

We've Been Here Before

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney
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I BELIEVE IN BLACK PEOPLE! That may seem a bit dramatic, but after having countless discussions with other black people about the state of black America, I feel it is important to shout it from the rooftops.

Within many in the black community, there is a feeling of hopelessness and disappointment about the ability for African-Americans to succeed and change the course of their future. These feelings, for many, has and is being followed by symptoms of apathy and/or a lack of concern.

I know that the challenges seem insurmountable for many and call me an optimist or a dreamer, but I believe in the ABSOLUTE VERY best in black people.

Do we have problems? YES

Are we having some challenges? YES

But I have the best question of all.

Can we change our situation? YES - YES - YES

I am as motivated right now than I have ever been before, to see African-Americans unite and collaborate to address the issues that seek to impede and stifle us from growth and success.

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Notice that I said that these issues "seek" to impede and stifle our growth and success, but most of the issues are self-inflicted.

Self-fulfilling prophecy is a prediction that directly or indirectly causes itself to become true, by the very terms of the prophecy itself, due to positive or negative feedback between belief and behavior.

In other words, the more you speak something as true or fact, regardless of what it is, those receiving it regularly will tend to believe it as well.

We must speak life and not death to our struggle and our situation, because the struggle is still an ongoing one, whether you choose to accept it or believe it is a fact or not.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1. that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." God has given us the ability to speak things that be not as if they were and are.

In a nutshell, this isn't our first rodeo and the one thing that has been a constant within the black community, is that we have always had a strong faith in God and a continued hope that God would deliver us from the hand of the oppressor.

Black people have had to deal with the struggles and the atrocities of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow, segregation and economic oppression through racism, but we overcame. It wasn't pretty and it wasn't comfortable, but we overcame and change came. We did not give up, even when it seemed as if things were at there worst, we refused to give up as a people.

We must not forget the generation of leaders that have come before us that have passed the torch, laid a solid foundation and given us a tremendous blueprint to follow.

There are no perfect leaders, but each of us is called to be a leader in some capacity to make

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an impact.

God has not forgotten us!!!

The Bible says in the second chapter of Exodus that the Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and God heard their cry for help and God sent someone to deliver them on His behalf.

God isn't ignoring our situation. He sees the poverty, unemployment, disparities and other social and economic ills and He is concerned about it.

Many of us have and continue to cry out and say "God, why do you allow this to happen? Why don't you do something about it?"

His response has been and will always remain the same, "I did do something about it, I created you.

"If we call on God, He won't ignore our cry because He sees what is going on and we must not abandon Him or abandon each other during these challenging times. We must unify and come together to close the gaps, meet the needs and solve the problems.

It is time for the church to step up and take a lead role in unity.

It is time for corporate, business and community leaders to see this as a cause that is important and necessary, not one to be abandoned or ignored.

It is time for YOU to be the change that YOU wish to see in the world.

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If we pull together as a TEAM, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish and achieve.

We do that by putting aside ego and pride and recognizing that individually we can do things, but as a TEAM where TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.

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