

# Your UNFAIR ADVANTAGE

TRAVELING THE HIDDEN PATHS  
OF THE LORD



# Matthew Maury

(1806 – 1873)

- He's called the Pathfinder of the Seas, and the Father of Oceanography and Meteorology.
- He took God's Word literally and when it said there were paths in the sea, he went looking for them.
- His discoveries gave sailors who followed the paths he discovered a **big advantage** in shipping times, cutting the time it took to cross the Atlantic by a third!



“And whatsoever passes through the paths of the sea...” (Psalm 8:8)



- Maury determined that if [God](#)'s Word said there were 'paths' in the seas, then there must be paths.
- *“I have been blamed by men of science, both in this country and in England, for quoting the Bible in confirmation of the doctrines of physical geography. The Bible, they say, was not written for scientific purposes, and is therefore no authority in matters of science. I beg pardon! The Bible IS authority for everything it touches.”*

# Wind Has Weight

- “For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees under the whole heavens, To establish a **weight** for the wind” (Job 28:24-25)
- “. . . though the fact that the air has weight is here so distantly announced [in Job], philosophers never recognized the fact until within comparatively a recent period, and then it was proclaimed by them as a great discovery. Nevertheless, the fact was set forth as distinctly in the book of nature as it is in the book of revelation” (The Bible)



# He leads me in the paths of righteousness

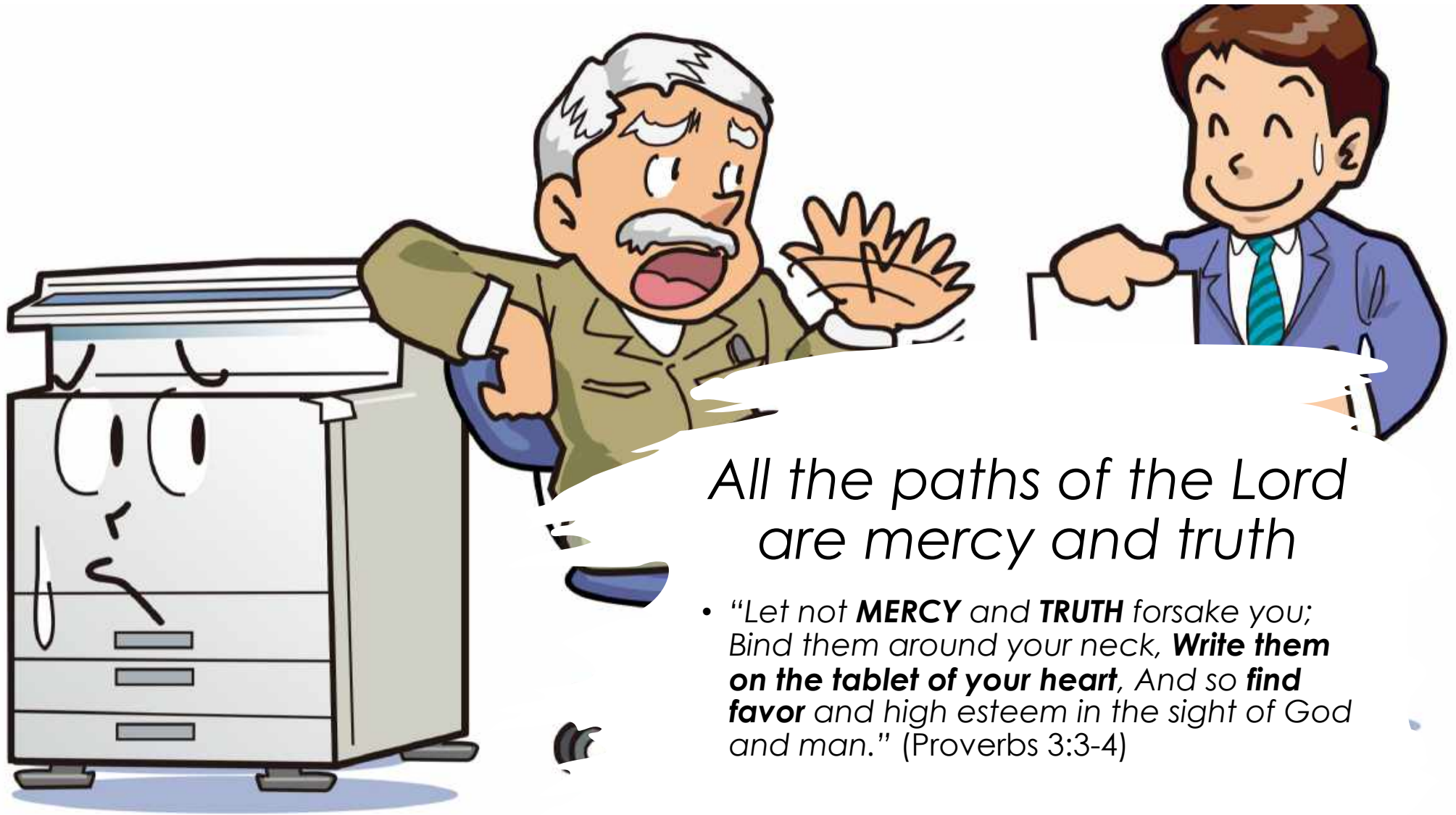
- All the **paths** of the Lord are **mercy and truth**, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. (Psalm 25:10)
- Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her **paths** are **peace**. (Proverbs 3:17)
- You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your **paths** drip with **abundance**. (Psalm 65:11)
- Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your **paths**. (Psalm 25:4)



*The Lord has paths  
for us to travel on –  
Not only on the sea,  
but also in business!*

- In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your **paths**.  
(Proverbs 3:6)
- Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways  
and see, And ask for the old **paths**,  
where the good way *is*, And walk in  
it; Then you will find rest for your  
souls. (Jeremiah 6:16)
- I will bring the blind by a way they  
did not know; I will lead them  
in **paths** they have not known. I will  
make darkness light before them,  
And crooked places straight. These  
things I will do for them, And not  
forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)





All the paths of the Lord  
are mercy and truth

- “Let not **MERCY** and **TRUTH** forsake you; Bind them around your neck, **Write them on the tablet of your heart**, And so **find favor** and high esteem in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3-4)

# How to Write On Your Heart

An ancient Roman, diamond tipped  
Iron stylus (pen)



- The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of your altars, (Jeremiah 17:1)
- My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; **Write them on the tablet of your heart.** (Proverbs 7:1-3)
- My tongue is the pen of a ready writer (Psalm 45:1)

# TRUTH...

- I have chosen the way of truth.  
(Psalm 119:30)
- For my mouth will speak truth;  
Wickedness is an abomination  
to my lips. (Proverbs 8:7)
- The truthful lip shall be  
established forever, But a lying  
tongue is but for a moment.  
(Proverbs 12:19)
- Lying lips are an abomination  
to the Lord, but those who deal  
truthfully are His delight.  
(Proverbs 12:22)



# MERCY...

- But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (Ephesians 2:4)
- ...the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)
- Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
- ...he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:8)
- Man who did not deserve mercy...



# Imagination: The GOD Card

- “And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, **which they have imagined to do.**” (Gen 11:6 KJV)
- “Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those **whose imaginations are consumed with You**; they confidently trust in You.” (Isaiah 26:3 TPT)
- “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,” (Eph. 3:20)
- When God gave us imagination, He gave us a piece of Himself, of His Divine Nature. We are His children and thus according to Genesis 1:26 we were made in His image and in His LIKENESS.





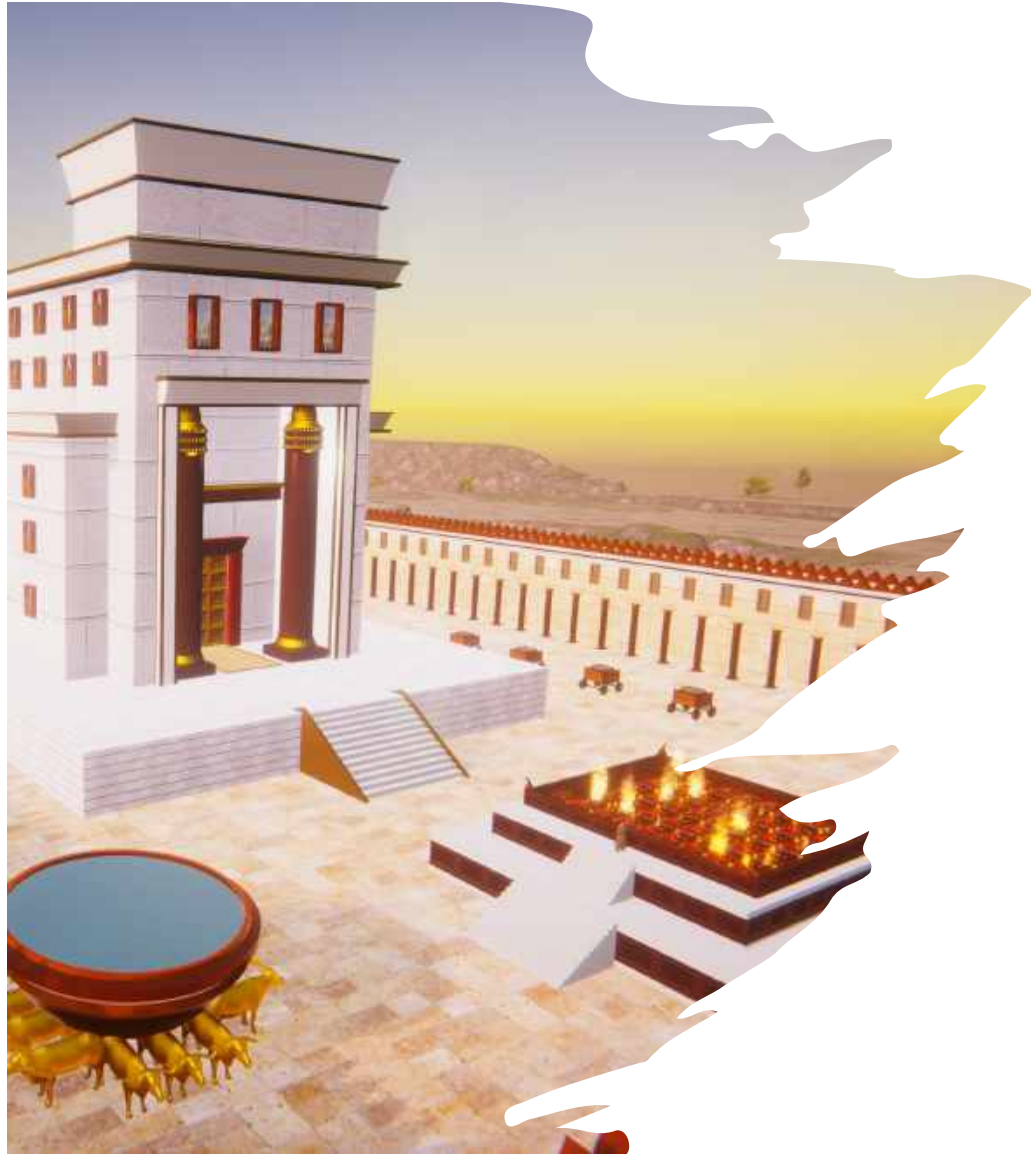
## *Angels Watching Over Us*

- We were made just a little lower than Elohim (another name for God) (Psalm 8:5).
- But we are too afraid to say that, so we use the translation that says we are a little lower than the angels.
- According to Hebrews 1:14, angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to us, not the other way around.

# Mind of Christ...

- We have been given the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)
- We have the capacity to think along the lines He does.
- And part of that God-like capacity is the gift of imagination.
- With your imagination you can construct your world. You can actually frame it from the ground up and in the process, learn by seeing exactly what to do in the physical realm.





- And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the **imaginings of the thoughts**: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.
- Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.
- <sup>11</sup> Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern (image, plan) of the porch, and of the houses thereof, ... And the pattern of all that **he had by the Spirit**,

- According to the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, the Hebrew word *yêtsér* means **“imagination that forms and frames up”**. It is your imagination that frames your reality.

- All things are twice created. First in the imagination and then in the physical realm.

- Your imagination creates the framework with which to build. It allows you to see or envision the end result before you produce it.





## How to Direct Your Imagination

*"Look also at ships... They are turned by a very small rudder **wherever the pilot desires... Even so the tongue.**" (James 3:4-5)*

- Your tongue (the words you speak) direct your path in life much like a rudder directs the path of a ship.
- It's very difficult to speak about one thing while thinking about another.
- Choose to speak out loud along the lines of your intended purpose and your imaginations will quickly fall in line.
- Your words can be the whip that keeps your mind and imagination stayed on the right course of the desired purpose.



# Like Making a Cake...

- You speak (add ingredients), think (mix them together), then taste test and if necessary, speak (add more ingredients) and think some more (mix it altogether) until finally you have the right consistency.
- Then comes the fiery trial... You put it the oven. You put your idea under the heat of scrutiny and testing until baked perfectly.
- Don't overly scrutinize so that you leave it in the oven too long. Take it out while it's still moist.
- Don't let it die in the paralysis of analysis.
- When baked just right, pull it out of the oven, dress it up (put icing on it) and take it market.



*“Let the words of my mouth **and the meditation of my heart** be acceptable in your sight oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14)*

“Let the words of my mouth, the speeches I give, the messages I deliver and the meditations, musings, even the very ponderings and resounding music I hear within my midst (my inner being) and dance within my heart, bring delight and satisfaction to you oh LORD my strength, my beautiful rock, my Mighty One and my redeemer, who purchased me from destruction and delivered me from slavery.”

- The person who can harness at will, the gift of directed imagination towards a desired end result, in a way that is as vivid as anything seen in the created order, and so real to them as to impact their emotions in a tangible expression, be that a smile, a laugh, a tear or a joyful sense of expectation, will by definition have proceeded through hope unto faith and with that faith will certainly apprehend the object of their desire.



## In Closing: The Words of Jesus...

“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” (Mark 9:23) “Have faith in God. (Have the faith of God) For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, **but believes that those things he says will be done**, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**” (Mark 11:22-24)

*"ADVERSITY And OPPORTUNITY  
Are Joined At The Hip"*



## *Problems Are Your Provision*

- Your problems are guarding your provision because opportunity and adversity are joined at the hip.
- They are as inseparable as a shadow being cast by a tree in the sun.

# Lose the Fear

- About 830 years before Christ, a prophet named Elisha was living in Samaria and their city was besieged by the Syrians. As food ran out, a donkey's head was selling as food for \$400 or \$500 in today's money.
- Four Leppers: They reasoned that if they went inside the city gates, they would starve to death with everyone else, but if they stayed just outside the city walls, they would also starve, so they might as well go in the direction of the problem in case there was provision there.
- Worst case scenario, they would die at the hands of the Syrians, which was no worse than their current options.
- **With the fear of losing out of the way...** They were able to walk right up to their massive problem (the Syrian army) and God caused the problem to flee in terror.
- But it didn't happen until they took action.



*Don't let the fear  
of losing, keep you  
back from your  
provision*

- So many people are afraid of losing that they never venture out of the security of what they know.
- And slowly, very slowly, they die on the inside.
- First their dreams die.
- Then their hopes.
- Then their joy.
- And then one day, they die, having lived a life of smallness of heart and mediocrity at best.



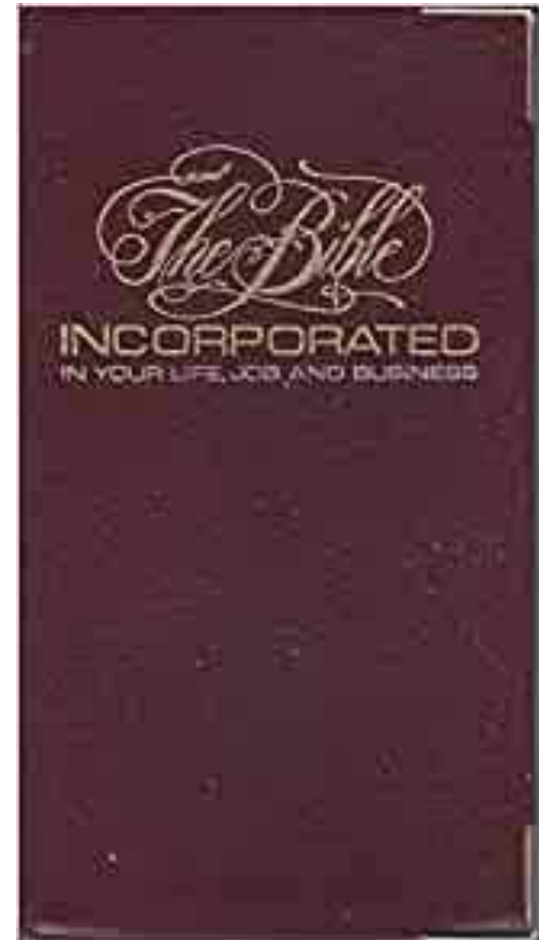
## The Bigger the Problem, **The Bigger The Opportunity**

- “Only do not rebel against the Lord, neither fear the people (giants) of the land, for **they are bread for us**. Their defense and the shadow [of protection] is removed from over them, but the Lord is with us. Fear them not.” (Numbers 14:9)
- “Give us this day, **our daily bread...**” (Matthew 6:12)



# Where Provision Hides

- Victory is sweet, but impossible without a problem, challenge, or adversity to overcome.
- When problems come, REJOICE! They ALWAYS contain the solution.
- They ALWAYS contain your provision.
- They ALWAYS lead to something equal to, or better than, the problem itself.
- People complain about lack.
- They are waste deep in problems, which means they are waste deep in opportunity.
- The opportunities look like problems, BECAUSE THEY ARE, and it's in the solving of the problem, they find their food.



More people  
become  
millionaires by  
solving problems  
than by any  
other means.





# How Do You Solve Problems?

- The short answer is to face them.
- See them as opportunities.
- The bigger the problem, the bigger the opportunity.
- It's a spiritual law that is beyond contestation!
- Ask God for His wisdom and the best strategy or response to unlock the provision contained inside the problem.
- He will do that.
- For me, that sometimes comes in that still small voice, but it often comes out of me as I begin to discuss possible solutions