

## **It's Not You - It's Me**

**by Claresa Baggs**

Growing up the eldest of 12, it became second nature to always put the wellbeing and feelings of others before my own. To be the mommy figure in many situations.

I am usually the person to promote and encourage others. I am the one rallying around keeping the peace in disruptive situations. My daughter thinks that I let people take advantage of me. She might be right.

I willingly share my knowledge. When I learn new information or skill, I am easily excited that others should know as well. My husband says that I tell everything I know!

I started a couple of businesses and would often get discouraged because I do not receive the same or similar support I try my best to show and give others. This includes family and friends.

I often would sit around in my hurt feelings wondering why the support wasn't reciprocal. Were my works not good enough? Perhaps (hopefully) they just were not aware of what I'm doing.

The Penny Dropped! It's Not You-It's Me!

I made a common assumption! The ill-fated assumption of expecting the same of others. Expecting that others feel the same as I do. Expecting that others have the same sense of urgency to help others shine. To endeavor to elevate the works of personal and business acquaintances.

I have learned that whenever our works are not supported does not mean that they are devalued. We place value on how we view things through the lenses we have developed over our lifetime.

I have learned that our behaviors and practices may not be a perfect fit for everyone but for a great many it fits perfectly.

I have also learned that over time, the preferences of my expanding audiences change and my priorities and expectations of them should evolve as well.

So too must I, in my thought processes both personally and professionally.

Consequently, I have learned, the perceived difficulties and barriers were never yours, they have always been mine.