

# Three Deaths, One Mission: From ME to Legacy

*How dying three times taught me how to truly live*

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## The Boy Who Ran

I was ten years old when my parents' marriage finally shattered.

The sound of it breaking sent me crawling out my bedroom window into the Tennessee night, staying gone for days at a time. Running from the pain. Running from the chaos. Running from everything I couldn't control.

At sixteen, Mom had reached the end of her rope. She bought me a one-way bus ticket to Florida - to live with the father I barely knew. Those final days of my childhood, living with Dad, became the best days of my young life. For the first time, I felt like I belonged somewhere.

But even then, I was still running - just in a different direction.

Graduation led to the Army. Three years, overseas deployment, and a awakening that changed everything. Seeing the poverty in Korea, I realized just how blessed this country really is. For the first time, I stopped looking inward and started looking outward.

I thought I was growing up. I had no idea I was just getting started.

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## The Man Who Built

After the Army, I bounced around like a pinball until I landed in San Antonio and met the woman who would become my wife of 44 years. We built a life together - two boys between us, four of her kids from an earlier marriage. Six children total, and suddenly my world expanded beyond myself.

I worked. I provided. I thought I was doing what men do.

But I was still building for ME. My comfort. My security. My plans. My timeline.

Life was good, but it was small. Contained. Safe.

Then March 15, 2007 arrived like a wrecking ball.

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## The Day I Died Three Times

The massive heart attack came without warning.

I died twice in the ambulance. Once more on the table in the ER.

Three times, my heart stopped. Three times, they brought me back.

But the man who woke up wasn't the same man who had collapsed that morning.

When you've been declared dead three times in one day, you don't get to pretend life is guaranteed anymore. When you've seen the other side of the veil, you can't live like this side is all there is.

Everything changed.

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## **The Struggle to Find Purpose**

The years that followed weren't easy. My heart was damaged - ejection fraction dropped to 20%. I struggled to hold down jobs as my body betrayed the plans I'd made. Eventually, I had to stop working altogether.

The man who had always provided, who had always been strong, was now dependent on others.

It felt like failure.

But God was doing something deeper than I could see. He was preparing me for a mission I never could have imagined.

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## **Stage 3 Kidneys, Hospice Care, and a Revelation**

Now I'm 70. Stage 3 kidney disease. Under hospice care in my own home. Most days, I never leave this house.

The old me would have seen this as the end of the story.

But the me who died three times knows better.

**This isn't where my story ends. This is where my mission begins.**

Homebound but not hopeless. Limited in body but unlimited in purpose. Racing against time but no longer racing away from meaning.

My wonderful wife supports me every step. My youngest son lives here with his wife and two daughters who have stolen their Grandpa's heart completely. I wake up every morning grateful for another day, another chance, another opportunity to build something that matters.

And I spend every waking hour - from early morning until late at night - on this computer, building an empire.

Not for me.

For them.

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## **From ME to Legacy**

The boy who ran from pain is now the man who transforms it into purpose.

The young man who built for himself is now the grandfather building for generations he may never see grow up.

**Sacred Strategy isn't just a productivity system I created. It's the operating system God gave me when He interrupted my plans, refined my heart, and restored my story.**

Every essay I write, every system I build, every piece of wisdom I share - it's all preparation for the day when my voice goes silent but my mission continues.

When that day comes (and it's coming sooner than I'd like), my wife will have resources. My children will have inheritance. My grandchildren will have a legacy. And thousands of creators I've never met will have tools to anchor their own work in something eternal.

**This is what happens when God turns your detour into your direct route.**

**This is what happens when you stop building for ME and start building for LEGACY.**

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## **The Mission Continues**

Every morning I wake up is a gift. Every hour I spend building is worship. Every person who finds clarity through Sacred Strategy is a victory over the chaos that once sent me crawling out windows.

The boy who ran has become the man who builds.

The heart that stopped three times now beats for a mission bigger than itself.

The life that almost ended has become the life that serves.

**I don't know how many more mornings I have.**

But I know what I'll do with the ones I'm given.

I'll build systems that serve others long after I'm gone. I'll write words that anchor souls in storms I'll never see. I'll create tools that help people find their own sacred strategy for turning chaos into clarity, setbacks into setups, and obstacles into opportunities.

**Because every task is a prayer. Every day is a gift. Every moment is a chance to build something eternal.**

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## **Your Sacred Strategy Starts Now**

Maybe you're running from something too.

Maybe your plans have been interrupted by circumstances beyond your control.

Maybe you're wondering how to build something meaningful when time feels short and energy feels limited.

### **Here's what dying three times taught me:**

The mission isn't about you. It's through you.

The legacy isn't what you accomplish. It's what continues after you're gone.

The strategy isn't sacred because it's perfect. It's sacred because it serves.

### **Your sacred strategy starts with a simple question:**

*"What am I building that will matter when I'm no longer here to build it?"*

Answer that question, and you'll discover what I learned in that ambulance:

**The end of your plans might be the beginning of your purpose.**

**The interruption to your goals might be God's invitation to something greater.**

**The death of what you thought your life would be might birth what your life was always meant to become.**



*Every heartbeat is borrowed time. Every day is sacred strategy. Every moment is a chance to build for others.*

### **What will you build with the time you've been given?**

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*Written from hospice care, with a 20% ejection fraction heart, stage 3 kidneys, and unlimited hope.*

*For my wife, my children, my grandchildren, and every creator who needs an anchor in the storm.*