

Chosen By God

Jeremiah 1:5 King James Version (KJV)

⁵ Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

This will be designed to both instruct, encourage, correct and challenge the average Christian believer to help achieve several things by the end.

- Seek Direction - Calling and Destiny in God

Psalms 25: ⁴ Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

⁵ Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

- Gain Vision and Purpose - If you don't already have that

Jeremiah 29:11

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Gain Understanding and Guidance from God and the Bible on what steps to take

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- Build - Reinforce - Redirect Habits to a structured daily and weekly course of study

Set Goals - Short Term and Long Term for your desired results

Bible Study

Personal Time With God - both inside and outside of times set aside for that

Organizing priorities and Directing your steps with a Goal in Mind.

Judges 6:11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

¹³ And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

¹⁴ And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

¹⁵ And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

¹⁶ And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

¹⁷ And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

¹⁸ Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

God knows what He put into you even if you do not yet realize it.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

God has chosen you.

Did you know that God not only wanted to save you, heal you, help you in your daily life, but that He has also chosen you to be His hands, feet and voice in the world?

John 15:16 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

A witness in the restaurant (Story Example)

Romans 8:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Called by God to be a witness –

Find an outlet of ANY description to use what you learn, either through getting involved more at church, sharing with friends and family, at work (don't get fired) or in some aspect of ministry - even in a serving capacity.

Stephen in the Bible preached one of the most amazing messages of his day to the hardest crowd in the world to preach to.

Acts 6:3 **Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

⁶ Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 7: ⁵² Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

⁵³ Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

⁶⁰ **And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

Just a few days before then he was serving in his church - waiting tables - caring for others. It was not just his actions in serving, but he ministered and shared and fellowship-ed with those people at that time.

He used what he was learning himself in an outworking of everyday ministry and caring and helping in the church as well as imparting those teachings to others that He came in contact with.

We as Christians sometimes marvel at the big names in Church history when we think about the miracles and the revivals and the ministry of some of the so called greats. Yes they may have an office and a ministry in their day... but the same skills are available to us. Perhaps not to the same extent as others but the calling is much the same. What makes the Great Men of God so great? They made themselves available and ready to be used and sought

to be used as well.

The bible uses several scriptures to get this point across.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Be ready with the Word that is inside you... ready to share it out with others to drive home the point that God was teaching you even so that the others can get the same benefit as you did.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Salvation in prison ministry. Prayed with his eyes open even then watching me.

- Seek Direction - Calling and Destiny in God

Some people have the concept that God is going to ask them to do something strange or dangerous or be sent to some distant land if they ask Him for direction and calling on their lives.

Nonsense. God loves you and wants the best for your life. Simple. Take it to the bank. Now. Think about what you would LOVE to do for God. Think about your interests your hobbies your deepest desire in life. Chances are (if its a righteous desire) that God will give you those desires and sense of fulfillment as well in those areas.

Called to do what you love to do

One of my friends in Ireland told me straight one day that he was scared to death that if he asked God what he was meant to do with his life that God was going to send him to deepest darkest Africa or worse. I asked him if he was serious and he told me that he was. I asked him what his dream calling was - what he wanted to

do most deep down.

He told me about his music desires and aspirations and said above all else he wanted to minister to others in music and to teach others about using music to praise God.

Years later. Guess what he is doing now? On staff with Hillsong Belfast in the Praise and Worship team.

When you seek God's will for your life - it is not random. It is not against who you are. It is not even against who you want to be. It fits you perfectly and as you go that direction it gives you such a sense of fulfillment that nuclear war would not persuade you to do anything else.

In Seeking God's will for your life keep in mind that we are talking destination. The final place. In the meanwhile though you have to work and train to get to that destination. Do you think my friend would be where he is now unless he actually KNEW how to play an instrument? There is work involved and steps to take.

This is called Seeking Direction. The reason is to get to your destination you will have to do several things.

Isaiah 30:21

King James Version (KJV)

²¹ And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Ask Where You are Going.

Know where you're going.

Go in that direction.

Take steps to correct your course if needed.

Keep an eye on the path you're on.

Find someone that is already there and seek leadership and guidance.

Make a plan and take action if you find yourself off your course.

Keep moving and don't build a house along the way miles off your target.

Arrive at your destination and Keep growing!

In the natural -

If a person gets lost in the woods or in the desert you will see several things happen.

The path they think they are walking they think is straight... isn't.

They tend to walk in circles.

If they lean a bit to one side they tend to walk that way.

If they are weak on one side or in an area of their body they tend to over compensate and get off course.

They tend to do the opposite of the things they should do when they have no direction.

Also true. If they have something they can see in the distance they can make their way straighter than if they were just picking a direction at random and trying to walk a straight line towards it.

With this in mind let us examine destiny and purpose.

It is easier to know what you are training for and to build yourself up in certain areas if you know what is coming up.

A tool is most suited for the task and use it was designed for. Its easier to stay sharp as a praise and worship leader and not do silly things like take up a hobby as a sword swallower or something else silly that could cause damage to your throat.

Likewise youth and young Christians will find it easier to say no to things in the world when they know its not part of who they are and what they are about. Knowing your purpose in life is one of the most amazing things in the world. Likewise - when you know your off course... its easier to tell - your inward self tells you.

So... you see the mountain top in the distance and you have no idea how you are going to get there. Start walking anyway.

Start by picking up the knowledge the skills and seek Godly leadership that will help you get to that destination. They won't pick you up and set you down there. But they can certainly assist you in avoiding certain pitfalls they found along the way and help make it easier by sharing their knowledge and experience they have with you along the way.

Keep your eyes on the mountain top to see your progress, likewise keep your eyes on God and in connection with Him to keep progressing towards your goals.

Psalm 119:104-106 (King James Version)

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

106 I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

Seek Gods wisdom and truth above all else.

- Gain Vision and Purpose - If you don't already have that

God knows your purpose – Ask Him to lead you and guide you.

Habakkuk 2:2

And **the** LORD answered me, and said, **Write the vision**, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

In your walk with God and as you seek to know more of Him and get closer to Him in your own relationship... You will grow to know His ways and His voice more and more. In that process you gain a sense of purpose for your life.

There is a concept in the church that is strange and very wrong. Christians sometimes pray that GOD will move and do things for them. Yet it's US that God sends to get things done. Then the opposite happens... we think we are the ONLY ones doing it right and there is no one else.

1 Kings 19

9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:

16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

I want you to get a concept in your mind now... think about this... You are God's first choice. You may not be the only one that He has asked to do something. But you are His first choice. He sent YOU. So follow what He tells you to do and put aside all else that may hinder you and do what God asks you to do.

Galatians 5

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Hebrews 12

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.