

UNEXPECTED TREASURES

**72 WAYS TO UNCOVER
YOUR HIDDEN WEALTH**

Finding Wealth in Life Where
You Never Thought to Look

DR. MIKEL BROWN

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Unexpected Treasures



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Dedication

To my wife, Deb, who makes me feel as if I won a championship when she married me. To my children, Kelle, Quita, Junior, Josh, Kyla and Matt and all my grandchildren, my legacy is for you.

*To my mother, Arleen, and four brothers,
Kenny, Tony, Corrie and Big D. (Darrol)*



In loving memory of Jeffroe Brown, Jr., my beloved brother and encourager. I miss you! You have always celebrated my accomplishments and made me feel exceptional.



Special thanks to my Platinum Millionaire Connection Associates:

*Scott Whittle
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And to the countless others who support my dream.

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Introduction

YOU ARE SUDDENLY FACED with divorce papers, or you went to work and received a layoff notice without any indication that it was coming, or you are informed by your doctor that a small mass was discovered during a routine examination; you are now filled with anxiety and questions rather than answers. During times like these, our first inclination is to lean toward the negatives instead of seeking out the positives. We have a tendency to allow the present situation to dictate a feeling of desperation, instead of using it to motivate a constant search for inspiration.

Dr. Mikel Brown has counseled and mentored many people from rocky marriages to rocketing careers, and have found one common trend among all of them. And that is that people rarely have answers, but they can ask hundreds of questions. While it is not wrong to have questions, it is a matter of the kind of questions you are scanning your information base to ask. If you are asking questions such as, “Why is this happening to me,” your questions are coming from the mindset of that of a victim. What kind of answer do you expect from a question like this? How would you react if your answer were, “Because you are a bad, inconsiderate, and selfish person and you deserve all of these bad things and more?” The truth of the matter is that asking “why” is an

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injustice to your future. Regardless of what happened—it happened, and you can do something about what should occur next.

I have come to believe that there are no handicaps or disadvantages, just people who believe there are. Time and time again, people with obvious shortcomings have proven that what one person may have over another does not create a disadvantage. The first chapter in this book deals with people such as Kyle Maynard who was born with no elbows and no knees. Kyle became a college award-winning wrestler because he did not see his lack of elbows and knees as a negative.

Your inspiration will always rise from within you if you see your external attacks as opportunities to transform your weaknesses into advantages. Dr. Mikel Brown is among the best in his field. He knows how to move a person and to point them in the direction of their treasures; treasures that lie dormant inside each frail and yet powerful creation. You are your greatest asset and in this book, you will discover why.

No Knees, No Elbows and No Excuses

FROM THE ENTREPRENEUR, to the neurosurgeon, to the professional athlete, there is one common trait found in all successful people. That trait is an uncommon belief in one's ability to succeed and persevere beyond unimaginable hardship and setback.

Why waste time attempting to achieve what you do not believe you can achieve? Many people make half-hearted attempts to accomplish things they do not sincerely believe they can. Michael Jordan was, without doubt, the greatest basketball player of all time—not just because he had exceptional talent but because of his indomitable will to win. His greatness went far beyond physical abilities; it extended to a deep-seated passion that enabled him to turn mere talent into unbelievable artistry on the court. Many NBA players possess rare talent; they would not have gotten to that level without it. However, Michael Jordan became great because, at the time,

Why waste time
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you can achieve?

he worked harder than anyone else in the league to turn physical potential into superior ability. The result was that he performed athletic feats that defied everyone else's beliefs but his own. He pushed the limits of possibility by setting high goals and working hard to accomplish them.

Thomas Edison was relentless in his efforts to invent the light bulb—so much so that he failed over 700 times before achieving his objective. His belief that his efforts would one day pay off was so powerful that surrendering to the temptation to quit was never an option he wanted to entertain. Most inventors would never have ventured beyond the 100th misfire, let alone the 700th. However, Thomas Edison was no ordinary inventor. Clearly, he saw something that fueled his passion to push past one disappointment after another. Those individuals who demonstrate an unwavering belief in themselves provide a great deal for us to examine. Namely, they underscore the fact that there are no failures in life, only quitters.

Kyle Maynard is another encouraging example of someone who defies the odds to live out his passions. As the author of the book “No Excuses,” Mr. Maynard certainly leaves very little room for anybody to feel good about making excuses for failure. Kyle was born without knees or elbows, and yet he overcame those physical handicaps to become a world-class wrestler. He did not allow perceived disadvantages to stop him from achieving any of his personal goals. How is it possible for Kyle Maynard to accomplish so much with his obvious limitations while others fail to achieve theirs without having any personal handicaps of this magnitude? With most individuals, fear is their only crippling handicap.

Below is a list of a few noteworthy individuals who refused to quit and overcame extreme adversity in order to take their place in history:

- German composer, Ludwig Van Beethoven—was deaf and psychologically impaired.
- American inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, regarded as the “Father of Electricity”—was deaf and had learning disabilities.
- American author and lecturer, Helen Keller—was deaf and blind.

No Knees, No Elbows and No Excuses

- British statesman, soldier, and author, Sir Winston Churchill—had a learning disability and a bipolar disorder. He was Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II and received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953.
- German-American theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein—had a learning disability.
- African-American comic and actress, Whoopi Goldberg—has a learning disability. In 1990, she received an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.
- The thirty-second president of the United States from 1933–1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt—contracted polio in 1921. As a result, he used a wheelchair and wore leg braces.
- African-American track and field sprinter, Wilma Rudolph—was the first American woman to win three gold medals in one Olympic game. At age four, she was stricken with scarlet fever, double pneumonia, and polio, and experienced partial paralysis.
- American actor, James Earl Jones—overcame a bad stutter in college, and he is now famous for his voice role as Darth Vader, in Star Wars.
- Country and Western singer, Mel Tillis—stuttered all his life.
- American singer, pianist, arranger and songwriter, Ray Charles—contracted glaucoma at an early age and was blind within a year.
- African-American actor, singer and dancer, Sammy Davis, Jr.—lost his left eye in an auto accident in 1954.
- African-American singer and songwriter, Stevie Wonder—was born blind, but he never saw himself at a disadvantage.
- NY Yankee pitcher, Jim Abbott—was born with only one hand. He pitched a no-hitter on September 4, 1993.

These are just a few inspirational figures who pushed beyond their obvious limitations by ignoring them. If these individuals did not allow their handicaps to stop them, why should you?