

A silhouette of a person standing on a rocky outcrop, looking out over a vast, starry night sky. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, facing away from the viewer. The sky is filled with numerous stars, creating a sense of depth and vastness. The overall mood is contemplative and inspiring.

Are you the barrier to your success?

**Practical tips to help you
lead a life of purpose!**

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

The one thing that most successful people have in common is that they have learned how to tie their gifts and talents to their passions. I am often asked to mentor others who are struggling to find their purpose in life. I have heard it all: “I hate my job.” “Why can’t I get promoted?” “Why is my business struggling?” “I have no support.” “I don’t know what I want to be when I grow up (even if they are 50 years old).”

Throughout our lives, we are often groomed to pursue the dreams and ideals of those who raised and influenced us. We are told to go to college, get a good job, climb the corporate ladder, earn a decent living...yada, yada, yada. Some of us get caught up in impressing others with prestigious titles and expensive material goods, yet still feel unfulfilled.

The truth is, we are all born with our own unique gifts. The life path that works for one person may not be the one that works for you. One of life's guarantees is that we each have our own personal journey to follow. Therefore, we must take the time to understand who we are, what we have to offer and create a plan that will enable us to live our own distinct and unique life of purpose.



I have found that the most important element of this equation is to work from a place of service and never chase money. One of the important lessons I have mastered throughout my 48 years is that individuals who chase money instead of passion and purpose live miserable lives.

Although I am a staunch advocate for financial education and proper money management, I know for sure that money does not buy happiness.

You can be a mega media mogul and philanthropist, but your path and journey to get there will never be the same as Oprah's. Your sojourn will be based on your own personal vision and talent and how you use these gifts to serve others.

You must have a strategy, but remember that when you work from a place of service, the money will come because you are obedient to a higher power, placing yourself in the position to receive blessings, and live a life of joy and abundance.

**“ YOUR POWER LIES WITHIN
YOU! USE YOUR GIFTS TO
SERVE OTHERS! ”**



Understand your gifts & talent! I must admit I struggled to understand what my true gifts and talents were. As a young child I wanted to be a singer like my mom, but I wasn't blessed with the gift of song. In fact, when I sing my husband jokingly says I sound like Kermit the Frog on crack. I still sing in the privacy of my home because it makes me happy, but I know that my singing voice is not the gift that I am meant to share with others.

My gifts are my ability to grasp information quickly, to build long-term relationships built on integrity and an innate skill to take charge and make things happen when no one else can. I combined these gifts with the vision I had for a dream job in Corporate America and now to become a small business owner. I put in the work, built the relationships and reached my goal. I now have another vision in my head; to share my story about my extremely challenging upbringing with others so I can inspire and empower those who are struggling to overcome what they believe to be insurmountable circumstances. I have a strategy and plan. I am putting in the work, building the relationships and making it happen!

So how do you get started finding your purpose in life? The first step is understanding more about yourself. Fill out this template below to begin the process.

WHAT THINGS DO YOU DO WELL?

WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY?

WHAT / WHO FUELS MY PASSION?

WHAT / WHO DEPLETES MY JOY?

After completing this template, immediately develop a plan to unload everything in the "What / Who depletes my joy" list to the best of your ability. Do it quick and freaking fast! I understand that this exercise may not be easy; but remember, nothing in life worth having comes easy. You have to put in the work with fortitude to change your circumstances.



If you have family members in your life who deplete your joy, it will be hard to walk away. The most courageous thing you can do for yourself is to learn how to love these people from a distance. Not everyone is meant to go on your journey with you. Be prepared, people will call you selfish, stuck up, or uncaring in an effort to make you feel ashamed or guilty for prioritizing your own needs. You cannot feel guilty for doing what is necessary for your mental well-being and success. If you're not at peace with who you are, you will be no good to anyone else. It is okay to love yourself, to be confident in who you are, and to be unapologetic for having standards for who and what you accept in your life.

MAKE A CHANGE NO MATTER HOW SMALL

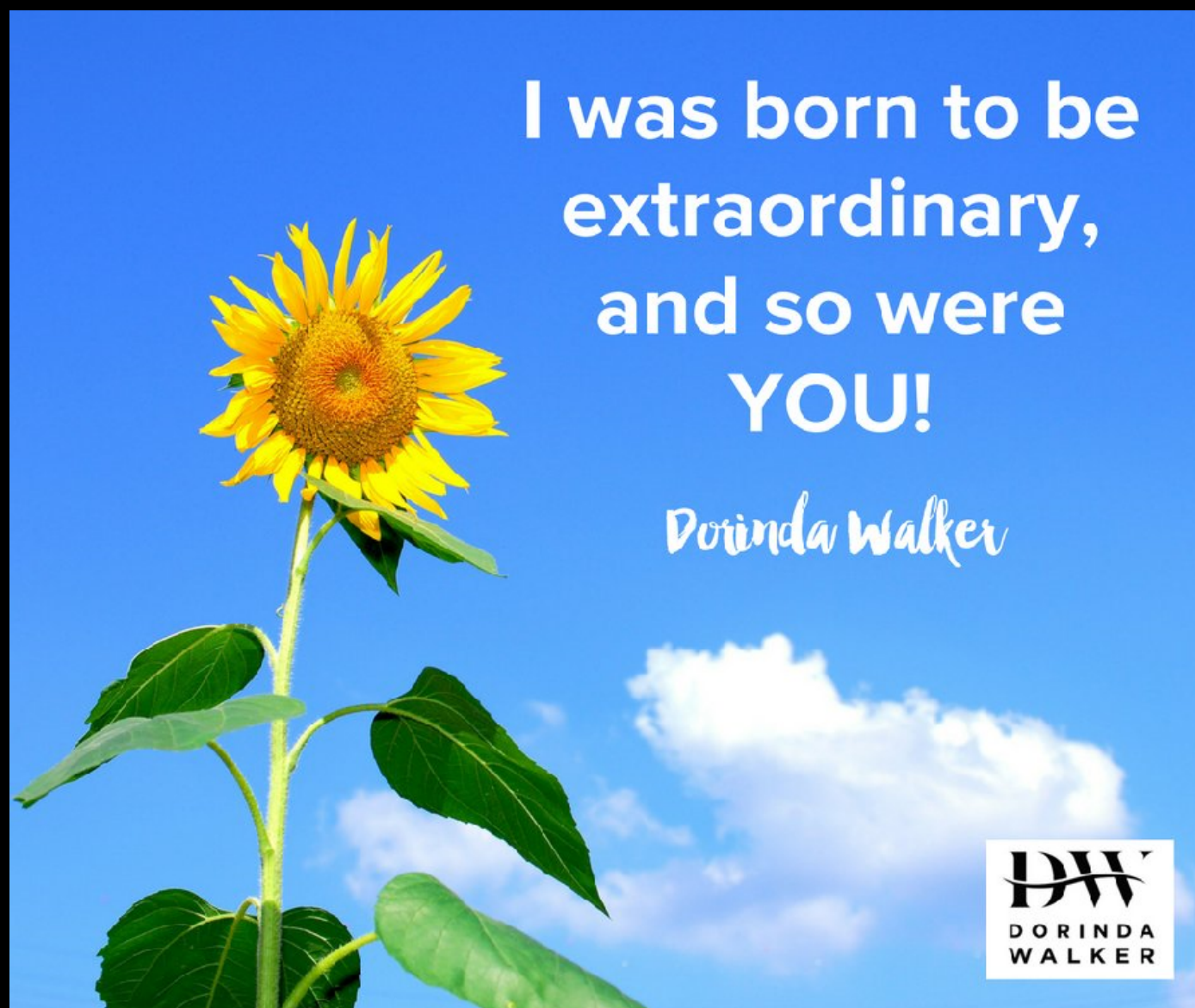
“*DREAM BIG, WORK HARD, STAY
FOCUSED AND SURROUND
YOURSELF WITH GOOD PEOPLE!*”



If there are people in your circle who you call “friends” that deplete your joy, you have adopted and accepted the wrong definition of friendship. Friends don’t bring you down; they embrace, support and uplift you. If it’s your living environment, develop a plan to change it. If it’s depression, substance abuse, mental or physical abuse, seek help immediately, have faith in yourself and that there is a God or a higher being who will help you overcome your issues. If it’s work or your career, develop a plan to shift into another gear; take the reins and make a change.

Once you have assessed the things you do well, what makes you happy and who fuels your passion, you will need to determine how to leverage them to achieve the vision you have for your life. Remember that you cannot change the past. Do not focus on prior mistakes and hold on to those experiences as baggage. Learn to forgive yourself, and the people or circumstances that have held you down. Keep it moving, stay focused and don’t look back!

FOLLOW YOUR VISION



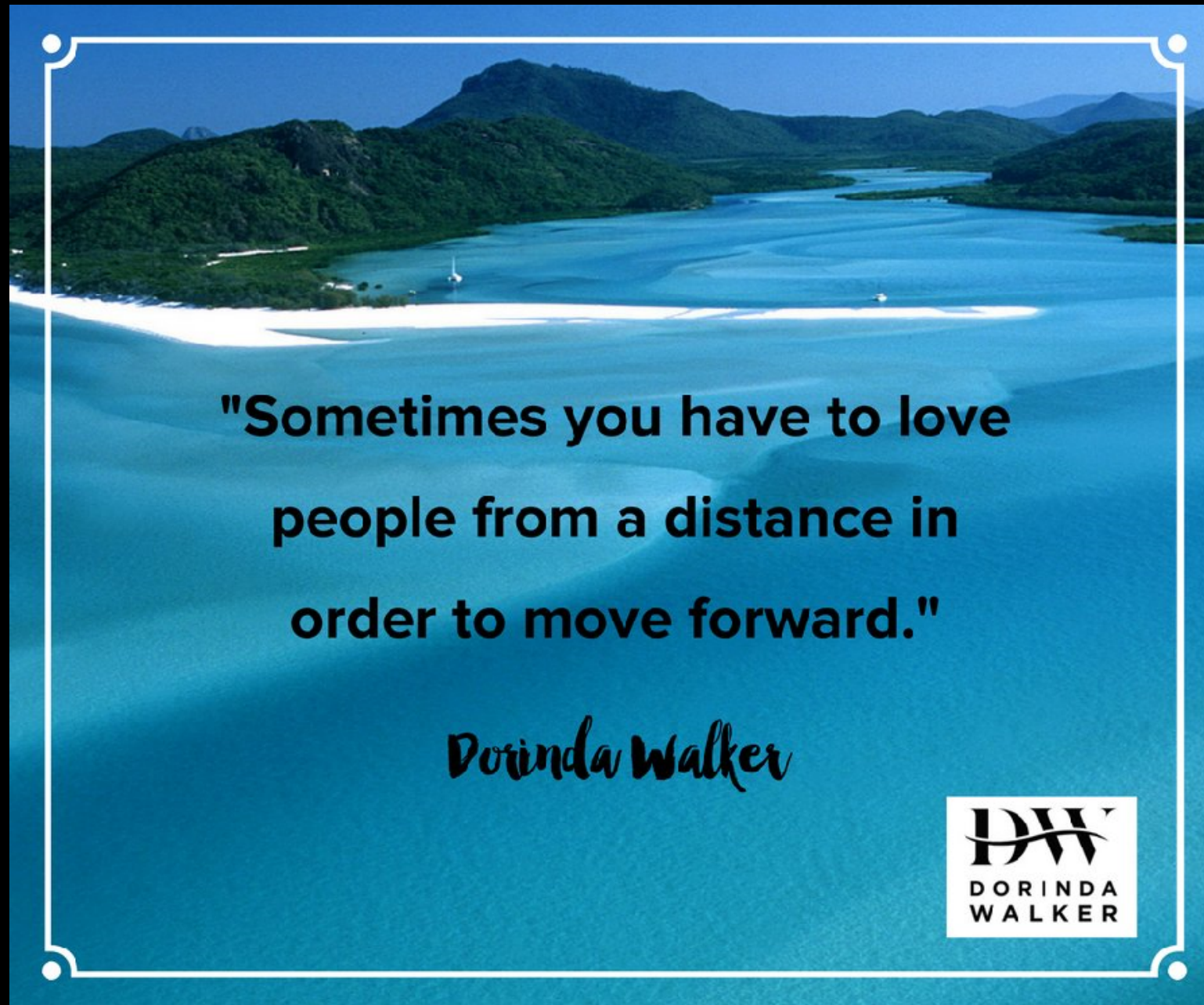
I am a firm believer that when God puts a vision in your head, there's nothing else to do but work to make it happen. I can't tell you how many times I have heard people say, "I want to write a book," "I want to start a business," "I want change my career," and other wishes. They talk about their dreams but are resistant or don't know how to take the first step to put in the work required. In most cases, they are unwilling to overcome their fear of failure and the unknown. When you become complacent with what you have achieved, you have placed self-imposed limitations on what God says you are truly capable of.

There is a quote that states, "the killer of great is good." Were you born to be good and mediocre or great and extraordinary? Don't sell yourself short; it's unappealing, especially when you are seeking advice and support from people who have proven they know how to WIN.



That brings me to my next tip - the importance of building long-term and sustainable relationships. When I was in corporate America, part of my responsibility was to sponsor community events. Often, when presumptuous individuals found out what I do for a living, they treated me as if I was the answer to achieving their dreams. But believe me, I was no one's direct ticket to nirvana. Especially since I could sense that they had no interest in developing a relationship with me as a "real person." It was all about their project or their initiative. They didn't do their homework to research and determine if their initiative aligned to my employer's mission, objectives or sponsorship requirements; heck, 90% of the time they were not a match. Plus, they hadn't even completed a competitive analysis to determine how their event or initiative differentiates them in the marketplace. In most cases they were one of many doing the same things.

INTEGRITY WINS THE DAY!



What do you require for individuals to be part of your circle. If you have no requirements and standards for who you let into your life, you open yourself up to drama and distraction. I have always taught my children to be very careful about who they let into their inner circle. I am like a drill sergeant with my message, “Your circle of friends influence who you become. If you are the most successful person in your circle, you need a new circle!”

If you want to be part of my professional or personal circle, I require that you work from a place of integrity. I am fortunate to have a great circle of friends, advisors and a board of directors that support and uplift one another. It’s not about me, me, me; it's about US. We come together collectively to ensure that we are all inspiring and empowering others to WIN.

NEVER GIVE UP

Failure is certainly an option! I'd like to touch on the importance of perseverance. I don't know anyone who has not failed or struggled on their journey to success.

Steve Harvey, Jim Carrey and Tyler Perry were homeless. Bill Gates' first business failed miserably. Richard Branson, one of the richest people in the UK, is dyslexic.

J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame was a single mother living off welfare, suffered from deep depression and considered suicide. But one thing she wishes she'd been warned about early on was how to handle failure*. On the NBC Today Show, she was quoted saying, "I don't think we talk about failure enough. It would've really helped to have someone who had had a measure of success come say to me, 'You will fail. That's inevitable. It's what you do with it.'"

Her net worth today is estimated to be \$1 billion. All I can add to these success stories is that when you have a vision or a passion burning in your soul and you find yourself faced with one obstacle after another, you are most definitely headed towards greatness. The devil will try to deter, distract and pull you down, but if you are relentless with fortitude and faith, the reward will be much bigger than you could ever imagine. My hope is that my words somehow inspired and motivated you to take the necessary steps to pursue your dreams.

* Source if you need it : <http://www.businessinsider.com/jk-rowling-on-failure-2015-4#ixzz3aDs3GiAE>

I wish you much joy and success wherever your journey takes you!

You can also contact me at
:www.dorindawalker.com, follow me Facebook
@dorindajwalker and on Twitter and Instagram
@DorindaWalker for additional insights and
encouragement.



**"Everyone is born with a
gift. You must pursue
your purpose in life."**

Dorinda Walker

