

UNDERSTANDING & SHAPING MY DESTINY!

Conversation with Luke...

PRAYER – spend time in prayer...

Time

Joseph

Jesus - It is obvious from the life of Christ that He lived with a sense of purpose and destiny. On the cross He cried out; *"It is finished."* (John 19:30) Jesus came to die. He had completed what He had come to do.

Moses...

Each of us has a unique destiny. God has brought us into existence, at this specific point in time, to bring glory to His name, for us to fulfil our small part in His eternal plan and purposes.

David - Paul summarised David's life when he stated that *"when David served God's purposes in his own generation, he fell asleep."* (Acts 13:36) Your destiny is the living out of God's purposes, within your life span.

For **Jeremiah** it was the realisation from the Lord that *"before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."* (Jeremiah 1:5) Jeremiah had a unique destiny to fulfil.

Us – *Ephesians 2:10* tells us that we ourselves are God's craftsmanship, *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

OUR DESTINY IS AN ISSUE OF FOCUS

Each of us is called upon by God to fulfil His overall purposes; to love and worship Him, to share His love with one another and a hurting world, to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ. Paul said in *Romans 15:6* "... so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

But we have also been gifted to play a unique and specific role as members of the Body of Christ. Throughout history, God has called His servants to use their gifts and abilities to influence the hearts and the lives of their generation. Destiny relates to the ability of a believer to FOCUS on their ministry according to God's unique and specific call on their life.

John Knox cried for a nation; "*Give me Scotland or I shall die.*"

Martin Luther saw a Reformation of the Church; "*a gospel of grace through faith*".

John Flynn, an Australian Methodist missionary saw an inland Australia covered by a "*mantle of safety.*"

Here is a question that is worth thinking about...

If you knew you would not fail
what would you do for the Glory of God?

5 PARTS TO CONSIDER

- 1. YOUR VALUES**
- 2. YOUR UNIQUENESS**
- 3. YOUR PERSONAL VISION**
- 4. YOUR PERSONAL MISSION**
- 5. YOUR GOALS**

YOUR VALUES

My values are...

1. What is important to me.
2. What God says about me.
3. What I inherently believe.

These are the things that set you apart...

YOUR UNIQUENESS

David declares in Psalm 139 the wonder of how each of us are "*fearfully and wonderfully made.*" The next step is gaining an understanding of your uniqueness as an individual.

- 1. My Personality**
- 2. My Spiritual Giftedness**
- 3. My Ministry passions**
- 4. My Life's (Personal) Roles**

YOUR PERSONAL VISION

For the disciple vision is the ability to see the future from God's perspective; it is God's preferable future. Personal Vision focuses on the future; it is God designed and man discovered. It flows from the redemptive heart of God and it reflects God's unique, specific call to an individual.

Some struggle with the concept of Vision, but throughout history God has birthed vision into the hearts and lives of His people. In generations past, men and women have heard from God, and by faith, have stepped out and trusted God. From Nehemiah to the Apostle Paul, from Luther to John Knox, down to today; personal vision is documented in biblical and contemporary history.

Vision involves passion! It motivates and captures the individual. It is what the heart yearns to see accomplished. Personal Vision answers the following question;

DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL VISION

These questions may help here...

Who are the people and circumstances that have most shaped my life and ministry?

What are the character qualities I most admire, and desire for God to shape into my life? People who know me well, believe I am most used by God when I am involved in?

From the perspective of my ministry life, the activities I do, that I feel are making my greatest contribution to God's Kingdom are?

Though I may have dismissed the thought many times before, for various reasons, at times I have felt what I really should be doing is? ...

I have a burning desire to...

When you reflect over questions like these you begin to identify common themes and gain insights. These become significant...

THEN YOU PRAY SOME MORE!

Spend some significant times in prayer, seeking God's call on your life. The emergence of a Personal Vision takes time.

Nehemiah went through a series of stages in the development of his vision to re-build the temple wall. He moved from seeing the need, to prayer and fasting, to walking in the ruins, to becoming convinced that he had heard from God, to communicating his vision to others.

Take the time necessary to pray and think through God's specific call and vision for your life.

Checkpoint

Unless your Personal Vision comes under the scrutiny of God's Word and the values that God has instilled into your life, your Personal Vision Statement may just be a statement of human (fleshly) desire.

Is your vision consistent with God's Word?

Is your vision consistent with the values God has instilled into you?

Is your vision consistent with your own uniqueness?

YOUR PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Once you have done this you are now ready to write your personal mission statement...

You interweave Your Values, Your Uniqueness, Your Vision into a personal call to action!

This final step assists you in accomplishing God's plan for your life. Remember, Solomon said *"Man makes his plans, but God orders his steps"* (Proverbs 16:9).

YOUR PERSONAL GOALS

Luke 2:52

- 1. Spiritual**
- 2. Physical**
- 3. Mental**
- 4. Social**
- 5. Financial**
- 6. Career / ministry**
- 7. Family**

You are investing your life in something that will last,
something that will outlive it!