

Powerful Beyond Measure!

By: Kim Cook

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are born to manifest the glory of God within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

From the 1994 Inaugural Speech of Nelson Mandela.

Powerful, wouldn't you agree?

I read this while pacing the waiting room of my veterinarian's office, praying to God, my higher power, that my precious puppy would not die. After four hours of tears, tests, love and care, the wonderful and talented doctors diagnosed him with 'idiot-owner-stupidious', and I was told to keep my puppy away from horse hoof clippings.

As I walked out of the examining room, Mr. Mandela's framed speech once again caught my eye, and I asked if they could copy it for me.

That speech grabbed my heart so hard that even through my tears I could feel it's power.

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

Powerful beyond measure?!? It takes strength, determination, and dedication to be powerful beyond measure! It takes self-discipline to be powerful beyond measure. Sometimes it's easier just to be adequate. Sometimes it's easier just to 'get by'.

Ad'e.quate *adj.* barely sufficient; suitable for immediate need.

It's easier, but not very rewarding. Being 'adequate' does not do justice to the life you have been given.

Do you ever think how much easier it would be if you had a 9 to 5 job that allowed you to come home at night and feel secure about your future? I have to admit that sometimes I feel that way. The hours Bill and I have to put in just to be self-employed are excruciating. Our desire to be financially secure is physically and mentally exhausting. But we don't want to just 'get by'. We don't want to be adequate. We want our lives to be exciting and extraordinary! So we work hard, and we set goals and strive to accomplish them. Like you, we have chosen real estate as the 'vehicle' that will help make our lives financially secure.

There is uncertainty in real estate just as there is uncertainty in life. **But if you let that uncertainty cause you fear, then that fear will cause you uncertainty.** Does that make sense? It does to my little pea-brain.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

I translate that to mean success. Not necessarily financial success, but rather success in everything we do. Health, happiness, marriage, career, and most importantly...life. Our ability to succeed, to be a success, is often scary. Our fear of failure often times keeps us from trying something new and then striving to make it our success. Our fear, therefore, keeps us in the same cookie cutter world in which we feel most comfortable. In real estate, I don't want the fear of uncertainty and of the unknown to stop me from learning something new, educating myself on it and then having the guts to move forward. Life is full of choices, and I choose to educate myself so that I can make the right choices.

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As I look at this Investors Association, now in its fourth year, I see the changes and the personal growth that its members have made. The amount and quality of friendships that have formed and business partners that have developed are astounding. People who probably never would have met are now 'doing lunch' and brainstorming ideas together. All because of a little investors group in North Georgia.

Bill and I think about the members of this Association every day. And though keeping this Association fresh and exciting is hard work, we feel blessed to be a part of something so wonderful.

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The point of this column, the point I am trying to make is that you—the members of this Association—have helped me to grow and become a better person. Thank you.

I hope that in some small way, we have helped your 'light' shine a little brighter. I hope that we have helped broaden your understanding of real estate investing and therefore helped make your world a little more secure.