



Why Are You Here?

Discovering & Living Your Calling



Atlanta West End

Rotary

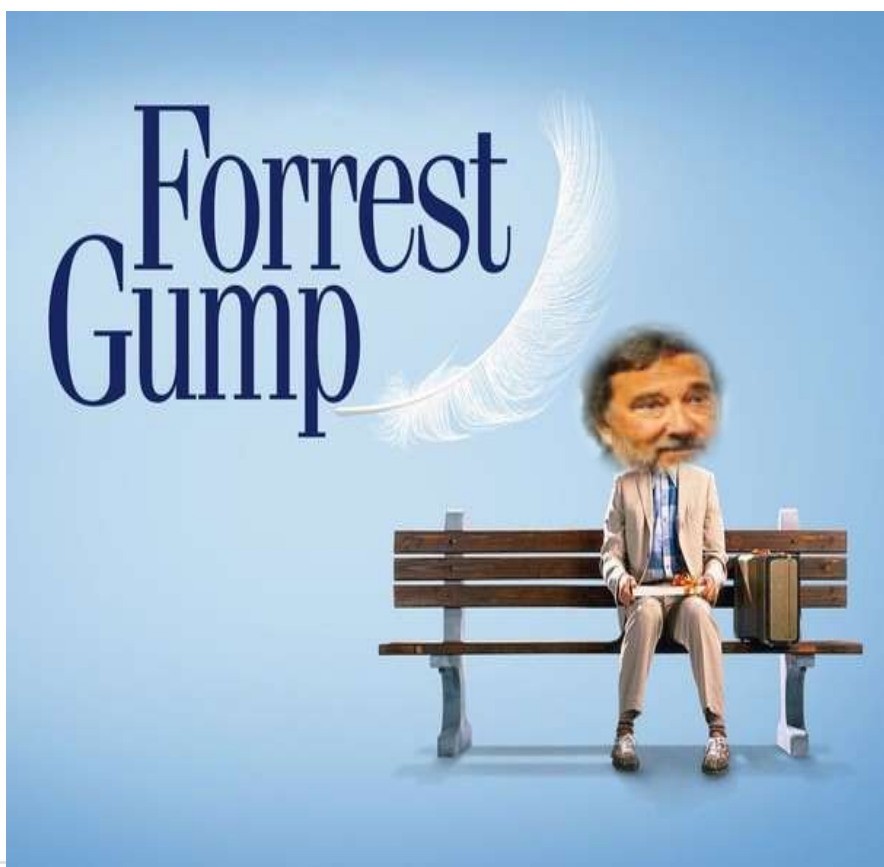
Club



1 Jewish and 2 Greek Lawyers enter a dining room...

Shalom!





Meet Gainesville's

Greek (Forrest) Gump

billmarianes@gmail.com
www.stewardshipcalling.com



Covering 71 years
in minutes



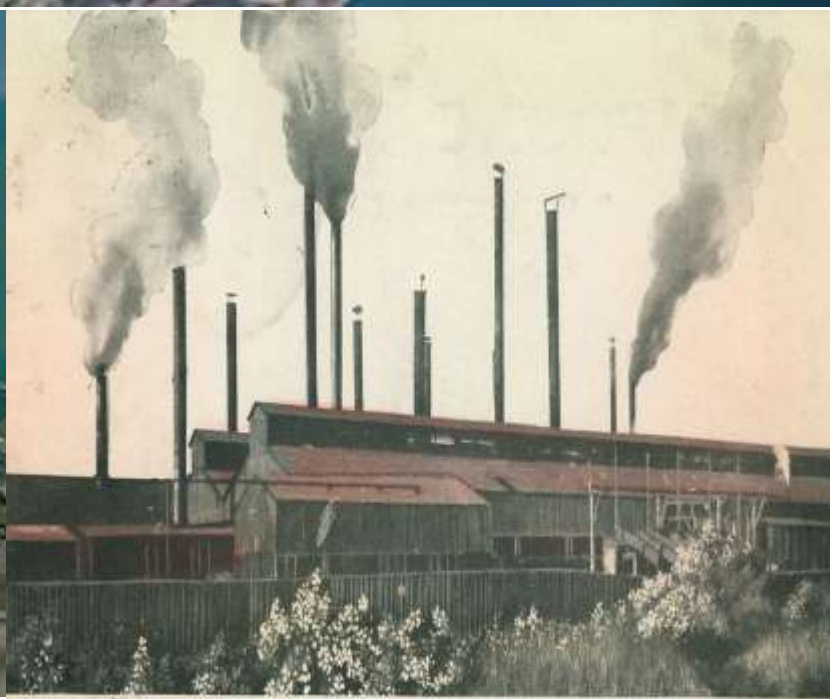
Athens

Ασπρόκαμπος

Μιντιλόγλι

Ionian Sea

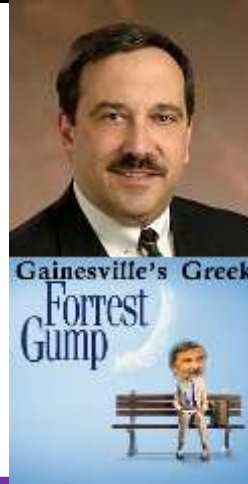
Aegean Sea



45 Years As A Lawyer To Atone For

**troutman
pepper locke**

1,600 lawyers in 33 global offices



McGuireWoods

1,100 lawyers in 23 global offices

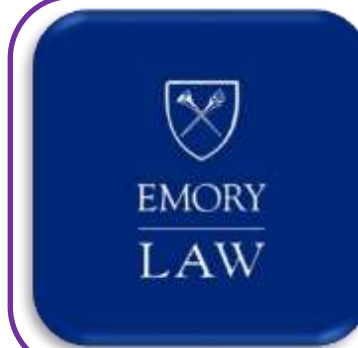
Life-long Learning Required of Children of Immigrants



**B.A.
Psychology**

**Northwestern
Kellogg**
School of Management

**Graduate
Leadership
Certificate**



**Juris
Doctorate**



**Masters in
Business
Administration**



**Doctorate in
Strategic
Leadership**

Olympic Trilogy



1996 "Tribute" @ Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park



2000 "Discobolus" @ Sydney Olympic Complex



"Kyklos" @ 2004 Athens Olympic Stadium

P.S. I may have to sue Rotary on behalf of my ancestor, Socrates...



The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The Rotary 4-Way Test

sounds a lot like Socrates' Triple Filter Test

SOCRATES' TRIPLE FILTER TEST

IS IT TRUE?

YES NO



IS IT GOOD?

YES NO



IS IT USEFUL?

YES NO



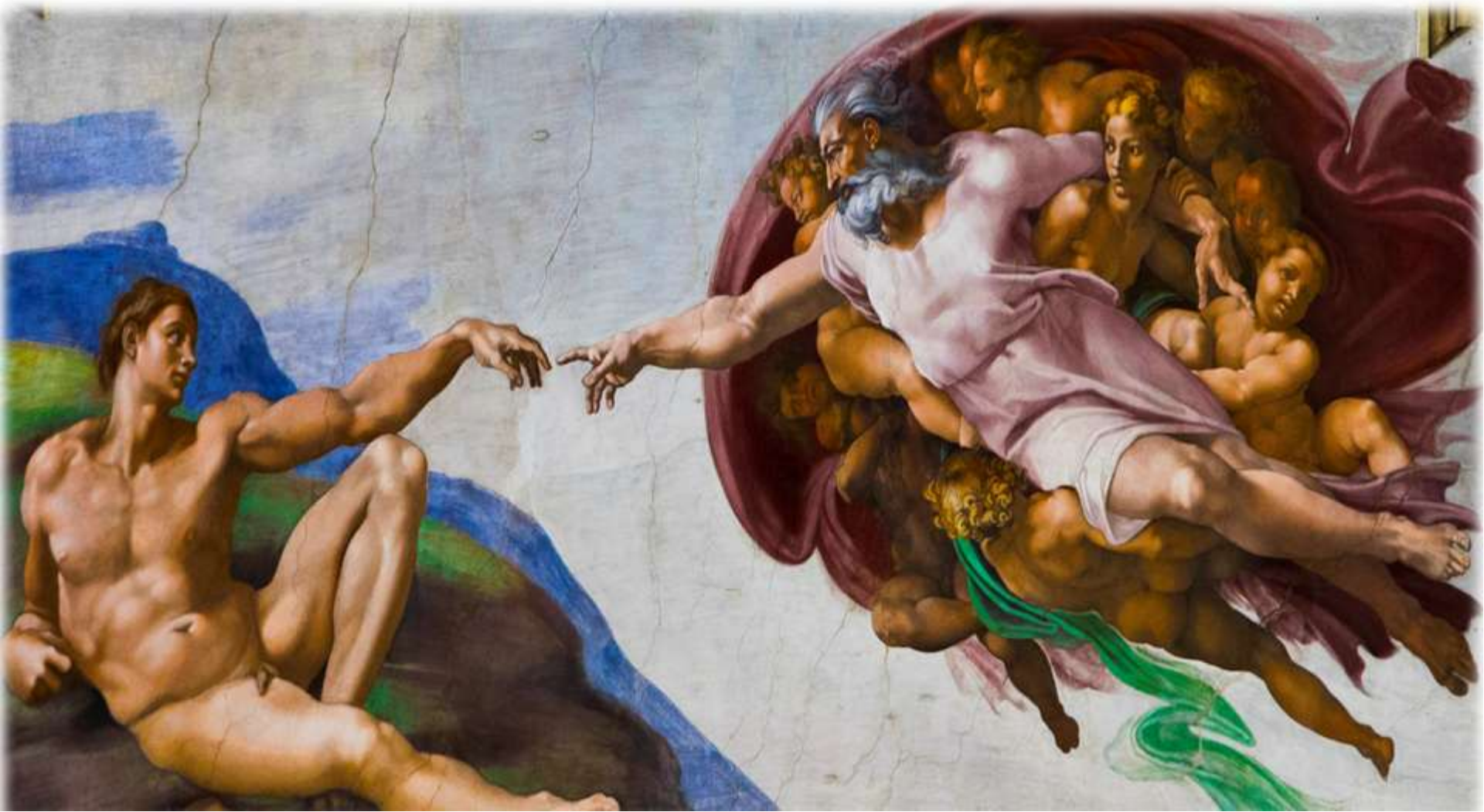
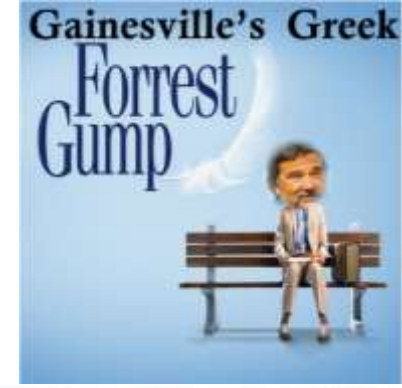
SAY IT.

DON'T SAY IT.





God's Calling for me to "retire" early and "refire"



A journey ...



STEWARDSHIP
CALLING

... **465,000+** airlines miles (and many hundreds of thousands of “ZOOM miles”)

...worked with **1,000+** U.S. Orthodox Parishes, Dioceses, National Churches, Seminaries, etc.





**I've completed
Strategic Plans
covering
over 26% of
U.S. Orthodox
Christians.**



**STEWARDSHIP
CALLING**

New For 2026



Every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Leadership week 1

Stewardship week 2

Spiritual Formation week 3

Christian Unity week 4

Strategic Planning 5th Wednesdays



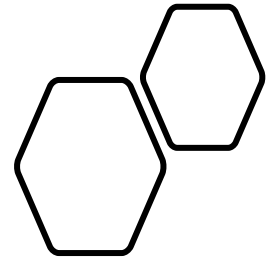
Nov. 7th - Washington, DC.
Creating a Roadmap for
Christian Unity

Check out www.churchroadmap.com

**"ENOUGH
ABOUT ME"**



**"LET'S TALK
ABOUT YOU"**



Why Are You Here?

Discovering
And Living Your
Calling



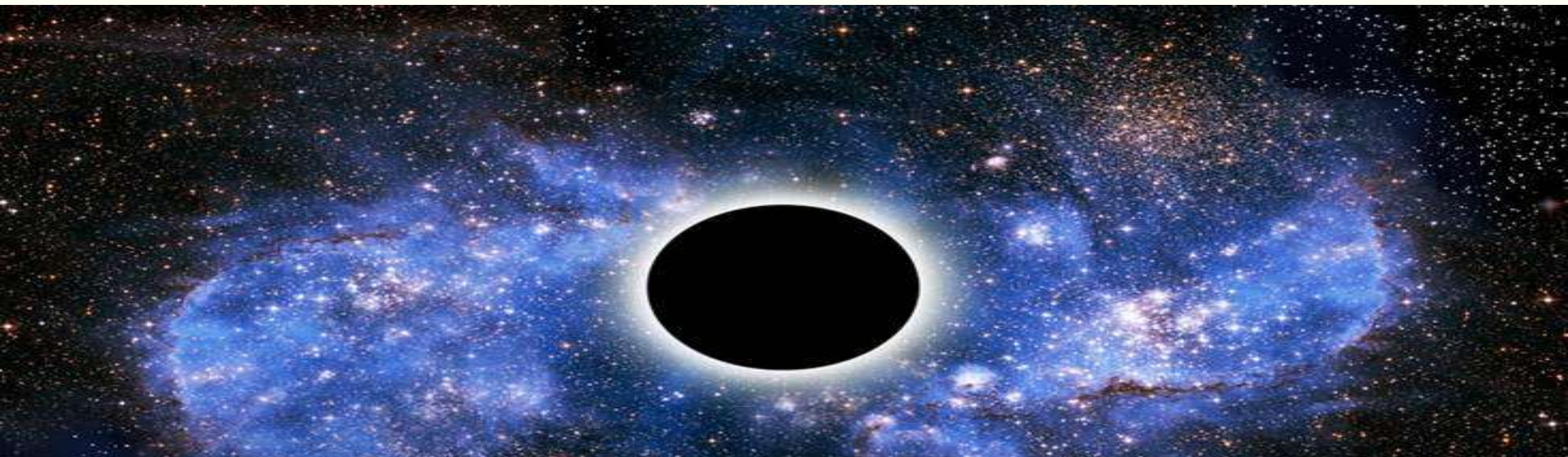
**WHAT WOULD
YOU DO IF
YOU WEREN'T
AFRAID?**



GO into all
the world



We are living in exponential times...
... the speed of change is
unimaginable and accelerating



Years it took to reach 50 million users:

Telephone - 75 years



Radio - 38 years



TV - 13 years



Internet - 4 years



Instagram Threads - 24 hours



If 22 year-old Facebook were a country . . .



. . . it would be the largest country in the world

. . . MORE THAN TWICE the size of China and India, and 8.8 times bigger than the U.S.

~ Texting became useful about
25 years ago



~ **97%** of American adults text

~ Text messages have a
98% open rate versus
only **20%** for email.

~ **95%** of text messages are
read in under 3 minutes.

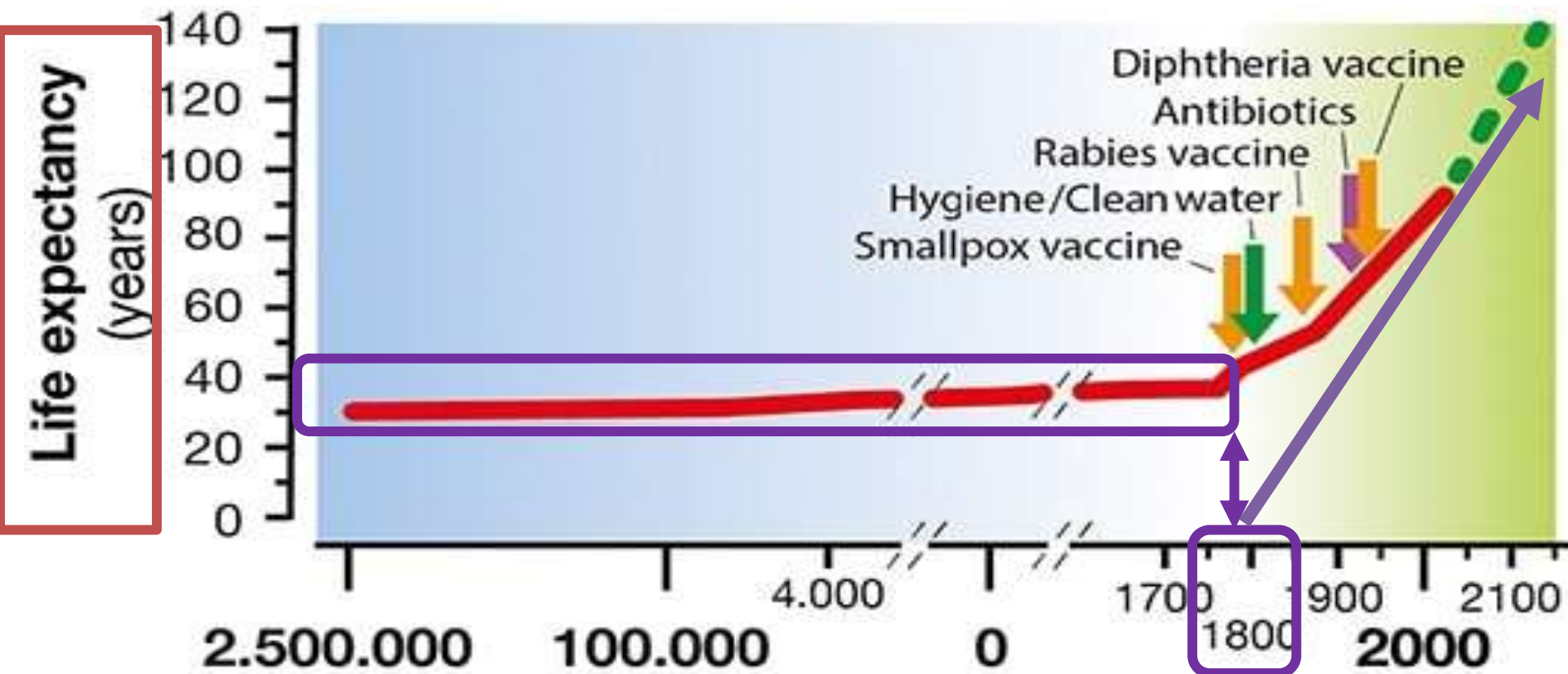
“In the next 10 years, we will experience as many changes as humanity has seen during the past century.”



Ray Kurzweil
Futurist at Google, Co-
Founder of Singularity
University

Longevity Escape Velocity (LEV)

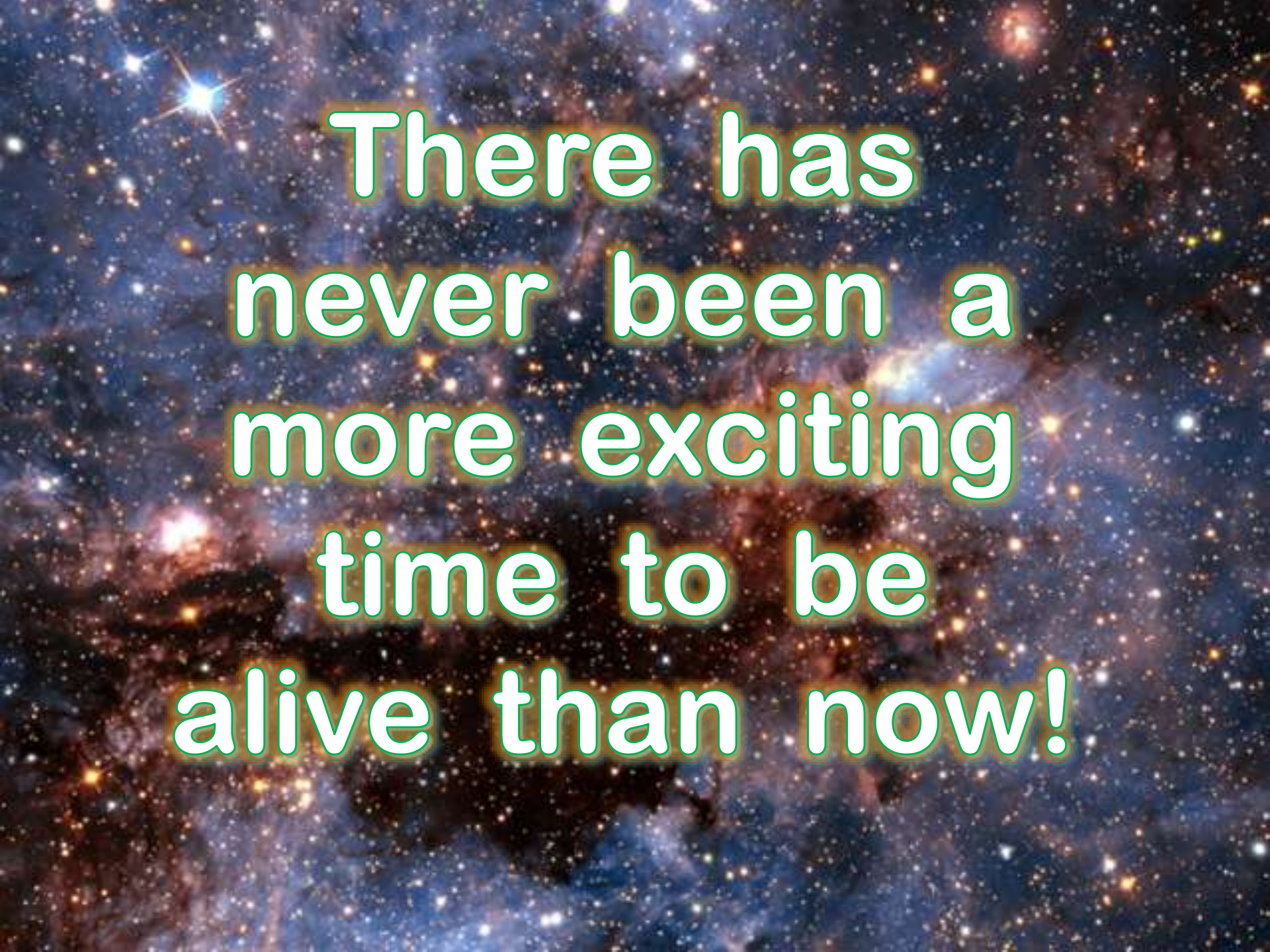
AI will extend your remaining life expectancy to have another year of life for each year you live.



Your Main Objective



“Don’t die from something stupid” in
the next 5-10 years until we reach
Longevity Escape Velocity



There has
never been a
more exciting
time to be
alive than now!



MIND BLOWN



**My Obsession
With
WHY**

“You cannot teach adults new things. You can merely create the environment in which they discover the truth for themselves.”



What are you doing to fulfill?





“I beg you to live worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”

Ephesians 4:1



Why?

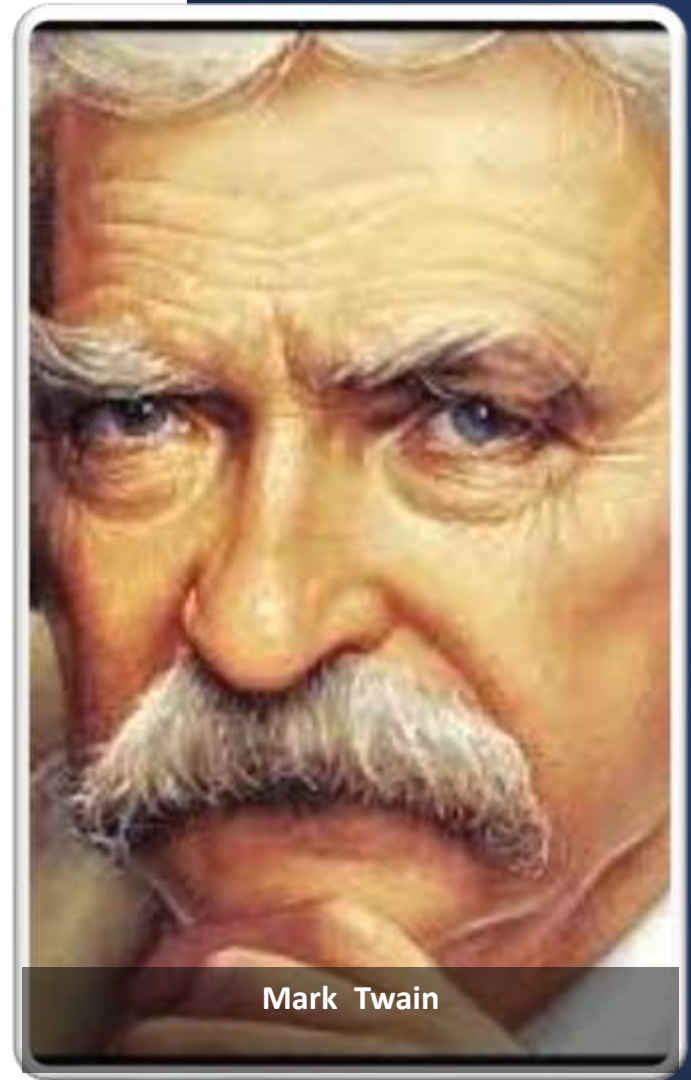
“That the end of our lives may be Christian, without pain, blameless and peaceful,

and for a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.”

“Two of the most important days of your life are:

First, the day you were born; and

Second, the day you figure out why.”



Mark Twain

My 1981 WHY Statement as a lawyer



Elevator Pitch to Prospects

What is a sales prospect interested in? Solutions to problems. With that in mind, your elevator pitch to a sales prospect should highlight how your product serves or solves your client's problems.

Bill Marianes is a transactional attorney with the law firm Troutman Sanders in Atlanta. When people ask him what he does for a living, he says, "I'm a problem solver and dream facilitator." That's appropriate, because when people come to see a lawyer, he says, they either have a problem or something they want to accomplish. After hearing the Marianes elevator pitch, prospective clients are always lured into asking him more detail about what he does.

He never responds to the question, "What do you do?" with "I'm an attorney." That kind of response, he says, means, "I'm stuck with whatever box they put all the attorneys and lawyers in. I don't have a chance to distinguish myself."



"I'm a problem solver
and dream facilitator"



WHY Statement



**Helping people and
parishes discover and live
their stewardship
callings...**

**...so that they may have
a “good account before
the awesome judgement
seat of Christ”**

(II Corinthians 5:10)

So, how can you discover your WHY?



Peter Diamandis's AI Tool To Discover Your “**MTP**” Massive Transformative Purpose

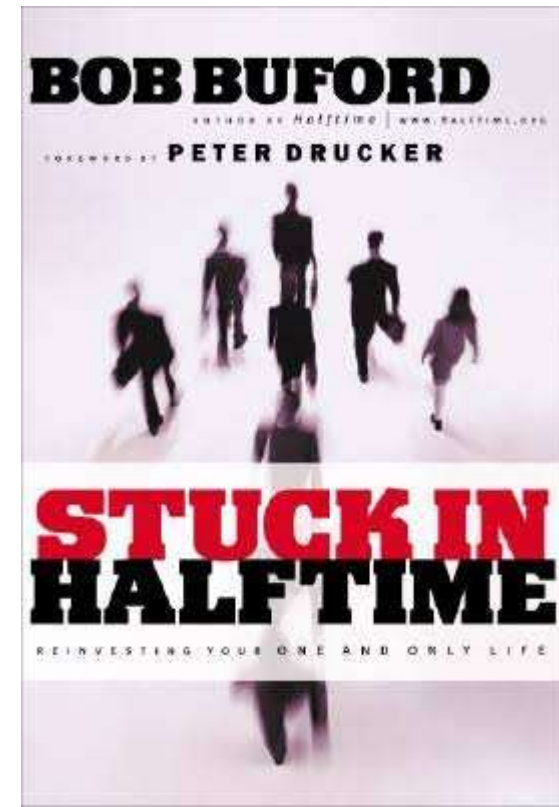


<https://purposefinder.ai/>



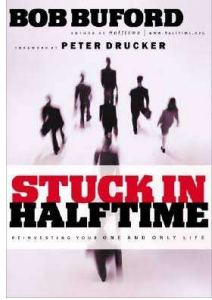
Bob Buford

From
“success” to
“significance”

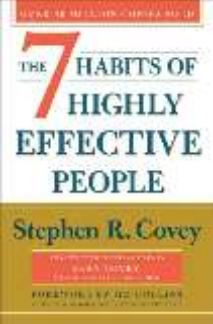




“Finding Your “One Thing”



1. What do I want to be remembered for?
2. What would my ideal life look like?
3. What is my deepest source of inspiration
4. What legacy do I want to leave?

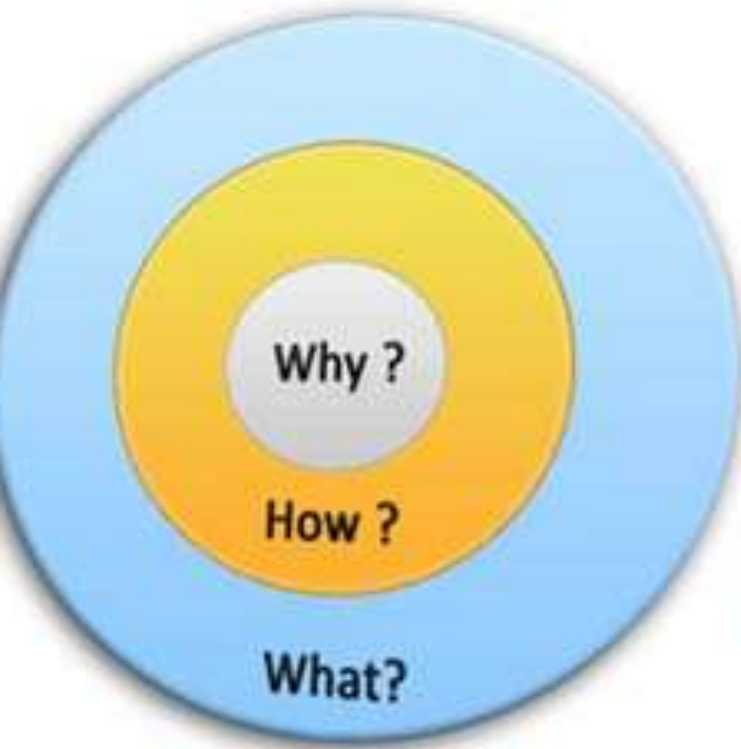


Stephen Covey's Funeral Exercise

(Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind" from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.*)

- 1. Imagine 4 Speakers At Your Funeral** - a family member, friend, work colleague, community member.
- 2. Reflect On Their Words**
 - What do I want them to say about my life?"
 - What of my qualities did they most admire?
 - What did I contribute to their lives?
 - What kind of relationships did I form?
 - What legacy did I leave behind?
- 3. Write Your Own Eulogy** - Compare your vision to your current life. Identify gaps between what you want to be remembered for and how you are living now?
- 4. Identify Areas For Change** - Set new goals and intentions for your life. Adjustment that align your daily habits with your deepest values.

Simon Sinek's “Golden Circle”



Why = The Purpose

What is your cause? What do you believe?

How = The Process

Specific actions taken to realize the Why.

What = The Result

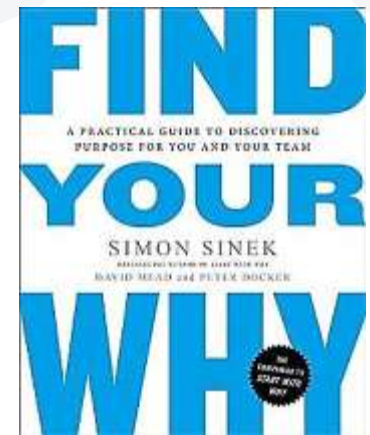
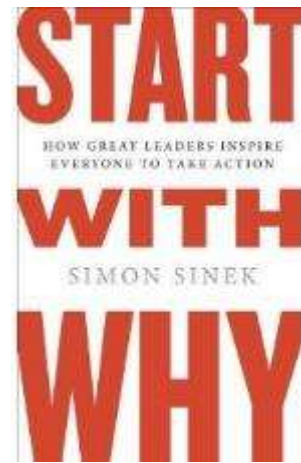
What do you do? The result of Why. Proof.

“People don’t buy-in to what you do. They buy-in to why you do it.”

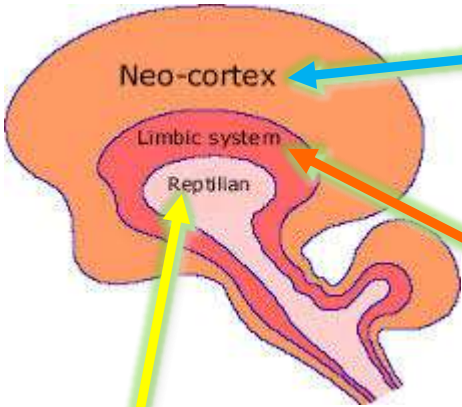


Simon Sinek

“But if you don’t know why you do what you do, how will you inspire anyone else to follow you?”



Human Brain



The Neo-cortex “Thinking” brain (where all language gets processed)

The Limbic “Feeling” brain (it has no capacity for language)

The Reptilian “Acting” brain (it drives action)

● THE NEW BRAIN
RATIONAL

● THE MIDDLE BRAIN
EMOTIONAL

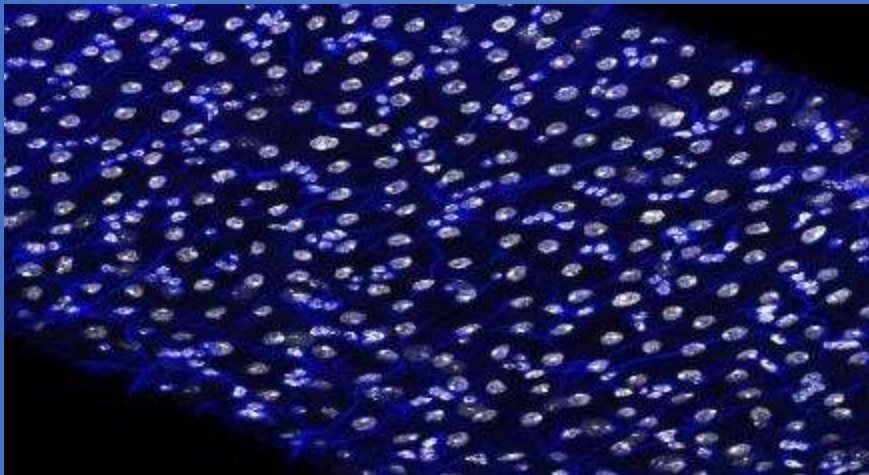
● THE REPTILIAN BRAIN
INSTINCTUAL



Your Second Brain¹ Controls Your Actions

The enteric nervous system (“second brain”) in our gut has 100+ million neurons

“A big part of our emotions are probably influenced by the nerves in our gut...”



¹ [The Second Brain](#) (HarperCollins) [Dr. Michael Gershon](#), Chairman Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at New York–Presbyterian Hospital/**Columbia University Medical Center**

² Pictures of midgut enteric neuron system taken from PhD dissertation of [Dr. Alexis Marianes](#) –“*How to bust a gut: physiological and stem cell compartmentalization in the Drosophila midgut*” - Johns Hopkins University (2013)



The Ends Today's Science Lesson



MY STEWARDSHIP CALLING WHY DISCOVERY PROCESS



**THE 3
ACTIONS
YOU MUST
TAKE FIRST**

**THE 3
QUESTIONS
TO ASK
NEXT**





3 Critical Actions



STEWARDSHIP
CALLING

Accept

that GOD is in control



Listen

to all of God's messengers



Assess

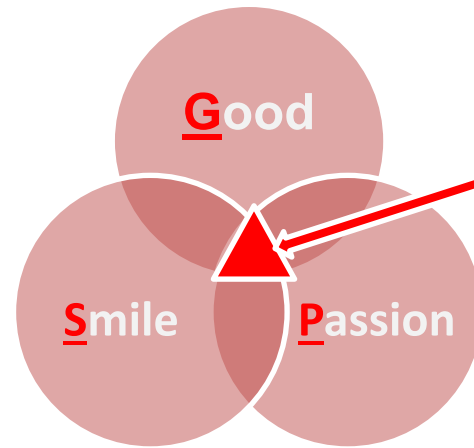
The meaning or your big life events
(connect the "dots" of your life)

3 Critical G.P.S. Questions





3 Critical G.P.S. Questions



Your
G. P. S.
WHY

1. What am I Good at?
2. What am I Passionate about?
3. What makes me Smile?

“Orthodox WHY Guy” Podcasts

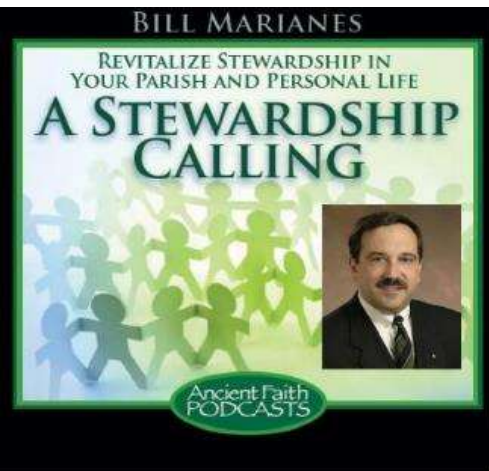


1. **“GPS” - The GOD Positioning System** (1-31-16)

2. **Why Am I Here?** (7-31-16)

3. **Good and Faithfull Servant Through Living Your Stewardship Calling** (with +Fr. George Livanos) (5-26-21)

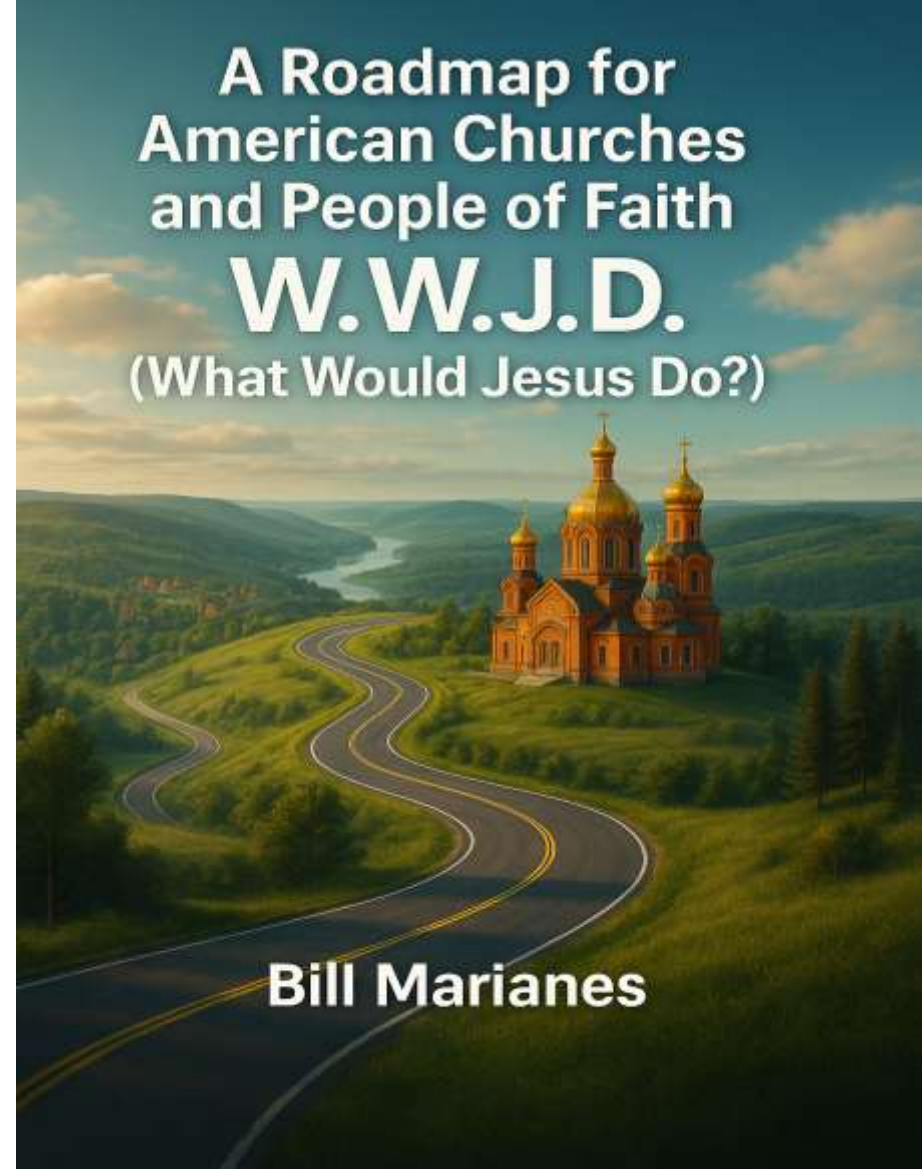
4. **Why Are You Here on Earth? What Is Your Purpose?** (with Jim Huling) (8-31-20)



A Roadmap for American Churches and People of Faith: W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do?)

For more detailed discussion, see:

Chapter 7: **Why Start With Why** (pages 144 – 150)



www.churchroadmap.com

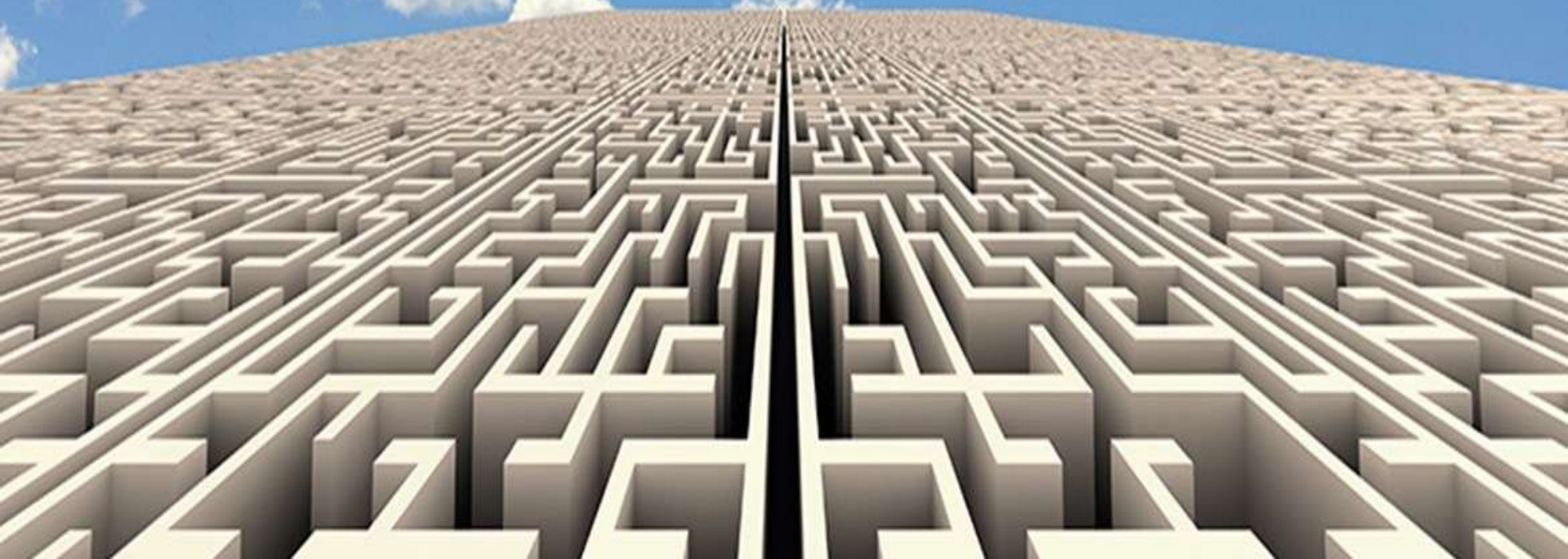


**Once you know your WHY and Core Values,
life becomes much easier to live.**

So do you know WHY You Are Here?

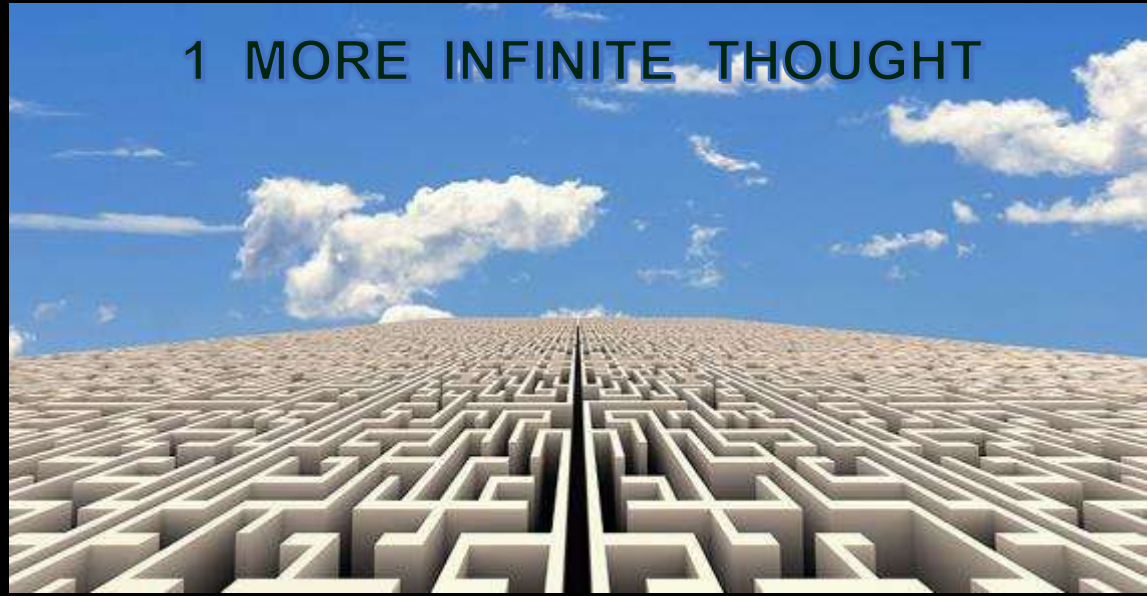


1 More Infinite Thought



You are
playing an
 ∞ game...

1 MORE INFINITE THOUGHT



...not a
finite game.

FINITE GAME

- ~ players are known
 - ~ rules are fixed
 - ~ endpoint is clear
 - ~ winners and losers are easily identified

(like football or chess)



INFINITE GAME

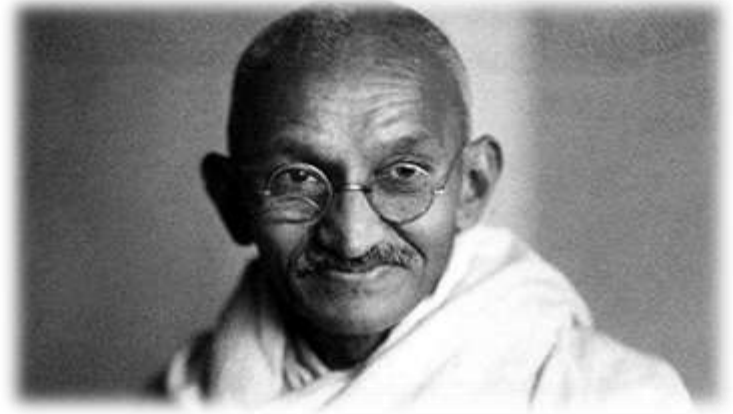
- ~ rules are changeable
 - ~ there is no defined endpoint
 - ~ players come and go
 - ~ there are no winners or losers
 - ~ there is only ahead and behind

(like life itself)

You're Never Too Old To Begin Again

Change
is coming

Now What?



**“Live as if you
were to die
tomorrow. Learn
as if you were
to live forever.”**

Mahatma Gandhi



1 Week After My 70th Birthday



Gainesville's Greek
**Forrest
Gump**



**“A society
grows great
when old
men and
women plant
trees in
whose
shade they
shall never
sit.”**

Greek Proverb





**“The best
time to plant
a tree was
20 years
ago.**

**The second
best time is
today.”**



**AND NOW A WORD
FROM OUR SPONSOR**

To Download This Presentation

www.stewardshipcalling.com

Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

WHY? STEWARDSHIP STRATEGIC PLANNING INTERNET RADIO & PODCASTS **KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP** RESOURCES

PERSONAL

LEADERSHIP

ONENESS IN CHRIST –
AMERICAN CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

HOLY CROSS LEADERSHIP
CLASS

ST. KATHERINE – MELBOURNE,
FL. – IGNITING THE FLAME

ROTARY PRESENTATIONS

IGNITING THE FLAME –
GREENSBORO, NC

Rotary Presentations

Keynotes &
Leadership Tab

Rotary
Presentations



<https://stewardshipcalling.com/rotary-presentation/>

Dr. Bill Marianes 2026 Rotary Presentation





**AND NOW BACK TO
OUR REGULARLY
SCHEDULED
PROGRAMMING**

TURN *the* PAGE



**There comes a day
when you realize
turning the page is
the best feeling in
the world.**

**Because you
realize there's so
much more to the
book than the page
you are stuck on.**

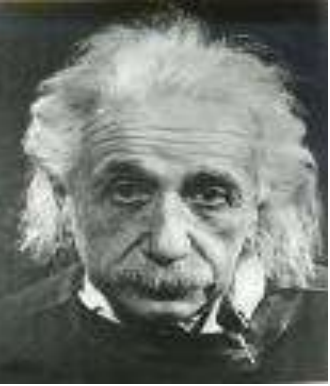




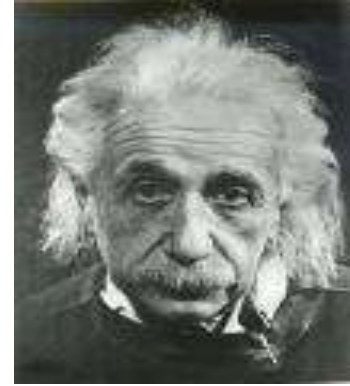
Words may inspire, but only ACTION creates change. Most of us live our lives by accident - we live life as it happens. Fulfillment comes when we live our lives on purpose.

— *Simon Sinek* —

AZ QUOTES



Albert's Insight



❖ What was Albert Einstein's greatest contribution?

❖ ~~$E=mc^2$~~

“NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL SOMETHING MOVES”



Marianes Corollary

**“NOTHING HAPPENS
UNTIL SOMEBODY
MOVES”**



A sunset over a body of water with a small boat in the distance. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. A small boat is visible in the middle ground.

**“The best way to
predict the future is
to create it.”**

Peter Drucker

Any Questions?

Because I'm...

...on a mission from God...





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