

FULFILLING YOUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY

- **God has a unique plan and purpose for every person's life that begins the moment that they come to Christ**

- **The Apostle Paul wrote**
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

- **God is not limited by our ability, only our availability**

- **It is God who empowers believers to do all that He has planned for their life. In this way God gets all the glory.**

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**
“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

- **We must not allow our past to rob us of our future**

- **The real battle is for the mind. We must win this battle to fulfil all that God has planned for our life**
- **The enemy will continually try and get us focusing on our past failures and disappointments or on our circumstances.**
- **We also at times will be rejected for our faith. The Apostle Paul wrote,**
“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12)
- **We must quickly take all wrong and discouraging thoughts captive and bring them into line with what God says about our life and future**
- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**
“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)
- **We must choose to CONTINUALLY embrace our God given future**
- **We are all in a constant spiritual contest**

➤ **JESUS HIMSELF SAID,**

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

➤ **The Apostle Peter wrote,**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” (**1 Peter 5:8-9**)

➤ **GOD’S HEART IS THAT EVERY SINGLE PERSON
WOULD LIVE A LIFE OF GREAT PURPOSE AND
MEANING – Life and life more abundantly**

➤ **Today I want to share 4 keys to fulfilling our God
given destiny**

1) We must put our past failures and disappointments behind us

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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. 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, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14)

God is able to turn our circumstances around. He is the God of the second and third and fourth chances. He is able to resurrect broken dreams and to restore broken lives.

King David wrote,

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)

We cannot embrace the future that God has planned for our life if we continually rehearse our past hurts and live with regrets

We must choose to let go of our past disappointments and failures and even successes and forgive all those who have hurt us, so that we can fully embrace all that God has planned and destined for our life

2) We need to have a clear God given vision for our future. (We are saved for a purpose)

Jesus chose us that our lives would bear much fruit

(That we would live an overcoming and victorious life as we ***live for the cause of Christ***)

Jesus Himself said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)

Without a clear God given focus for our life we will invariably *miss God’s best plan for our life*

Having a clear God given focus for our life helps us to remain strong in our walk with the Lord during the trials and challenges of life and to *overcome the many temptations and distractions that the enemy would try and side track us with*

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

It is so important that we know and follow God’s will for our life so that our lives bear much fruit
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3) We need to build our life based on what God says about our life. We need to continually renew our mind with the truth contained in God's Word

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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.” (Romans 12:2)

WE MUST NOT LET WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN OVER OUR LIVES DETERMINE OUR FUTURE

IT IS WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT OUR LIFE THAT MATTERS

Jesus Himself said, “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

The Bible is full of Promises for all believers

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

We must continually live our life based on what God says about our life and circumstances. No situation is ever impossible for God

Building our life on the wisdom and promises contained in God's word is the key to living a life that is blessed and full of purpose and meaning

The LORD said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

I will now look at just four of MANY encouraging Scriptures in God’s Word that we can meditate on to help strengthen us in our walk with the Lord

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “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.” **(Jeremiah 29:11)**

Jesus Himself said,

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)** **Jesus also said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

- 4) **We need to live a life of simple obedience. *God's ways are far higher than ours.* God knows what is best for us. We need to allow Jesus to take the reins of our life. That we learn to just do what Jesus tells us to do.**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

In the book of Psalms we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE GO HAND IN HAND

Because we can trust the Lord, (God always has our best interests at heart), it is wise and important to allow Him to be TRULY LORD OF ALL of our life

When our life is surrendered to the Lord our journey through life becomes less complicated and full of purpose

Jesus Himself said,

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

To trust and obey the Lord is the only way to live life.

When our lives are truly surrendered to the Lord, there is nothing that we need to worry about. He will always make a way where there seems no way

Living for the Kingdom cause gives our life great purpose and meaning

The song Amazing Grace has the words “through many toils and snares I have already come”

However, when we live for AND CONTINUALLY TRUST the Lord, we will always have the ability and strength to overcome the trials of life that we will all go through in life. When our lives are consecrated to the Lord, He is able to open up doors of opportunity to do great things for His Glory that no man can close.

In Blacktown as a new church plant we went through two years of great spiritual warfare that were at times almost overwhelming. However, over the past 12 months we have seen God opening up many doors of opportunity in the heart of Blacktown

GOD HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL

Having a clear God given vision for our church in Blacktown helped us to stay focused and committed through the trials and challenges that we encountered during the first two years of our church being opened.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

Because He lives we can face tomorrow

At present you may not be sure what God has planned for your life

SOMETIMES WE GO THROUGH WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD. IT IS DURING THESE WINTER SEASONS WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH TRIALS AND CHALLENGES AND WHEN WE HAVE NO CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE, THAT WE GROW MOST IN OUR FAITH IF WE DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED AND BITTER IN LIFE

It is during these times that we are forced to lean on the Lord in a greater way and to go deeper in our walk with the Lord. It is during these times that we grow most in character.

When we are going through these wilderness times, we need to just keep seeking the Lord and continue committing our plans to Him. At the right time He will speak to us and reveal His next step for our life.

As we continually commit our ways to the Lord, He will make known His plans for our life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

If we simply trust and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit continually in our life, we will see God using us in a great way for His glory

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.” (Jeremiah 17:5-6)

BUT THEN FOR THOSE WHO TRUST THE LORD WE READ,

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

My encouragement to you today is:

- To let go of your past disappointments (and even successes) in life and TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY EMBRACE THE FUTURE THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOUR LIFE,**
- That you would begin to build your life based on what God says about your life and future, (THAT YOU ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS)**
- And that you would simply allow the Lord to direct your life and steps in the future (God has a great plan for your life which is full of purpose and meaning)**

- **Nothing is impossible with God**
- **Today is day one of the rest of your life**
- **Just believe that your life can make a great difference in this world for eternity**

I want to finish by sharing about the life of a boy in Africa

- **At seven years of age his father was killed**
- **At twelve years old his mother died**
- **He was then separated from his brothers and sisters to live with his grandmother**
- **She was very old and sick**
- **At twelve he became her care taker**
- **He would get up at 5 am every day and study for an hour**

- He loved to study and read and learn
- At 6 am he would take a walk every day for one and a half hours to get water and then one and a half hours to get back
- He would get back and make his grandmother breakfast and then go to his little village school
- He would then get home at three pm and make his grandmother something else to eat and then take the three hour walk again to get water
- In the natural it looked like he did not have much of a future
- All the odds were against him
- An orphan, living in the slums with no parents
- But there was something special about this young man

- Deep down he believed that he was a person of destiny, that he had seeds of greatness on the inside
- Every night in his little mud hut before going to bed he would pray that one day he would be able to go to college
- God I want to have an education
- I want to make a difference with my life
- There were tens of thousands of children living in the slums around him
- No one ever got out of the slums
- But he continued to pray bold prayers
- In his country 99% of the children could only go to junior school because they could not afford to go on to high school

- One night at the age of 12 he had a dream about going to a man in town called Mr Stanley who was from Belgium
- In this dream he saw Mr Stanley giving him help to pay for his studies
- He woke up wide awake and remembered the dream vividly
- So the next morning he went into town and saw the very place that was in his dream which was surrounded by guards and asked to see Mr Stanley
- The guards asked the boy how he knew about Mr Stanley. He said that he saw him in a dream
- Intrigued Mr Stanley invited him in and asked him what he wanted
- He said I live in the slums and am an orphan but I want to have an education and go to school

- **So Mr Stanley said to the boy find the best school and I will pay for your tuition and books**
- **In High School the teachers noticed what an excellent student the boy was and how he loved to learn**
- **They then organized for him to have an internship in the parliament working under the government officials (the law makers)**
- **They too could see something special about him.**
- **When he graduated from high school the government said we are going to send you to college in America to study law**
- **And from there after graduating upon his return to his country he was groomed to be prime minister in his country**
- **For with God nothing will be impossible**
- **I will finish with what the LORD said to the prophet Jeremiah when he was sitting in prison**
“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)