

Smiling in Public

While

Crying in Private

“The Many Faces of Life”

Clifford Washington III

FOREWORD BY PASTOR JERRY F. HUTCHINS

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from New King James Version of the Bible. Copyright © 2006 by Xulon Publishing.

**“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7**

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Foreword

Introduction

Chapter One The Hidden Face

Chapter Two The Marriage Face

Chapter Three The Face in the Workplace

Chapter Four The Church Face

Chapter Five The Financial Face

Chapter Six The Face in the Mirror

Chapter Seven The Facelift

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

We gain wisdom and knowledge from all the men and women of God that we have come in contact with both great and small. I am thankful for all those who shared their situations, circumstances and prayers with me to further the awareness of who we are in our kingdom purpose. I am grateful to my friends, coworkers and church members for their many prayers of faith and inspiration that encouraged me to fulfill my purpose in sharing these true thoughts and experiences in writing this book.

For the maturation and blossoming of this book itself, I feel an incredible sense of gratitude to:

--my wife, Christina, for all of her sacrifices, support and encouragement in fulfilling the vision that God gave me to complete this book. You made it easier to fulfill the vision.

--my father and mother, Moses and Fannie Smalls, for their love, prayers and devotion to the Lord

--my children, Jonathan, Jaren and Latoya, the future will be better than the past

--my Pastor and First Lady, Jerry and Shelia Hutchins, the greatest shepherds of the flock that God has created in the history of mankind. I owe so much to both of you for my development and spiritual growth. When God connected our paths He added face value to His purpose for my life

Foreword

As a Pastor, I spend a lot of time counseling members and non-members alike. In my early years as a Pastor I often found myself amazed at the issues people would bring to me seeking spiritual advice. The issues were not so amazing but I was amazed by the people who had such issues. The observations that I made of them on Sunday would never indicate that they were dealing with the kinds of things that they presented. As time has passed, I am not nearly as amazed as I was then. I know now that most people, especially Christians, have been trained to live both a public and a private life. The two often exist in great contrast.

The need for acceptance has been the reason so many people bundle their feelings, pains, hurts, joys, sorrows, and other emotions on the inside. We only reveal to others what we think they are capable of accepting. Truth itself likes to be escorted by grace when it makes an appearance. If truth knows that painful judgment will be the final consequence, then truth will not be as free to expose itself. Consequently, we have been socially trained to cover what we need to cover and reveal only as much as our acquaintances can handle.

Clifford Washington has addressed this matter in “Smiling in Public While Crying in Private.” He has done an excellent job of challenging the reader to face the face inside of them and cease to live a double faced life. It has been the need for social acceptance that shaped the double faced lifestyle. Clifford Washington challenges us to minimize the need for social acceptance and maximize our understanding of the fact that we have been accepted by God, our creator. After reading “Smiling In Public While Crying In Private, order will be established and the reader can move forward to live out his or her created purpose.

Jerry F. Hutchins, Senior Pastor
Timothy Baptist Church
Athens, Georgia

INTRODUCTION

People live a public life of joy and happiness while at the same time living a private life of sadness and despair behind the closed doors of their souls and physical dwellings. By reading this book you will be introduced to the real you in Christ Jesus and begin to live a life full throttle with more abundance, joy, and peace.

Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now. 1Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)

I want to make one thing perfectly clear, I was both inspired and given a vision by God through the power of the Holy Spirit to write this book. My personal experiences and encounters with people from all walks of life have given me the tools needful to address these issues. I, like a lot of people, lived a “two-faced” life. Outwardly, everything appeared great, but on the inside I was introverted to the point of feeling hopeless at times.

After coming face to face with myself, and being a confidant to many people over the years, I now realize that no matter what kind of personality a person may have, he or she is susceptible to living what I call a double faced life. The purpose of this book is to bring attention to life’s real issues while also addressing **the “faces” not the “phases” of life** and the pain behind the face of joy. For example, the Sunday morning worship face that we cannot seem to carry to the work place.

God designed us so that we can withstand the trials and tribulations of life. He told us in His Word that although trials will come, “be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.” Have you ever been accused of acting out of character? Have you ever thought about the war going on inside of you? How about the hurt you feel of being out of place, and for whatever reason, the job you are working just does not fit where you

feel God is leading you. Your financial situations won't allow you to pursue your true purpose. Marriage, divorce, debt, jealousy, anger - all of these issues will be addressed in the pages that follow in hopes of helping you come to grips with the real you. You will meet yourself face to face.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit you will divide and conquer as you take off the old man and put on the new man. Some will read this book out of curiosity. Some out of the need to get in touch with the real person behind the physical face, and others out of the need to take life by the horns and truly be more than a conqueror. I heard Bishop T.D. Jakes say “How do we know when we are successful if we don’t know why we are here.”

I have lived long enough to realize that in order to accomplish anything in God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; we must first have a face-off with self. Webster’s dictionary describes the word *face* as “being of countenance or one who is able to tolerate, confront or take a stand.” Sounds like kingdom marching orders.

In these chapters we will also examine how to deal with the consequences of all the crazy and ungodly mistakes we have made. Some of the mistakes were made with our eyes wide open when we knew the potential dangers and ramifications but our impressionable face said nobody would know but us. So, we moved forward and spent money that we didn’t have; deciding that we “deserved” that new suit or dress for all the hard work we put in during the week. Succumbing to decisions like these, more often than not, lead to problems in marriage and finances.

As boys, men were told that they had to be strong, face up to manhood, don’t let anyone take advantage of them, and look a person in the eye when they are speaking. But rarely did anyone teach the boy how to deal with the inner man that wanted to be a preacher, an actor or even a doctor. Because of past mistakes or the neighborhoods we came from we got sucked up by the war going inside of our souls. Some felt powerless to overcome those mistakes and chose to give up and quit. When we address the issues

of our past which have shaped our inner being, we can attack that which is trying to attack us and escape the anxieties that hinder the development of our future.

Verbal, physical, sexual, and even financial abuse has collectively done more damage and inflicted more pain than anyone can ever imagine. Much of this abuse can be attributed to the person feeling the hurt and not facing the face behind the face, therefore reacts out of frustration. Then life starts to go into a tailspin and the person becomes oblivious to the reasons. This book will help you see yourself in a different light from the inside. So, come on and join me on a journey through the **many faces of life**.

Chapter Three

The Face in the Workplace

A good man, by the grace of God, brings his heart to his work, and then it is done well.

People who believe they are not purpose for the job they perform everyday, wrestle with getting themselves mentally ready to face the workday. Some rehearse positive confessions to prepare mentally in order not to show their frustrations. In this chapter we will search for an identity in the workplace, while trying to keep focus in an atmosphere where we can easily loose sight of our destiny.

The workplace is a laborious place for some and at times puts a strain on our values as Christians. It can be a place where gossip, back biting, envy, jealousy, and even theft are witnessed. These are not the only issues we have to confront. There are people all over the world that are talented at their perspective jobs. They are also wrestling inside with what they know is their purpose and a promising career.

While in pursuit of purpose, the struggle is to put on our best face at the office. We are often judged based on what facial expressions we exemplify. At the workplace I have seen (and fell victim myself) co-workers complain about where they are verses where they thought they should be at a particular time in life. It is clear that no one cares about a person who complains all the time. Most people are glad it's your problem and not theirs. God states clearly that He loves us and doesn't care for murmuring and complaining. Complaining all the time without any effort to make something happen stunts your spiritual and economic growth. At the workplace a person is subjected to this more often than anywhere else. The Bible says our steps are ordered. Could it be that God put you in a position on your job to test your level of tolerance? To see if you will continue to complain as negative words escape your lips.

Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent” Numbers 11:10.

In this scripture the Israelites complained and then Moses complained. But God had a positive response to Moses and a negative response to the people. Why? The people complained to one another and nothing was accomplished. Moses took his complaint to God who can solve any problem. Many of us are good at complaining to each other. What we need to do is take our problems to the One who can do something about them. If where we are is not where God has called us, then our present situation is only temporary. Some time ago, because of all the gang related killings and senseless violence, someone came up with the slogan “Stop the Violence”. I say, “Stop the Complaining”.

A good man or woman brings their heart to the workplace and does well. Stop letting the devil take control of your workday, by telling you all the things wrong with your job. When this happens you begin to meditate on those thoughts so much your whole day is disrupted. Then your mind becomes filled with negative energy.

Take control of those thoughts which are trying to take control of you. The Christian walk in the workplace is tough, but in spite of what is going on inside of us we must let our light shine. We must continue to fight the devils attempts to abort life’s purpose. Just choose the right weapons. The word of God and perseverance are the only weapons that are needed in this fight. We are not fighting against flesh and blood but spirits and rulers of darkness. As children of God we are already victorious. If we take the word and apply it to our circumstances, just like milk strengthens the body, the word of God gives us confidence and strengthens our faith.

Disappointment in the Workplace

God has His own perfect timing for everything that He does. It's not until we have gone through and received our breakthrough that we realize why He moved in his on time and not ours. I remember when I thought that I had worked hard enough or paid enough dues to gain promotion to a management position that was coming available. I prepared myself well and did all the right things. I excelled to the top of my then current sales position and found myself as one of the top salespersons in the country. I had the seniority, and was certain the promotion was at hand. I walked around with a confident demeanor in my accomplishments and what was bound to happen.

I had begun to play out in my mind how I would handle the new position, and the extra income and status the promotion would afford me. I was very careful to stay ahead so that everything was just right until the time came. A short time later the position became available. The person that was behind me in seniority and production was offered the promotion and that person accepted. Needless to say I was devastated and immediately wanted to know what the problem was. I felt I had better skills and leadership ability. Angry, but calm, I sought answers and it was explained that I was not suited for that particular position. Well, I did not take this shallow explanation very well and began to slow down producing and lost focus on the things that got me to that point.

I began to complain and sulk to any one that would listen. I could not concentrate for worrying about what I thought to be a gross injustice. I have always had a relationship with God but did not take my concerns to Him. Instead, chose to gripe and complain about how I could have done a better job. I was not concern about whether that particular promotion was really suited for me or if God had something better planned. The more I complained the worse everything got. I knew it was not right to do it; however, it gave me an excuse to make my own letdown feel easier to deal with amongst my peers.

When God has something for you that are in line with fulfilling His purpose for your life, He will get it to you in spite of your mistakes. I have not forgotten driving in to

work one morning and seeing a guy inside the building pacing back and forth. It seemed from my vantage point that he was a little anxious about something. It seems he had something heavy on his mind. As I walked in the door he approached me and said “I have something very important to tell you,” I listened and the words that came out of his mouth changed my life and career. It was words of simplicity and yet with power and depth as it sunk into my mind.

He said God told him to tell me that if I kept complaining and griping he would leave me where I was. In other words God would not take me to the next level because of what I was doing to myself in the spirit realm. These words troubled me and caused me to look deep within. I had put my trust and focus on promotion coming from man. I delayed what God had for me with a murmuring tongue. Finally, I came to grips with what was really important and stopped complaining. I began to put faith in the word of God and after thirty days I realized my dream of promotion. If you desire promotion on the job then work as if you are working unto the Lord. Maintain an attitude of expectancy. Know where your help comes from. Guard your mouth, take your heart (best) to work and do it well, and the favor of God will rest upon your hands. Promotion, raises and bonus are wrapped up in a focused non-complaining soul.

If God is silent, what's that to you? But whether silent or hidden, He's there ruling. Job 34:29 (MSG)

A Job or Your Purpose!!

Everyday people all over America wrestle with aspects of their job verses their purpose. There is a distinct difference between your job and purpose. The face, which is the window to their character, expresses this and leaves no doubt to the inquisitive mind. The person that is on the job to only draw a paycheck shows no passion for what he or she does. As a result they have a faceless presence about them. This behavior is not according to the will of God. This person thinks this is about as good as it is going to get in life. They will fake who they really are and downplay their talents and or gifts which God has placed inside of them. Nobody told them that they can reach any goals or

desires in life they set their minds to. Someone with a mindset towards their purpose thinks about it effortlessly, and takes steps both physical and mental in that direction.

Nothing just happens! There is a plan and a purpose for every living thing. Your job is not a means to an end as much as your purpose is to your destiny. Your job can be a step toward your purpose. Work your job to the best of your ability. Learn everything there is about it and master your area of responsibility. Make yourself valuable, and along the way make sure you find out your purpose. You will never be truly happy if you go through life and not find your purpose. You can make a six figure salary with all the fringe benefits, if you are not in your purpose there will always be something missing. You will show happiness on your physical face for a while (some can do it for a long time) but joy, which is not determined by what happens to you, can only be experienced in your purpose.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you saith the Lord. Psalm 32:8 (AMP)

I am not saying your job is not your purpose because it most certainly can be. However, recognize if it is by asking God for revelation. If it is your purpose, then be all you can be. You can easily tell if your job is your purpose. You will have passion and zeal for what you do and you cannot wait to get there each day. As a matter of fact if there was no pay, you would do it for free. There are people going to work everyday fighting through rush hour traffic, making a very nice income with a handsome retirement plan and still feel hollow on the inside. When out of your purpose you can smile in public, which is the easy part especially if you are a jovial person. What happens when you are alone with your thoughts? Does the public smile turn to private tears? There are many people hurting privately for many different reasons. Living and working outside their purpose can relinquish tears of renunciation.

Mediate on what it would be like living and working in whatever it is that God has called you to do. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life that we might have a right to the tree

of life so that we will resist the suggestions of the devil. Your purpose is your destiny and it was determined by God long before your mother caught the gleam of your father's eye. Some realize their purpose early in life and some later. Your character is the driving force behind what makes you who you are deep down where it's only visible to God. The sole reason why you were conceived and have survived everything that you have been through this far (job loss, sickness, bankruptcy, divorce) is to have an opportunity to fulfill what God has purposed for you. If you want to see someone truly the happiest they have ever been in their life, watch a man or woman that has a relationship with God, knows their purpose and is walking it out

If this book finds you struggling with walking in your purpose, be prayerful. Jumping out there and going for it without weighing the cost is not good wisdom. Petition God for clear direction after all He knows when it is the right time. Remember, fulfillment is only obtained when purpose meets the opportunity to walk in your destiny.

release the negative and painful feelings. When you seek Him, God promises peace that surpasses all understanding. Keep your priorities in order and focus on them in the forefront of your mind. God, family, job and everything else will fall into place.

What do you do when you have asked for forgiveness of your financial sins? He has told you that you are forgiven. You vowed to believe God for a breakthrough. However, the “in the meantime” has a way of making you wonder did you really hear from God or was it your imagination. I made a declaration to be faithful to God in my tithes no matter what the consequences may bring. At the same time I did not want to lose anything that I worked hard to accomplish. The time between my forgiveness and the promise seemed like I was drowning financially. At the same time I was trying to fight off doubt which is the catalyst of delay to the promises of God.

We can make a commitment to get better and the slate is wiped cleaned, but there are still consequences for our sins. We often wonder what the consequences will be. All of this happens in that area of “in the meantime” when doubt and second guessing try to work their way to the forefront of our mind. We have asked for forgiveness, fasted, prayed and seen the hand of God moving on our behalf. But our financial breakthrough still seems distant. The flesh begins to have weak moments. Then God gives us a peak into our future, which causes a surge to press on toward our destiny.

We can pass the “in the meantime” test by not focusing on the here and now. This period is probably the toughest and most frustrating. This is the time to remain steadfast with all the zeal we have because our breakthrough is at hand. This is not the time to faint, even if our world is coming apart at the seams. God is faithful and His word is true. Somehow we have to focus on the end results with every fiber of our spiritual and physical being.

In my situation I continued to bring God in remembrance of His word. I knew my financial breakthrough was at hand if I would not run coward, give up or quit. This is another reason why it was important for me to keep my mental trashcan clean. If I was

filled with mental trash, I would not have the confidence or boldness to go to God and remind Him of His word. God says that we have an expected end - that of prosperity. Hold on to what God has shown you. He has no desire to tease you or use the dangled carrot in front of the horse trick. God is not that kind of God. He is a God of abundance.

Abundance

We invest in stocks and bonds in order to receive a profit. In the retail business we buy low and sell high in order to capitalize. As followers of Christ we must invest in the kingdom to receive a harvest. Each and every one of us will enjoy living the abundant life as God so wants us to have. The process and obedience it takes to obtain the level of abundance that God has already stored up for us requires discipline. Just as fire refines gold in the melting process, trials refine our character. Trials bring us a new and deeper wisdom, helping us discern truth from falsehood. Trials and tribulations will make us disciplined in the area of our finances. When we are going through financial hardships, we must know that these trials will help us realize that life is a gift from God. It's to be cherished and not taken for granted.

Jesus said “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I have come that they may have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.” John 10:10 (KJV)

Understanding God's generosity should make us grateful. In time of need, whether spiritual or financial, we should spring forth with a desire to give in earnest. There are times when we find ourselves in overwhelming situations. Then we make bargains with God saying, “If you heal me or get me out of this financial mess, I will obey you the rest of my life.” However, soon after we recover the vow is forgotten and the old lifestyle is resumed. We must be careful to follow through on whatever we promised.

What is it about us that cause us to accept and expect lack? This cycle must be broken in order to be free to do the things God has called us too. Jesus came that we might have life more abundantly. Debt and lack are not apart of God's plan for our lives. If they were, then He would not have made this statement regarding abundance. Everything that we see around us was created for us to enjoy. Instead of giving God the glory in our times of plenty, we often take credit for our own prosperity. We become proud that our hard work and cleverness has made us rich. It is easy to get so busy collecting and managing wealth that we push God right out of our lives. But it is God who gives us everything we have, and it is God who expects us to manage it for Him. The abundant life is ours for the choosing.