beyond her control, we must acknowledge the unfairness of life. This acknowledgment doesn't mean we accept our circumstances as final; rather, we recognize them as steppingstones to something greater.

Practical Application: Reflect on a recent situation where you felt unfairly treated. Consider journaling your thoughts and feelings about the experience.

2. Understand the Purpose Behind the Setup

The angel of the Lord gave Hagar hope, turning her despair into purpose. Similarly, we must seek to understand the lessons and opportunities that may arise from our setups.

Practical Application: What lessons can you learn from your situation? Is there an opportunity to grow or to help others in similar situations?

3. Respond with Resilience

Hagar returned to Sarah, demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity. Our responses to our setups determine how we navigate the situation.

Practical Application: Create a plan for how to respond positively to your circumstances. What steps can you take to ensure you come out stronger?

The C.P.R. + N.O.W. Process in Context

1. **Crisis:** Recognize your crisis—acknowledge feelings of unfair treatment or abandonment, just as Hagar did.
2. **Pivot:** Shift your focus from what was done to you to what you can learn from the experience.
3. **Rebirth:** Embrace the idea that a new opportunity or strength can emerge from your pain.

Implementation of the Process:

- **Crisis:** What is your current crisis? Reflect on how this makes you feel.
- **Pivot:** What can you learn from this experience?
- **Rebirth:** How can you take the lessons learned to rebuild your self-worth or pursue new opportunities?

Reflection Questions for Daily Application

1. **In what ways have I felt set up unfairly in my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** I was laid off due to budget cuts despite my strong performance.
2. **What purpose might God have for me in this challenging situation?**
 - **Example Answer:** This could be an opportunity to pursue a career I am passionate about.
3. **How can I respond resiliently to this situation?**
 - **Example Answer:** I can update my resume and start networking to find new opportunities.
4. **What is one lesson I can take from Hagar's story?**
 - **Example Answer:** Even in my lowest moments, God sees me and has a plan for my future.
5. **How can I shift my perspective to see this as a setup for growth?**
 - **Example Answer:** By viewing this setback as a chance to explore new avenues in my career.
6. **What can I do to maintain my self-worth during unfair situations?**
 - **Example Answer:** Surround myself with supportive friends and family who uplift me.
7. **What steps can I take to ensure this situation does not define me?**
 - **Example Answer:** Focus on my strengths and skills, and actively seek new challenges.

8. How can I seek God's guidance in these unfair moments?

- **Example Answer:** Spend time in prayer and meditation, asking for wisdom and direction.

Conclusion

The story of Hagar and Ishmael serves as a powerful reminder that even in the most challenging and seemingly unfair circumstances, there lies the potential for growth and empowerment. By recognizing our setups as opportunities for a step up, we can navigate life's difficulties with resilience and faith. Through the C.P.R. + N.O.W. process, we can transform our pain into purpose, embracing the new beginnings that God has in store for us.

Exploring Faith and Trust in God's Promises

When we encounter obscurity and setbacks in our lives, it can be challenging to maintain our faith and trust in God's promises. The story of Hagar and Ishmael offers profound insights into how we can shift our perspective and rely on God's truth, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

1. God's Promise to Hagar

God's promise to Hagar concerning her son Ishmael was significant. Despite the complexities surrounding Ishmael's conception, God assured Hagar that her son would have a future and that he would become a great nation. This promise serves as a reminder that God's plans transcend our circumstances.

Genesis 21:17-19 (NLT):

17 But God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven. "Hagar, what's wrong? Do not be afraid! God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.

18 Go to him and comfort him, for I will make a great nation from his descendants."

19 Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink.

This passage emphasizes two crucial aspects of faith: God hears our cries, and He provides solutions even when we cannot see them.

2. The Four M Principle: Movement Makes Miracles Manifest

The Four M Principle underscores the importance of taking action in faith. Hagar's story illustrates how movement can lead to miraculous outcomes.

A. Movement in Faith

Movement in faith means taking steps forward, even when we don't fully understand what lies ahead. When Hagar found herself in the wilderness, she was filled with despair. However, when God spoke to her, she had to choose to believe in His promise and move toward it.

- **Example:** Just as Hagar had to move to find water, we too must take steps to engage with God's promises actively. This might involve prayer, seeking counsel, or pursuing opportunities that align with God's will for our lives.

B. Making Faith Actionable

Putting our faith into action involves more than passive belief; it requires a proactive stance.

- **Example:** If we feel called to a new job, we should update our resume, network, and apply for positions, trusting that God will guide our steps.

3. Shifting Our Mindset

A. From Despair to Hope

Hagar's initial despair blinded her to God's provision. She believed her situation was hopeless, but God opened her eyes to see the well of water that was always present.

- **Example:** In moments of despair, we might overlook the blessings around us. Shifting our mindset involves recognizing God's goodness and provision, even when circumstances seem dire.

B. Embracing God's Strength

The Bible reminds us that we are more than conquerors through Christ (Romans 8:37). We are called to take dominion and operate from a place of strength.

- **Cross-reference: Philippians 4:13 (NLT):** "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Embracing this truth empowers us to overcome obstacles and trust in God's plan.

4. God's Reassurance to Hagar

Throughout Hagar's journey, God reassured her of His promise. It was a reminder that despite her circumstances, His word would not fail. The assurance of Ishmael's future was critical for Hagar as she navigated the wilderness.

- **Cross-reference: Isaiah 41:10 (NLT):** "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

5. The Miracle in the Wilderness

In our own wilderness experiences, we must look for the miracles that God has placed within reach. Just as God provided water for Hagar and Ishmael, He provides for us in ways we might not initially recognize.

A. Recognizing Provision

Miracles often come in unexpected forms. When we are focused on our struggles, we may miss the blessings around us.

- **Example:** A job opportunity may arise just when we feel most discouraged, or a friend might offer support at the perfect time.

6. Practical Applications

1. **Daily Affirmations:** Speak God's promises over your life each day. For instance, declare, "I am strong in the Lord, and I trust in His provision for my life."

2. **Action Steps:** Identify one area in your life where you feel stuck. What is one action you can take this week to move forward?
3. **Gratitude Journal:** Keep a journal of the blessings you notice in your life daily. This practice can shift your focus from what is lacking to what is present.
4. **Prayer and Meditation:** Spend time in prayer, asking God to open your eyes to the miracles around you.
5. **Community Support:** Share your struggles and victories with trusted friends or a faith community to encourage one another in your journeys.

7. Reflection Questions

1. **How can I actively move toward God's promises in my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** By setting specific goals that align with my faith journey and taking small steps toward them.
2. **What promises from God do I struggle to believe?**
 - **Example Answer:** I often struggle to believe that God will provide for my needs in times of financial uncertainty.
3. **In what ways can I shift my mindset to focus on God's provision rather than my lack?**
 - **Example Answer:** By practicing gratitude and intentionally reflecting on past experiences where God provided for me.
4. **How can I recognize God's miracles in my daily life?**
 - **Example Answer:** By looking for small blessings and being attentive to opportunities that arise.
5. **What steps can I take to foster a mindset of strength and dominion?**
 - **Example Answer:** I can remind myself of the scriptures that affirm my identity in Christ and surround myself with uplifting influences.
6. **When have I experienced a "water in the wilderness" moment in my life?**
 - **Example Answer:** When I thought I had no options, a job offer came through a contact I had almost forgotten about.

Conclusion

Hagar's journey is a profound reminder that in our moments of obscurity and despair, God is at work. By moving in faith and trusting in His promises, we can experience miracles, even in the wilderness of our lives. Shifting our mindset to focus on God's truth allows us to see the provisions He has made for us, ensuring that we remain anchored in hope and strength as we navigate our journeys.

Encouragement:

Just like Hagar's experience in the wilderness, your story is unique, and it holds power. You may feel obscure—unseen, unknown, or unimportant—but God sees you. Your moments of obscurity are not the end; they are preparing you for breakthrough and provision.

Daily Affirmations:

- **Monday:** I am worthy of love and acceptance. (*Psalm 139:14*) "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
 - **Tuesday:** I have the strength to overcome my challenges. (*Philippians 4:13*) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
 - **Wednesday:** I embrace my unique story. (*Jeremiah 1:5*) "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart."
 - **Thursday:** I am resilient in the face of adversity. (*2 Corinthians 4:8-9*) "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."
 - **Friday:** I have the power to create positive change. (*Romans 12:2*) "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
 - **Saturday:** I trust in my journey and my purpose. (*Proverbs 3:5-6*) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
 - **Sunday:** I am open to new opportunities for growth. (*Isaiah 40:31*) "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
-

Conclusion:

The story of Hagar and Ishmael is a reminder that God's provision often lies just beyond our sight, waiting for us to shift our perspective. In moments when we feel lost, abandoned, or unseen, God is still with us. Our obscure moments are often setups for a divine cure—guiding us to discover His provision and promise.

Just as Hagar found her well in the wilderness, so too will we find our breakthrough, our "cure," as we trust God and look beyond our circumstances.

Recap Summary: Finding Our Cure in Obscurity and the Journey of Hagar

The story of Hagar and Ishmael is a powerful narrative that illustrates how faith can transform our obscurity into clarity, our trials into testimonies, and our setbacks into setups for growth. This journey aligns perfectly with the mission of **The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC** as we guide individuals to reclaim their voices, rebound from trauma, resuscitate their lives, renew their minds, and rewrite their stories.

1. Understanding Our Setup: The Story of Hagar

Hagar's story begins with deception. Abraham asked Sarah to lie about their relationship to protect himself from the Egyptian king, leading to Hagar becoming a maidservant. Despite her royal status as a princess, Hagar's life took an unexpected turn due to the actions of others.

Golden Nugget Keys:

- **Recognize Your History:** Understand how your past shapes your present.
- **Acknowledge Deception:** Identify and confront the lies that have held you back.
- **Embrace Your Identity:** No matter your background, know that your worth is inherent.

Scripture Reference:

- **Genesis 12:11-13 (NLT):** Abraham's fear led to deception that altered Hagar's life path.

2. The Obscurity of Crisis: Moving from Despair to Hope

When Hagar was cast out into the wilderness with Ishmael, she faced despair and hopelessness. However, in her darkest moment, God revealed His provision, opening her eyes to the water that was available.

Golden Nugget Keys:

- **Faith in Crisis:** Recognize that God hears your cries, even in despair.
- **Seek Provision:** Open your eyes to the blessings that surround you.
- **Take Action:** Move in faith to manifest God's promises.

Scripture Reference:

- **Isaiah 41:10 (NLT):** God's assurance that He is with us strengthens our faith.

3. The Four M Principle: Movement Makes Miracles Manifest

Hagar's journey teaches us that movement in faith can lead to miracles. She had to act on God's promises and shift her mindset from despair to hope.

Golden Nugget Keys:

- **Take Action:** Be proactive in your faith journey.
- **Cultivate a Positive Mindset:** Shift your perspective to focus on God's truth.
- **Recognize Miracles:** Look for God's provision in everyday life.

Scripture Reference:

- **Philippians 4:13 (NLT):** We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

4. Embracing God's Promises: Assurance Amidst Adversity

God reassured Hagar multiple times that Ishmael would become a great nation. This assurance empowered Hagar to trust in God's plan despite her circumstances.

Golden Nugget Keys:

- **Trust in God's Promises:** Remind yourself that God's word is faithful.
- **Find Strength in Assurance:** Lean on God's promises during trials.
- **Embrace Your Future:** Believe in the destiny God has for you.

Scripture Reference:

- **Genesis 21:17-19 (NLT):** God's provision for Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness.

5. Living a Thankful Lifestyle: The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group

At **The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC**, our mission revolves around transformative living. We encourage individuals to:

- **Reclaim Your Voice:** Discover and express your true self.
- **Rebound from Trauma:** Turn past pain into power.
- **Resuscitate Your Life:** Find renewed energy and purpose.
- **Renew Your Mind:** Cultivate a positive outlook.
- **Rewrite Your Story Narrative:** Craft your empowering future.

Golden Nugget Keys:

- **Practice Gratitude:** Acknowledge the good in your life.
- **Community Support:** Surround yourself with uplifting influences.
- **Engage in Reflection:** Regularly assess your growth and direction.

Call to Action

Stay connected with us and take the first step toward transformation:

- **Join Our Community:** Participate in our workshops and discussions.
- **Subscribe to Our Newsletter:** Receive regular updates and encouragement.
- **Follow Us on Social Media:** Engage with our content and connect with like-minded individuals.

My Personal Disclaimer

I am not a medical doctor or licensed professional, but someone who has experienced trauma and is dedicated to helping others navigate through life's journey to live more abundantly. Together, we can discover the miracles within our obscurity.

Closing Reflection

As you move forward, remember Proverbs 3:5-8 (NLT):

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will gain renewed health and vitality.”

A World of Infinite Possibilities

✨🚀🌍: Join us at **The Thankful Revolution Legacy Group, LLC** as we embark on a journey of transformation and empowerment. Together, we will reclaim our voices and cultivate a life of abundance!

Closing Statement 🌈

Thank you for being a part of this journey toward healing and transformation. Remember, you are not alone; together we can reclaim our voices, rebound from trauma, and renew our lives with purpose and joy. If you’re ready to embark on your path to renewal, I invite you to connect with me through any of the following platforms.

So, how do we stay connected you ask?

Contact me today 📞 to start your path to transformation. I offer empathetic and compassionate advocacy to help you reclaim your voice and move beyond shame and despair. ***Together, we can turn your trials into triumphs and your pain into purpose.***

- Email: thethankfulrevolution@yahoo.com
- Alternate Email: miriamsmithstevens@yahoo.com
- Instagram: [@thethankfulrevolution](https://www.instagram.com/thethankfulrevolution)
- Facebook Pages:
 - [The Thankful Revolution \(Miriam S Stevens\)](#)
 - [Thankful Revolution and Todah Praise Channel](#)
- YouTube Channels:
 - [Thankful Revolution](#)
 - [MsStevensPR Channel](#)
- Websites:
 - [The Thankful Revolution](#)
 - [MsStevensPR](#)
- Blogs:
 - [The Thankful Revolution Blog](#)
 - [The Thankful Revolution Now Speaks](#)

Resources to Explore My Journey 📺

- Personal Testimony: [Embrace the message of God's Message: Insulated, Impacted, Influencer](#)
- Blog Post: [Explore my ministry message and journey](#)
- Book Anthology: [Abound: The Kingdom Paradigm – My story featured in this anthology](#)
- YouTube Video: [Watch my message on learning how to breathe again](#)
- Booklet: [From R.A.P.E. To R.E.A.P. – A guide for transforming life after trauma](#)

Final Thoughts

I'm here to support you every step of the way. Let's continue to navigate life's journey together, turning trials into triumphs and pain into purpose. I look forward to hearing from you and working together toward a life full of abundance and gratitude.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being the God who sees us in our wilderness. Help us to trust in Your promises and open our eyes to the provision that You have already placed in our path. Just as You provided for Hagar and Ishmael, we believe you will provide for us. Lead us from obscurity to Your light, and let us find hope, renewal, and purpose in You. Amen.

With love and hope,

Miriam Smith Stevens aka Essence of Myrrh ☀️💜

