

Fulfilling Your Destiny What's Holding You Back?

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I. Introductory Remarks.

2 Timothy 4:7-8. *I have fought the good fight, I have **finished** the race, I have kept the faith. {8}Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Paul was able to say at the end of his life that he had finished the race, he had completed and fulfilled the destiny that God had laid before him.

How many of us are going through life with the attitude that we have a destiny to fulfill? How many of us even care?

Maybe at one time we really did care and were full of zeal and enthusiasm with our hearts set on fire to fulfill the destiny and calling God had for our lives, but something has happened in the process that has caused us to be blown off course.

It's important to understand that when God saved us from the destruction and sin that we were all drowning in, He saved us with a purpose.

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,*

This message is about "What's holding you back from fulfilling your destiny and calling in God?"

I am convinced that our well being, our health, our financial provision and walking in the abundant life are all found on the path that leads to our destiny in God.

God has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, but these things lie on the path that leads to our ultimate destiny in God.

2 Peter 1:3-5 *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4}by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that*

through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. {5}But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

My question to you today is, "What's holding you back from fulfilling your destiny? Is it one of the following?"

Fear Apathy & complacency Bondage to sin Debt	Disillusionment Deep wounds or hurts Bitterness & Resentment Poor health	Poor Health No Vision or Purpose Repeated failures
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These are all symptoms of a greater problem, the greater problem being having lost our way in the process of fulfilling our destiny and purpose, because of a lack of kingdom perspective.

Let's face it, we have been promised many wonderful benefits and blessings that are a part of our kingdom inheritance.

Psalms 68:19 *Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits. The God of our salvation! Selah*

Psalms 36:8 *They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.*

Philippians 4:19 *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

1 John 1:2 *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

We are told in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to examine ourselves and see whether we are in the faith. What the apostle Paul is talking about is, are we walking the walk of faith of which we have been called to.

- In order for the faith of God to take root in our hearts in the right way it must be founded upon the path that God has established for our lives.
- If we are walking in a direction that is contrary to the will and purpose of God for our lives, our faith is useless. It will not produce the kind of results that God has intended for us.

- As a result we begin to reap some of the things that I previously mentioned like fear, apathy, bondage, debt, disillusionment, wounds, bitterness, resentment, poor health and no vision or purpose.

Where did we go wrong? What turn did we miss? What detour did we take and not find our way back?

My goal is to share with you a common process we all go through and if we are not careful it's easy to lose our kingdom perspective and settle into a state of complacency and thus never truly enter into the destiny and calling God has for us.

II. The Process of Fulfilling Our Destiny.

Phase 1 – The process begins with a salvation experience from a God who is rich in mercy.

Ephesians 2:4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5}even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), {6}and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

- He fills us with faith, hope and love while daily loading us with benefits and we begin to walk in great joy with great enthusiasm and zeal.
- We begin to walk in repentance putting off our old ways while embracing the new nature God has given to us. We have a new sense of invincibility.
- We have now reached a new plateau in life. We're feeling strong and good about ourselves and we are beginning to become the conqueror that Christ said we would be. This is great! Why isn't everybody else around us experiencing this? It's hard to understand because we are tasting of God's goodness.

Phase 2 – Trials and tribulations begin to come. Satan begins to step us his attack.

- The Parable of the Sower illustrates this principle to us when it speaks of the seed that was sown on rocky soil.

- This speaks of trials and tribulations coming upon the person who has no depth. They didn't take the time to saturate themselves in God's word, so they begin to get stumbled and offended.
- As a result they begin to get driven off of the course that God had them on.
- The kingdom perspective will keep us from getting detoured at this point.

Acts 14:22 *strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God. "*

At this point you are still alive and breathing, but you've suffered and you are beginning to wonder if it is really worth the effort to go on. The motivation to go on is quickly beginning to fade away.

It may also be that you've been through this process several times and you are gradually getting beat down or maybe it was a major crisis, but for whatever reason you've reached this plateau severely wounded and you really don't care anymore whether you fulfill your destiny or not.

Phase 3 – The Challenge - Major Decision Time - Hebrews 10:31-39.

Hebrews 10:35-36 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. {36}For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

Hebrews 10:38 *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. "*

- **We have two major choices we can make at this interval in our lives.**

We can take a time out to wait on God and get restored and refreshed or we can begin to walk in the flesh.

Isaiah 40:31 *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

Galatians 3:2-3 *This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? {3}Are you so foolish? Having*

begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Hebrews 12:12-15 *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, {13}and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but (result of choice #1) rather be healed, {14}Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: {15}looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; (result of choice #2) lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;*

- **Making the wrong choice here will put you on a path with bitter herbs.**

All of the symptoms mentioned earlier such as fear, apathy bondage to sin, debt disillusionment, deep wounds and hurts, poor health and no vision or purpose begin to become permanent manifestations in your life because you have gotten off the path that leads to fulfilling your destiny in God.

- **The right response calls for action.** We must lift up the hands that hang down and make straight paths for our feet.
- **How do we do this?**
 - 1. We must learn how to wait on the Lord by building a more intimate relationship with him.**

Psalms 27:14 *Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

Philippians 2:12-13 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; {13}for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

- 2. Humble yourself and cry out to God.**

1 Peter 5:6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

- 3. Allow God to breathe His purpose and destiny into your life with a fresh kingdom perspective. See your life as He sees it.**

What is the high calling for your life? What is the destiny God has for you as you begin to see it come into focus?

4. Be Single Minded in your approach to God.

Psalms 27:4-6 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. {5}For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. {6}And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

5. You must press into the kingdom with fervency and zeal.

Luke 16:16 "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. {13}Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, {14}I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Phase 4 – Going Strong Now – Now I Understand how Romans 5 Works.

Romans 5:1-4 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2}through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. {3}And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; {4}and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36}As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. " {37} Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

I now understand how Romans 5:1-3 works

Major Decision: Time to wait on God & get restored or begin to walk in the flesh.
Isaiah 40:31 & Galatians 3:2-3

Hebrews 12:12-15

Help! I'm being attacked!
Trials & Tribulations

Going Strong Now!

Hallelujah!!
I accepted God's way & submitted!

The Challenge
Hebrews 10:31-39

Invincible

I made it, but I'm disillusioned. Is it really worth it? Fear loss of vision & Purpose appear. I don't have the motivation to go on. I've lost my first love.

4. I'm doing good, first love is going strong
3. I'm now walking in repentance
2. He fills me with faith, hope, love & vision
1. God Who is rich in mercy saves me