



The Practice of Freedom

An Invitation

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This is an Invitation

An invitation to draw Tomorrow's Blueprint from Today's Inkwell
An invitation for you to pick up the research instruments you have been trained in
& play in your section of an orchestra seeking to perfect the symphony of educational
opportunities regardless of age, race, sex, or social economic status

This is an Invitation

An invitation for you to explore and examine the journey of those
who are no longer satisfied with their current life location, career or occupation
& return to institutions seeking solutions for questions
they have about licenses, certifications, vocations & other tools of higher education

This is an Invitation

An invitation for you to embrace a season of paradox where it seems that
everything you thought you knew is minimized
have your opinion criticized
where some things you accepted as truth delegitimized
& your intellectual stubbornness theorized
and
all of this is done just so that the deeper aspects of you can materialize
opening your mind to realize & see with real eyes
that the experiences of your life & others should never be marginalized
& it is your duty to put this journey on record in documentation & publication
to assure that these incredible journeys are respected & recognized

This is an invitation

An invitation to dive into a world of theory
& research methodology, data analysis & probing technology
To challenge your ideology

your beliefs
 your assumptions
 your implicit
 & explicit bias
 your “side of the story” & your psychology
 But if you’re lucky, become an apprentice
 of a jedi master-like professor that will push you into academic fitness
 a person you will hate & love
 but when its all said & done
 the world will witness
 you transcend from a peon seeking social capital & economy
 to discovering that beneath your inhibitions was a paragon & a prodigy

This is an invitation
 An invitation for you to laugh
 at what your superiors said you had the potential to do
 & then stand in awe as you & others marvel at the magnificent work
 that eclipses what everyone expected you to do

This is an invitation
 An invitation to enter into a space & place
 where your very own blood, sweat and tears
 will become the ink you will use to write
 previously unexplored perspectives & stories into the annals of history
 & learn how to simultaneously honor the contributions of others before you
 & offer your own contribution to those coming behind you
 Stabilizing your feet on the shoulders of others
 that you stand on while strengthening your own shoulders
 for the feet of others to stand upon

This is an invitation
 An invitation for you to draw tomorrow’s blueprint from today’s inkwell
 Thank you for accepting this INVITATION.

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Joseph Graham is the Director of Road to Damascus Campus Outreach and the Senior Pastor of Road to Damascus Christian Church. With a Master's degree in Sociology, he is also a researcher, motivational speaker, artist, songwriter and poet. He uses each of these talents as a voice for social justice and fuel for social equality.