



## VIII. WHEN WE HAVE FAITH GOD TAKES OVER

Age: 19

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It was the early summer of 1975. I didn't need to worry about college and classes. I was ready and open for my next adventure. I had taken several day trips down the coast to Daytona Beach so I had some familiarity and a lot of expectation for what it might be like to live and work there. Yet, I wasn't as enthusiastic about going as I thought I should be. It wasn't because of where I was going, Daytona Beach was nice enough. It wasn't the fact that I would still be in the same position there as an assistant rather than as store manager, because I was up for the challenge. Still, I had uncertainty.

I was scheduled to leave the following day. And although everyone expected me to go I was still struggling with my decision. There was only one thing left for me to do. Pray! From the moment I arrived in Jacksonville I began reading everything I could about motivation and positive thinking. My go to author was Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. He not only provided me with a perspective that I could relate to, he supported it with a strong foundational Bible-Based message.

My heart was open and I was constantly searching for direction, Truth and strength. And boy did I need it and quickly. That evening very possibly became the most profound of my short life. I got down on my knees, sought God's guidance, and in the process **surrendered my life to The Lord**. It wasn't a pre-scripted prayer. I just spoke from my heart. In addition, if it was His Will for me to go to Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach is where I would go. If it wasn't, I needed Him to direct my path. I went to sleep that night completely trusting in whatever the outcome would be.

The next morning I would be in for as big a surprise as I've ever had. Abruptly, the manager of the Hollywood, Florida store resigned. A manager of one of Tampa's locations was from Hollywood and had been promised that point if it ever became available. That left Tampa's University Square Mall location in immediate need off a store manager.

Being fully packed and ready to go, I became the solution. No down time for anyone. I could be there the next day. Corporate was happy, the district manager was happy, and I was elated! I got the opportunity I was looking for.

Dr. Peale spoke about the power of positive thinking and the power of prayer, and I was experiencing both first-hand. In a blink of an eye my travel itinerary went from going to Daytona Beach to Tampa, Florida.

From having to prove myself again as an assistant manager to making the leap and being promoted to store manager. I was on a plane heading for my next great adventure and praising The Lord the entire way.

**Page 2 of 2**