

What People Are Saying About Wayne Chaney Jr. and *Your Miraculous Potential*

More! We were built in His image for more. Everyone desires more. However, as we live our lives, other people, life experiences, and our own environment start placing limitations on our minds. Our limiting thoughts lead to limiting decisions and actions. My friend Wayne Chaney's book *Your Miraculous Potential* will unlock the potential you were born with. You never lost it. It's still there! Read this book and walk into your miraculous potential.

—Sam Chand

Leadership Consultant

Author, *Leadership Pain* and *8 Steps to Achieve Your Destiny*

In his new book, Wayne Chaney shares powerful keys that will blast you out of a mundane life into one of God-sized potential. As you learn how God speaks to you and the identity He has for you, you cannot help but be expanded!

—Bishop Dale C. Bronner

Founder and Senior Pastor, Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral
Atlanta, GA

This is a significant book in that it confronts what is, in my opinion, the greatest single issue facing the church throughout the world today, namely, whether we will seek to represent the kingdom of God with the best of human ingenuity, machinations, and plans or allow God to capture us and represent Himself in His awesome power through us.... Wayne Chaney, in personal passion and lifestyle, represents the title of this presentation, *Your Miraculous Potential*.... Read this volume carefully, commit yourself to God without reservation, and begin moving in your limitless potential. Thank you, Wayne, for this clear, graphic, and vivid offering to this broken, burdened, and bothered generation.

—Jack R. Taylor

President, Dimensions Ministries, Melbourne, Florida

For years, I have been richly blessed by the ministry of my friend Wayne Chaney. He is remarkably gifted in expounding on the truths of Scripture with clarity while contextualizing it to address the myriad challenges we face in life. That is exactly what you will experience as you read and reflect on the pages of this book. Each chapter is scripturally grounded as well as

personally focused and culturally relevant. We all have “miraculous potential,” but so few of us ever really tap into it. In this seminal work, Wayne Chaney shows us how! This is an essential read for all those who are serious about knowing God in a greater way and fulfilling their dreams.

—Van Moody

Bestselling author, *The People Factor* and *The I Factor*

Every once in a while the kingdom of God releases a fresh voice with a fresh vision. Wayne Chaney is the manifestation of this truth. His book *Your Miraculous Potential* is not only an innovative examination of the Word and will of God for His children in our day, but it is presented in an articulate manner that will grip your heart and spirit with the higher, deeper, broader, wider possibilities and new dimensions of a miraculous relationship with the living God. Page after page will take you from revelation to reality as Chaney unveils scenes from his own spiritual autobiography, grounded in biblical theology, and demonstrates the potential of our progress and maturity in the will and desire of the Father. You will learn how God wants to lovingly transition you from...mere study of the miraculous—in the lives of other people and other times—to personal, practical experiences of the God who still speaks to us and desires our spiritual response and experience of the miraculous. This work will give you a hunger and thirst...for the promises of God and His prophetic power for your life's journey.

—Kenneth C. Ulmer, PhD, DMin

Presiding Bishop, Macedonia International Bible Fellowship

Your Miraculous Potential: though the title sounds somewhat mystical, ontological, and ethereal, the principles in this book will enhance you mentally and emotionally, as well as spiritually. It does not simply make the miraculous an unattached, outward contributor but also takes into account the psychological effect that a new God-awareness can have on us. This God-awareness embellishes both the psychological and spiritual regions of our lives so that we become more than we ever thought we could be. Here is the latch that releases the “miraculous.” This significant work will bless you richly.

—Bishop Noel Jones

Noel Jones Ministries

Senior pastor, City of Refuge Church, Gardena, California

YOUR MIRACULOUS **POTENTIAL**

MAXIMIZING GOD'S GIFTS OF
CREATIVITY, GUIDANCE, AND POWER

Wayne CHANEY JR.



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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YOUR MIRACULOUS POTENTIAL:

Maximizing God's Gifts of Creativity, Guidance, and Power

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Myesha:

You are the living embodiment of the virtuous woman in Proverbs and lovingly hold my heart captive. You have been and shall forever be “Wayne’s Girl.” I dedicate this book to you and our children, Wayne, Reign, and Cadence, who have already arisen to call you “blessed.” You all have enriched my life in every way. Everything I do is for God’s glory and to make you proud.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pastor Joe Chaney Jr. (PaPa): You taught me what love and integrity truly looked like, and you were, for me, a shelter from life’s rain.

Maxine Chaney (Granny): You sacrificed so much for me to experience the best, and I will forever be in your debt because of it. I love you more than you will ever know.

Denise Johnson (Mom): You gave me life and lovingly guided me back into the arms of my heavenly Father in the years when I lost both my belief and conviction. Thank you for allowing the Lord to use you to anchor my soul. P.S. Your prenatal prayers over me have prevailed.

Wayne Chaney Sr. (Dad): Your commitment to the service of humanity and pursuit of nobility in an age of dishonor have inspired me and all who know you. Yet, it is your consistent love for me and the Chaney family that continually connects my heart to yours.

The Martins (Tom, Myra, Monique, Keisho, Kiara): You are not in-laws but family. The depth of gratitude I feel toward you all cannot be captured with words. You have given me the love of my life, defended my honor, and opened your lives and hearts to me, and for that I will forever be grateful.

The Johnsons (Bill, Caleb, Camden, Dietrich): It seems like yesterday that we all lived under the same roof, crammed into the car for road trips, and listened to Aunt B and Grandma Johnson sing Christmas carols in the key of Z flat. While life has moved our physical addresses, it has not changed the place you all have in my heart.

My Chaney Siblings (Chris, Joseph, Maya): I love you all dearly and am impressed daily with the sense of greatness that rests over you. I stand in eager anticipation for all our heavenly Father will do in you and through you in the days to come. Your miraculous destiny awaits!

My Antioch Church Family: Your love for me and relentless pursuit of Christ have been a saving grace in my lowest moments. Thank you for keeping my arms lifted and for your willingness to continually follow me into unknown territory. Never lose your hunger for His best!

My Village (family, extended family, friends, and colleagues): Your love, prayers, and contribution to my life have enriched me in every way.

Don Milam: Thank you for hearing heaven's frequency in my message and connecting me to a literary outlet that would appreciate it. You were the answer to the prayer my wife and I prayed in our room the night before we met.

Lois Puglisi: Your genius should not be credited to your literary insights alone, but is also due to your theological proficiency, diversity of experience, intuition, and passion for His kingdom. Thank you for all of your editorial excellence. It was an honor to work with you.

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FOREWORD

This is a significant book in that it confronts what is, in my opinion, the greatest single issue facing the church throughout the world today, namely, whether we will seek to represent the kingdom of God with the best of human ingenuity, machinations, and plans or allow God to capture us and represent Himself in His awesome power through us. The latter, God representing Himself through us, will be achieved as the church at large and every born-again member, in particular, bows to the government of God. This will, in turn, prompt the greatest awakening in world history.

Wayne Chaney, in personal passion and lifestyle, represents the title of this presentation, *Your Miraculous Potential*. This book reminded me of something I heard almost half a century ago: “If we could but show the world that being committed to Christ is no tame, humdrum, sheltered monotony but indeed the greatest adventure the human spirit could ever know, the world, standing outside our churches, would come rushing in, and we could expect the greatest revival since Pentecost”!

Moses found out the difference between what he could accomplish as a capable shepherd with an ordinary staff in his hand in managing a herd of mindless sheep—and what he could do to

change history by throwing his staff on the ground at the Lord's directive and picking it up again as the staff of God. (See Exodus 4:1–5.) Before that event, there was a good man, a good staff, and a very difficult assignment involving millions of people being extracted from a life of slavery. After that event, the staff, thrown down and picked up again, became the flash point that changed history as God's people were returned to their own land.

The world is waiting for citizens of the kingdom of God who, finding their authentic identities as individuals and as a united enterprise, and accepting their destinies as the people of God, change the landscape of planet Earth by becoming living manifestations of the sons of God. Unknowingly, this is what the world is waiting for: common men and women, indwelt and empowered by the Spirit of God and reflecting the person of Jesus Christ, prepared to co-labor with God in reaping the greatest harvest of souls since the beginning of time. Reading books like *Your Miraculous Potential* will move you toward a desire to be in that number.

After finishing this book, don't just sit there! Start moving in your destiny as a twice-born, God-indwelt, Spirit-anointed child of God, throwing down the rod that identifies you as a mere human being and picking it up again as an ambassador of the eternal King and His kingdom, living amazed at what God can do as Jesus the Christ is lifted up, drawing all men to Himself.

Read this volume carefully, commit yourself to God without reservation, and begin moving in your limitless potential. Thank you, Wayne, for this clear, graphic, and vivid offering to this broken, burdened, and bothered generation.

—Jack R. Taylor
President, Dimensions Ministries
Melbourne, Florida

AN INVITATION

We are all wired with the sense that there is more to our existence than we experience regularly. Whatever our daily cycle, we share the same sentiment: either consciously or subconsciously, we realize we are living beneath our potential. I am not speaking about the classic sense of human potential, as in developing our gifts and abilities. Neither am I speaking in regard to issues of personal motivation, educational pursuits, or life goals. I'm talking about an internal longing that persists until it is satisfied by something greater than the ordinary. This desire is without question a craving for the fulfillment of a potential that often goes untapped.

There is more to people's fascination with fictitious superheroes than the need to be entertained, or to fantasize about escaping the limitations of their own reality. If we were completely honest with ourselves and allowed time for reflection, we would have to admit it is the ability of these superheroes to break the bounds of natural existence that intrigues us most about them. In fact, their ability not only intrigues us but also resonates with the deepest part of our being—that part of us that reaches deeper than the physiological or cerebral and into our non-material essence. The area with undiscovered capabilities, designed by the Creator of all.

Our natural conditioning often causes these abilities to be suppressed, neglected, or even denied. We are taught to distance ourselves from, or to approach with skepticism, anything inexplicable, mysterious, or experientially spiritual. However, denying these realities actually causes us to deny a most valuable part of ourselves.

Sadly, even people of faith have to be convinced of their spiritual possibilities—at times, with as much persuasion as is needed for atheists, agnostics, or general seekers. I speak before many live audiences, and as a disclaimer (usually before presenting the same subject matter contained in this book), I often have to remind people that they believe in a God they can't see, in spiritual beings they can't physically touch, and in a final destination with no empirical data attached to it. The question I pose to them is, "Why stop there?" Since you're already out on the proverbial limb according to the standards of natural logic, why not embrace in its fullness the reality you profess?

With that said, I understand that people have warranted reservations about miraculous claims due to spiritual abuses, bad theology, heretical teachers, and outright quacks. I, too, am concerned about much of what I hear in regard to this subject matter, but I refuse to throw out the baby with the bathwater. And while some people may be leery due to observed abuses, others may be cautious because of their particular theological stance, denominational bent, or long-held beliefs. If this is where you are, please know that my intention is not to argue exhaustively for the place of the miraculous here, though some defense for it will emerge later in this book. My primary focus is not to defend against the critic but rather to bring the willing participant into the reality I myself am experiencing.

I would love to see the emergence of those who could carry the miraculous with a sense of normalcy and a tremendous level of character. Those like the biblical figure Joseph, who was able to tap

into knowledge beyond mere human observation but was sound of mind enough to be given the highest governmental appointment of his time.

For far too long, believers have been as partisan as narrow-minded politicians, dividing themselves into camps that suit their comfort zones, levels of exposure, and experience. In terms of political leanings within the United States, the majority of the population would be classified as either Democrat or Republican. Loyalties and ideologies exist outside of these parties but don't reflect the affiliation of the masses. I've found a unique parallel among people of faith. Though their allegiances aren't always articulated as clearly and their views don't have a universal label, they tend to fall into one of two categories, what I will call "Spirituals" and "Groundeds." "Spirituals" are usually concerned with having an experience or an encounter with God and less concerned with the theological credibility associated with the encounter. They tend to rely heavily on revelation and believe that miraculous encounters and abilities are possible and available today. "Groundeds" prefer time-tested knowledge to experiential encounters; they rarely speak of revelation they've received but rather of what they have studied in the Scriptures. Groundeds theoretically believe in the miraculous but actually feel that most of the supernatural activity of God occurred when the miraculous events described in the Bible originally played out. While very few of them will readily admit this, they have subconsciously made it their default position.

Similar to our political climate, the tensions between these two groups are very real. They even have their own unofficial labels for each another. The Spirituals brand the Groundeds as "uninspired," and the Groundeds classify the Spirituals as "mystics." I imagine that as they read the beginning pages of this book, some are attempting to determine whether my words are consistent with their particular camp of choice or "spiritual party," so they'll know

whether they should continue reading. For the sake of inquiring minds, I think it is important to set the record straight: while I find strengths in both parties, I feel that their shared vulnerability is a partially blind but radical commitment to their exclusive ideologies.

Unfortunately, as in politics, when an individual desires to venture across the set boundaries, that person risks the criticism and sometimes ostracism of their own group. As for me, I choose to organize outside of the parameters of the major spiritual parties. I choose to accept the strengths of both while rejecting their areas of vulnerability. I choose to have both knowledge and zeal, biblical scholarship and revelation, structure and freedom, and insights into supernatural events of the past with fresh faith for miraculous manifestations today. My “party” could be described as those who fall into the category detailed by Jesus when He talked with the Samaritan woman at the well. I am in the camp of believers who encounter and relate to God “*in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23, 24 NIV84). In context, the “*truth*” mentioned here speaks of the proper spiritual dynamics and order necessary to engage Jehovah on His terms (which the Jewish custom possessed). The “*spirit*” portion of the passage deals with the experiential encounter with the divine (which many of the Samaritans seemed to be having without the formal insights of the Jews). Jesus suggests that the Creator of all is looking for “Grounded Spirituals” or “Sound Mystics”—that’s my affiliation!

While balance within the above-mentioned tension is extremely important, my goal in this book is to help us reclaim the supernatural dimension of our existence and our miraculous potential in God. You can rest in the fact that I’m biblically sound and that the accounts that follow are true, with no exaggeration for effect. My life and character can be confirmed by many seasoned spiritual leaders across the globe; but more importantly, my heart is weighed by God.

PART ONE: AWAKENING

SEEDS OF THE MIRACULOUS

It was a day that produced some of the most extraordinary events of my life—but it could not have begun in a more ordinary way. After getting up and following my usual morning routine, I left the house for my weekly breakfast appointment with a few fellow pastors from our beachside city in California. Arriving at our regular meeting place, the local Marriott, I made my way to the hotel's restaurant to find all three guys waiting for me. It was now the established pattern for me to be the last to arrive to the party, so naturally there were a few minutes of banter before we got into any serious conversation.

I ordered my customary Belgian waffle with eggs over easy, and then an awkward silence fell. This quiet was eventually broken by a comment from my friend David. While I can't recall his specific words, the heart of what he said still resonates with me. He mentioned the seriousness of the times we were living in and that God was orchestrating the unfolding of His will by giving us all a unique sense of acceleration in relation to our lives and ministries. This was in response to the unspoken tension we all brought to the table—we were still dealing with the unexpected and sudden deaths of three spiritual leaders in our area within a two-week period. While

his comments weren't to suggest that God had somehow taken their lives in order to sharpen the focus of His people, he did imply that our experience with the loss could have that effect.

I don't know that I received David's words as definitive at that point. After all, the untimely deaths could have been used by God to accelerate His purposes, but they might also have been natural occurrences—and completely coincidental. In response, I made a quick, clever joke to lighten the mood and to escape my internal theological deliberations. We spoke about David's comment for only a few more minutes before shifting topics.

THE GROUND GAVE WAY

As our late breakfast came to a close, we paid the bill and walked out to the parking lot together. Our quartet soon became a duo—David and me—and the subject matter I had been able to cleverly escape at the breakfast table became the central topic of our discussion once more. Again, while I don't fully recall the details of our conversation, I do remember well a word that seemed to trigger a unique experience for me. When he uttered the word “judgment,” I got a quick mental image of what I imagined to be the throne of God, and it felt as if the ground underneath my feet gave way, as if I were standing on a trampoline, and everything around me seemed to jolt. I quickly braced myself between two cars, and when the sensation subsided, I asked my friend, “Did you feel that?” To my surprise, he responded, “Feel what?”

Maybe it was just me. Could this have been a physiological instability as opposed to an environmental one? Although I seemed to have had an unusual experience, I restrained my alarm and allowed David to continue talking. After another twenty seconds or so of conversation, he mentioned the word “judgment” again, and to my astonishment, there was an exact reoccurrence of the first incident triggered by that single word. At this point, I stopped him and

explained precisely what I was experiencing and about the word that had triggered the episodes. Being a spiritually-sensitive and discerning man, David suggested that I pray about it and seek the deeper meaning (if there was any). Still a bit shaken up, I agreed, got into my car, and drove off.

While on the road, thoughts of the recent deaths of our three pastor friends, David's comments, and that morning's unexplained incidents all pervaded my mind. Was God really up to something? Were these events just coincidental, or was there a divine connection between them? It was all too much to grasp at that moment, so I turned on the radio as a temporary distraction and headed to the coffee shop.

EMERGENCY ROOM

After getting my daily triple cafe mocha, I jumped back in the car to head to my office. But before I was able to pull out of the parking lot and into traffic, I began to feel what precedes a loss of consciousness—or what they call in the medical field a “pre-syn-copal episode.” My body seemed to be failing, but my mind raced with many potential scenarios concerning what was happening and what I ought to do: *Should I try to step out of the car for help, and if I do, will I collapse and be hit by incoming traffic? Is this just psychological (possibly a panic attack) or was it physiological (a stroke or a heart issue)? Was this related to my morning conversation and the recent, sudden deaths of the three pastors? Were these my last moments, and if so, who should I call?*

My wife, Myesha, immediately came to mind. Not only is she the person I would want to speak with if my life were coming to a close, but she was, at the time, also a registered nurse (less romantic but very practical). I dialed her number, and when she answered I told her what was going on and that I loved her and the kids. She asked me if I thought I could make the one-minute drive down the

hill to my office or go a few feet farther to the fire station. While in retrospect it probably wasn't the wisest choice, I went to the office, and then Myesha drove me to the fire station. The paramedics took my vitals and suggested that I get to the hospital emergency room immediately. When I arrived, I was promptly taken to an examining room, where a battery of tests began. After a couple of hours, a no-nonsense physician came into my room and said that one of the tests that is used to reveal the possibility of a stroke came back higher than normal and that further tests would be necessary. Before I knew it, I was on a gurney headed for a CT Scan and an MRI.

What was going on? As if my day hadn't been disorienting enough! I was thirty-three years old and the picture of health; in fact, to prove it, I had just run a full marathon with no training just months before. How could I be here? I had started my morning, as most people do, expecting the usual routine, only to find myself laid out on a stretcher facing the reality of my own mortality. Again, thoughts raced through my head. I wondered if I had a serious condition, such as cancer, or a brain tumor that would require surgery, or an incurable illness. Would I leave the hospital at all? I pondered whether my physical challenge had any connection to those of the other pastors who had mysteriously died within two weeks of my own dilemma. Was my current experience somehow related to the image of God's throne and the shaking I had felt earlier?

LIVING BENEATH OUR POSSIBILITIES

The thought of impending death often brings more clarity about life than anything else. Though the idea is rarely discussed, I would be willing to wager that more people make resolutions at funeral services than they do on New Year's Eve. What brings sobriety in those moments isn't necessarily a fear of the unknown but a fear of the *undone*. What arrested me wasn't the idea of transitioning to be

with the Lord but the question of how I had used the years on earth that I'd been given. While I was involved in countless good things, my uneasiness came when I began to consider their true spiritual weight and lasting value. I realized then that some of what I had convinced myself I was doing for God actually had a great deal of personal ambition attached to it. I thought about the things that should have been a priority for me but still remained on the back burner. Likewise, I considered the things that should have been peripheral in my life but had become primary.

I had been blinded to the eternal by the immediate, and while I wanted to present my life's work before God someday, I didn't want it to be *that* day. While, by most standards, I had accomplished a great deal both spiritually and professionally, I also realized that for much of my adulthood, I'd lived beneath the possibilities. I wanted the opportunity to recalibrate the trajectory of my life. So, I silently cried out to God from my gurney, *If You will allow me to leave this hospital, I'll begin to live with more intentionality....* Then I followed up with words that opened an encounter with God that is still unfolding for me: *Please do not allow me to live beneath the possibilities in You!*

The heavens didn't part, nor did angels descend, but somehow I knew that God had honored my heart's cry. Though I didn't feel 100 percent physically, the doctors cleared me, and my wife drove me home. She scolded me (mildly) for working too hard and insisted that I take a few days off to rest. After all I had been through, it didn't take much convincing for me to agree. I responded with a feeble "Okay" and jumped into bed as soon as I got home. For the next few days, I didn't leave the bedroom, and I didn't watch any TV. I wasn't deliberately trying to be pious, but I had no appetite for trivial things. During my brief sabbatical, I read anything and everything I could get my hands on for spiritual inspiration. Aside from the Bible, I read books, articles, and excerpts from revivalists,

reformers, and revolutionary spiritual leaders. One of the random articles I came across was entitled “Seeds of Revival.”

The article described the legacy and observations of Frank Bartleman, one of the men who chronicled much of what took place during the Azusa Street Revival of 1906. I was captivated by a portion of the article that read, “Many today...are foolishly pursuing the effects of revival at the expense of neglecting the conditions of revival.”¹ I translated the comment in this way: “People want the effects of the supernatural (or miraculous) without planting the seeds for the miraculous.” At that moment, I felt a need to renew my hospital gurney prayer, so I again asked God never to let me live beneath the possibilities in Him. I wanted more than an ordinary existence, one beyond the realm of what was possible with my own ingenuity, and this was my opportunity to plant the seeds for it. In the days that followed, I made the same request, and after a time, I felt that something shifted in my spiritual life.

Many people assume that supernatural events present themselves in a spontaneous, unsolicited, and overwhelming manner. Yet for me, the majority of such experiences have emerged from humble beginnings. And God’s answer to my continual prayer during the week following my hospital incident was no different. While I was in this posture of spiritual hunger, my wife happened to read aloud a biblical passage that grabbed my attention and consumed me. It was a Scripture from the book of Joel in which God called His people to cry out to Him on behalf of a land and a people who had drifted from His spiritual blueprint for their lives, dishonoring Him in the process. The message was that if they remained obstinate, He would allow the land to experience lack and devastation. However, if they would simply repent and cry out to Him, He might “*relent*” and also “*leave behind a blessing*” (Joel 2:14). Upon hearing this, I realized that this passage, written more

1. See <http://www.theoldtimegospel.org/studies/serm13.html>.

than twenty-five hundred years ago, has parallels to our own time. The mandate and urgency that seemed to grip this biblical prophet had somehow leaped through the portals of time and landed squarely on me. Let me be clear, my view of the God of heaven is not glimpsed through the lenses of an ever-present threat of disaster. However, I know that the prayers, obedience, and reverence of God's people toward Him can yield unique benefits and blessings, and prevent needless calamity.

The next day happened to be Sunday, and while I already had a message prepared, I was too enraptured by the previous night's experience to stick to our usual agenda. So, without any introduction, I stood spontaneously in the service and began to read the same passage from Joel, which was completely unrelated to anything else that had been said or done that day. To my surprise, a great reverence and an un-coached, electric, worshipful atmosphere fell over the meeting. At that moment, the "*still small voice*" of God (1 Kings 19:12 NKJV, KJV)—which will be demystified for us later—prompted me to call for daily fasting and nightly prayer meetings. But what happened in the days that followed exceeded all of our expectations.