

## THE FOUNDATION

As you are starting to get to know me, I don't hide the fact that I would much rather be on a beach, sipping a Pina Colada in 80 degree weather; NOT in Rochester, NY in the winter! But, on this 37 degree, gloomy day, with a steady, cold rain falling; I heard nature beckoning me outside, for nature has always been my greatest teacher. So, with a gentle nudge from God, out I went to receive my much needed lesson for the day. I started my walk through the woods in Boughton Park, my favorite hiking place in the Victor NY area. As I began, a young man walked by me carrying his fishing pole. I was curious if he was really catching fish, as a thin layer of ice was forming on the pond. He said that it was best if he could venture out on the ice, but it was just too thin. I agreed that it probably wasn't the best idea, he should wait until the ice was thick enough to provide a safe and stable base to walk on. I wished him luck and continued on my walk. I made my way to the second pond, my favorite reflection spot. I make it a habit to pray before I start each hike, pray that God reveals to me whatever I needed to learn. I stood there, fully present, with the cold rain falling on my head...waiting. Not long in, I started getting impatient and told God to "spit it out already"; tell me what you dragged me out here for! After all, He knew that I was heading to sunny, warm Cancun in the morning for a golf trip with my buddies; the last thing I wanted or needed was a COLD!! Then, of course, He made me wait there in the freezing, wet rain for what seemed like an hour. As I grew more impatient, staring at the thin ice, BOOM! It came to me.

The message was crystal clear and I heard it instantly, in it's entirety. I reflected on the fisherman's words about the ice being too thin to walk out on; he needed it to be thicker, he needed to wait until nature had done it's job through cold and time. He had to patiently wait until the work was completed, until the ice was safe enough to trust and be able to support him as he stood on it. Nothing in his power could speed up the process, he had to remain patient. My mind immediately went to the Bible story and children's church song about the wise man building his house on the rock. The first verse talks about the foolish man building his house on the sand and how it came crashing down. The lesson for me was that the most important thing I could do, as I worked toward my purpose, was spend time building a strong foundation. I needed this foundation to be solid enough to have 100% faith and trust in the fact that it would support me. This would in fact take time and work, but most importantly, it would require my patience. Building my foundation could not be rushed, nor would it be ready on "my time." I needed to LET GO and LET BE, take Mark Cammilleri out of the equation. Nothing in my power or control could expedite this process. Like the song, Jesus take the wheel says, "Take it from my hand, I can't do this on my own." I had to give complete control over to Him. I was ready to get the car road worthy by tuning the engine and checking the tires; and I was ready to drive the car. But I need to wait for Him to tell me when and to also direct my path.

Before even getting into the car, I had to continue working on my personal growth. Reading books, listening to motivational speakers, studying successful people, reading scripture, listening to uplifting music and writing inspiring material were all the things that I needed to continue doing to build that solid foundation. I was crystal clear in the fact that I needed to be fully committed and that I needed to stay the course with laser focus. It would be then, and only then, that I could venture out onto the ice with complete trust that it would support me with my vision and be able to move purposefully toward my dream.

