

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

Discovering and Capturing Your Destiny

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I. Introductory Remarks.

It is important for every Christian who has truly been born again to know that we have been born again with a purpose in mind. God has a destiny for each one of us to fulfill.

Ephesians 1:11 *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*

2 Timothy 1:9 *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

- The emphasis of this lesson will be on coming to an understanding that God is always at work in our lives to bring us to the place where we can discover and capture the destiny that He has marked out for each one of us.

Jeremiah 1:5 *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

- We may not all be called to be prophets to the nations, but the fact remains that through the foreknowledge of God,¹ He is all knowing and knows our lives from the beginning to the end and as a result He has called us, shaped us and even molded us according to His Divine purpose for our lives.

This is why it is so important for us to be at peace with the person God has created us to be.

1 Peter 1:2 *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.*

- The point I really want to drive home in this lesson is that there are defining moments in our lives where God allows us to see things from His perspective

¹For more information and understanding on God's foreknowledge, please see, <http://kenbirks.com/predestination.html>

concerning our lives. It is at these moments that we are called to come into agreement with His purpose and calling by committing ourselves wholeheartedly to what He is desiring to do. When we do this we are forcibly laying hold of the destiny that God has marked out for each of us.

- **What should be our active response?**

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- Our plans and decisions in life should now begin to evolve around the destiny God has ordained for our lives.

When these defining moments come they are for a purpose. God is wanting for us to not only renew our commitment to Him, but to **aggressively** take it to a new level. **It demands an active aggressive response from our part.**

Matthew 11:12 (NIV) *From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.*

II. The Illustration of Young David - 1 Samuel 17:20-26.

The story of David and Goliath is a beautiful illustration of someone who was able to forcibly lay hold of his destiny when he got a glimpse of God's perspective and purpose at a defining moment in his life.

1 Samuel 17:26 *Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?**"*

As a result of seeing God's perspective and purpose, his heart is filled with faith as he begins to forcibly take action. This was a defining moment in David's life. If he fails to respond correctly here he would miss a great opportunity in laying hold of his destiny.

1. David's Confession of Faith - 1 Samuel 17:34-37.

1 Samuel 17:36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and **this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them**, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

This wasn't the first defining moment in David's life. There were many defining moments that led up to this. One of David's defining moments was when the prophet, Samuel came to him and anointed him to be the next king. From then on there were a series of defining moments in his life.

David was able to access his past to give him a greater understanding and depth as to what God was doing in the present.

- **Assessing the Past: Creating Your Time.**

Post-it Note Time-Line



- **Question #1: → Where Have I Been?**

Biblical Command: **Remember**

Biblical Pattern: A Theology of Remembrance {Deuteronomy 8, Psalm 106, O.T. Feasts}

A Big picture overview... the significant people, events, and circumstances... relationships... jobs... schooling... locations... churches... mentors... family..etc.

If you could determine lessons and patterns from your development, these experiences could provide keys to unlocking your unique and ultimate contribution. The future is best informed by the past, providing greater certainty and hope.

■ The Process

Step 1 →→→→→ Brainstorm... People, events, circumstances

Step 2 →→→→→ Brainstorm... Struggles, Negative, Painful

Step 3 →→→→→ Brainstorm... Order Chronologically... Top to bottom.

■ Lessons

Lessons from the Past are the signposts that point to the Future. Just as each defining moment brought David into a deeper walk with God and added a deeper dimension to his faith, it will do the same for us. It is from faith to faith that we are led into the destiny that God has prepared for each one of us.

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith**; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

When we step out in faith and forcibly lay hold of what God has already apprehended for us, we are not only solidifying our faith, but we are adding to and capturing the measure of faith and vision that is already at work in our lives.

2. David was Able to Capture His Future by Taking Forcible Action.

The events and lessons of your past have not only been God's tools to shape your life, they are guideposts that inform your future. Vision is a word picture that captures the future from God's perspective. The timeline of your life enables you to look back over your life and look for those signposts that are pointing to your destiny.

James 2:17-18 *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

1 Samuel 17:45 *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

1 Samuel 17:46 *"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

When you understand the life and ministry God has created you for, you gain the ability and confidence to live, grow, and minister intentionally just as David did.

We all know how the story ends. David kills Goliath and goes on to become a great hero in the land of Israel only to have King Saul turn on him with vengeance.

III. The Process of Discovering and Capturing Your Destiny.

1. Where do we start? It begins with Us. It always has!

Mark 3:13-14 *And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ^{14} Then He appointed twelve, that **they might be with Him** and that He might send them out to preach,*

2. What is the Key? God is already at work in your life!

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them.*

3. How does it work? The process of Discovery!

Philippians 1:6 *NKJV being confident of this very thing, that He who has **begun** a good work in you will **complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;*

1. Clarifying your past
2. Discovering the future
3. Pursuing your calling

4. What is the result? Hope leads to Courage!

Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

IV. Your Unique Journey

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

The real test of a man is not when he plays the role he wants for himself, but when he plays the role destiny has for him. (Vaclav Havel, President, Czech Republic)

1. The Discovery and Capturing Paradigm.

- God is **always** at work!
- Our call is not to **invent** but to **align** ourselves with God's purposes!
- Alignment requires **absolute surrender**.

God develops us as mature believers over a lifetime. He is actively shaping both our character and our skills.

How has He been at work in your life? It is very easy to lose sight of the big-picture when we are entrenched in the day-to-day challenges of life.

If you could determine lessons and patterns from your development, these experiences could provide keys to unlocking your unique and ultimate contribution. The future is best informed by the past, providing greater certainty and hope.

V. Concluding Remarks.

As we can see through the life of David, God is able to work on our behalf as well as He worked in David's life. I believe God has given to each one of us a wonderful destiny to fulfill, but it is up to us to discover and capture that which Christ has already apprehended for us. The kingdom of God is forcibly advancing and forceful men and women are needed to lay hold or capture it. As you encounter each defining moment in your life, determine right now you are going to respond forcibly to what God is leading you into.

