

'You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.' John 15:16

Being in motion does not necessarily mean moving according to divine instruction. Jesus is extremely intentional about His plans for us and desire for us to bear good, lasting fruit as we fulfil our assignments, which can only come from being in alignment with His will per time.

Accuracy in fulfilling our assignments means we must also be accurate in following Him and His instructions. However, accuracy in the things of God will be impossible without the Holy Spirit providing the critical element of divine counsel, which ensures we're at the right place at the right time, doing the right thing and getting the right God-ordained results.

This series we are going deeper into what receiving divine direction looks like in practice and how can we follow the pattern Jesus showed us through His life for this to be a reality we can not only aspire to, but also experience.

# Day 1 Appointment with Destiny

"So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria on the way." John 4:3-

The Bible tells us that when Jesus and His disciples were returning to Galilee, Jesus had to go through Samaria on the way. While this sounds simple to us, it helps to understand the context in Israel at the time where there was animosity between Jews and Samaritans. Consequently, some Jews would take alternative routes bypassing Samaria to get to their destination. So when the Bible says Jesus "had" to go through Samaria, it means something was compelling Him to do so.

"Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?"" John 4:27

"Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work." John 4:34

"When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe." John 4:40-41

The disciples must have found Jesus very strange. First, He made them pass through Samaria, then He actually speaks to a Samaritan woman. But Jesus knew exactly what He was doing because of divine direction. The woman He spoke to opened up Samaria to receive His message. Let's look at the sequence of events: Jesus passing through Samaria, being there at the exact time as the woman, who opened the village to Him to receive His message. How did Jesus know exactly where He had to be to get the right results?

"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray." Mark 1:35

"The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalms 32:8

There's a direct correlation between Jesus's prayer life and His accuracy. We have an amazing gift in the person of the Holy Spirit who's available to guide us through every aspect of life so our lives are pleasing to God. He knows the Father's mind concerning us and how to coordinate angelic support such that our activities aren't random but divinely orchestrated. The same way He coordinated events for Jesus to be at the well at the same time as the Samaritan woman is the same way we will find ourselves accurately positioned to meet the right appointments as we engage Him in prayer and consciously stay connected throughout the day.

**Prayer:** Lord order my steps today, help me to be at the right place at the right time.

## Day 2 Destiny Appointment

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## Day 3 Deliverance from Danger

"After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."" Matthew 2:13

When Jesus was born, Herod was told by the magi that a new king had been born and Herod naturally wanted to kill this soon to be king in order to eliminate any form of opposition. Mary and Joseph who were in Bethlehem were likely oblivious to what was going on in Jerusalem and the political turmoil the birth of Jesus had caused. But Joseph received divine direction in a dream to get out of Bethlehem and flee to Egypt due to the impending danger. Joseph dutifully obeyed immediately and so the family was preserved.

With all the prophecies surrounding Jesus and the miraculous nature of His birth, it may have been tempting to dismiss the warning. After all Joseph and Mary could reason, "what can Herod do against God's own child?". But they followed the instruction and the Bible says they left that same night. The Holy Spirit often prompts us about dangerous situations before they happen so we don't fall victim, but we may not always pay attention, especially if we feel there's no obvious reason to do so.

"saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul." Acts 27:10-11

When Paul was sailing to Rome, he shared his perception of the journey ahead but those around him chose to listen to experienced sailors who were making rational decisions. However things of the spirit are rarely rational because the Holy Spirit functions from the realm where things are created rather than the results we eventually see.

"Even though I walk through the [sunless] valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod [to protect] and Your staff [to guide], they comfort and console me." Psalms 23:4 AMP

Sometimes we don't avoid the danger but are guided through it so we're preserved. Whatever the circumstances, the most important thing is to be conscious of the Holy Spirit's instructions.

**Prayer:** Lord help me be intentional about listening for your guidance and also being quick to follow your instructions

## Day 4 Detours of Purpose

"Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them." Acts 16:6-7

During Paul's ministry, he attempted to preach in certain cities but the Holy Spirit forbade it. As he was already in the region, it would have made sense to continue preaching in the vicinity but the Holy Spirit prevented Paul from doing so. Even more interesting was that the Holy Spirit had Paul and Silas leave the region entirely and travel to Macedonia.

"And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." Acts 19:10

The Lord's decisions are based on what will make eternal impact in alignment with His plans so even the things that appear to be detours are still part of His plan If we're following His directions. We don't know why exactly the Holy Spirit forbade Paul initially, but his preaching later impacted all of Asia. How then did Paul know the Holy Spirit was the one forbidding him and how did he know when it was okay to preach?

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." John 5:19

The choice of "sees" tells us that it's present continuous, meaning Jesus was constantly looking at the Father to see what He was doing. Likewise we're to keep our gaze on Him so we connect to what He's saying to us at every point in time and not running with yesterday's guidance.

"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:2-3

Like Jesus, Paul's missions were birthed and sustained in the place of prayer and fasting. This means that his spirit was consistently sensitive to the direction the Holy Spirit was steering him in per time so he didn't struggle with His instructions, regardless of how strange they may have been. It also means he was in tune with the current instructions and didn't rely on previous experience alone. The question we need to have an answer to is: "What is God saying to me Now", with the understanding that it may not look like what He said before.

**Prayer:** Lord please give me clarity on what are You saying to me now

#### Day 5 Lighting up Darkness

'Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." Genesis 41:39-40

After a long spell in prison, Joseph was given the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dream. Beyond interpreting the dream, Joseph also gave solutions to the problems the dream highlighted. The wisdom and intelligence Pharaoh recognized in Joseph clearly didn't come from experience as he'd never functioned in that capacity before. Neither was it natural wisdom alone as no one else could solve the problem. The solution Joseph brought led to both his elevation and Egypt's prosperity during a famine. We may not necessarily have to interpret dreams as Joseph did, but we will certainly be called upon to solve problems and receiving divine direction gives us an edge.

'Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them— Joseph, who was sold as a slave...Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character.' Psalms 105:17,19

Even though it didn't look like it, Joseph's journey to leadership in Egypt was all part of divine orchestration as there was a bigger picture God was working with – as always. As part of this Joseph was equipped with supernatural insight so he could provide the solutions the nation needed at the time. Likewise, when we're in the right place, we're the much needed light for the place we occupy.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.' Matthew 5:14,16

Sometimes we expect God to align with our plans and cause those plans to thrive, but that's not how He works. The Lord will consistently equip us to fulfil His agenda in the place where He's planted us to do what He's appointed us to do (Jhn 15:16). He wants to point a broken world back to Him and we're His representatives to make that happen. But we will struggle unduly if we don't recognize that our journey with God is that of a partnership where He gets the final say.

**Prayer:** Lord show me if I'm in alignment with Your positioning. Where I may have gone off track Lord realign me so that I may fulfil Your plans for my life.

## Day 6 Instructions for Finances

"There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father... So Isaac dwelt in Gerar." Genesis 26:1-3,

Isaac was faced with a famine and he planned to go to Egypt as his father had done when he also faced a famine, probably because he knew that step worked out for Abraham. But the Lord told Isaac specifically not to do so and also gave him instructions on what to do, which he obeyed.

In tough financial situations we may be tempted to do what we've always done in the past, or what we've seen work for others. But the Lord doesn't work based on our historical patterns of success or failure. He always has a word for what we are to do in the now and this includes our finances.

""And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

Deuteronomy

8:1

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." Matthew 6:24

The Lord gives us the power to create wealth so we can be vessels He can work with/in to fulfil His agenda. As we align with Him, He helps us understand our roles as custodians of the resources He puts in our hands. We're meant to be channels for directing resources to the things He will have us implement, but to channel accurately we must always be listening for what He's saying concerning what He has put in our possession.

"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;" Genesis 26:12-13

Isaac followed the Lord's instructions and prospered even in the midst of a famine. Likewise as we prioritise listening for and following His instructions, the Lord preserves us and also enlarges our territories so we can partner with Him to be a blessing to more people as He directs.

**Prayer:** Lord cause me to prosper because I have committed my finances to Your lordship and to being disciplined in and faithful to Your instructions. Lord show me what will make for my peace in my finances.

## Day 7 Accuracy for the Future

"giving these instructions to the people: "When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you..."" Joshua 3:3-4

When the Israelites were crossing the Jordan they were instructed to follow the priests carrying the ark to guide them as they were entering unknown territory. They knew that they couldn't afford to do guess work on this journey and accuracy was vital. The benefit we have today is that as carriers of the Holy Spirit we don't have to seek direction from other sources, He is available to lead us in the way we should go.

"Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about me in the Scriptures."" Hebrews 10:7

The life of a person led by God's direction is vastly different from that of someone pulled to and fro by the issues of life. Life isn't meant to be lived by trial and error because every day is pregnant with purpose. But if we don't seek God's direction, we will be active but not necessarily purposeful. We can also be derailed as every day presents a variety of options, not all necessarily from the Lord. A simple but critical question we must ask God daily is, "Lord what would You have me do today?" As we do so consistently we find that our steps are increasingly ordered by God and we're better able to identify distractions.

"The Lord is my shepherd..." Psalms 23:1

Asking God for His will for us daily also helps us become more sensitive to what God has to say about the choices we make daily. God is as interested in the the seemingly small details of our lives as the larger ones. When we seek His direction and opinion, we draw nearer to Him because we're intentionally involving Him in every aspect of our lives.

**Prayer:** Lord what would You have me do today? Order my steps as I yield to You. Let all that I do today be in alignment with Your plans for the day

## Day 8 Intentional Parenting

"Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, saying, "Lord, please let the man of God come back to us again and give us more instructions about this son who is to be born... So Manoah asked him, "When your words come true, what kind of rules should govern the boy's life and work?"" Judges 13:8, 12

When Samson was to be born, his father Manoah asked for specific instructions concerning how his child should be raised. Considering the child to be born was one the parents had long waited for, we may have expected that they focus on the details of his birth. However, Manoah understood that he was expecting a child of purpose so it was necessary to understand the way the child should be raised and what his work should be. As parents and caretakers of the next generation, we are responsible for seeking God's direction regarding how they should be raised.

"For I have known him [Abraham] in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice..." Genesis 18:19

We may not all receive supernatural visitations concerning our children (biological or otherwise) but all children arrive with purpose and even if there are multiple children born to a family, each child has a unique purpose. The same way Samson had rules concerning his life, likewise every child in our life also has a way the Lord wants them to be raised. This includes the choice of schools, friends, career path and much more, in order for their lives to align with God's plan. As parents and guardians, we don't own the children in our care. Rather God has assigned them to us, with a responsibility to bring them up in His ways and in alignment with His plans for them.

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel." Judges 2:10

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The world's system is designed to seduce our children away from God and if we're not intentional, we will have generations who don't know the Lord. Even if they go astray, we should never cease to pray for the children in our care and ask the Lord to keep them on the path He designed first them.

**Prayer:** Lord thank you for showing me the important role I play as a caretaker. Lord help me to be intentional about seeking Your plans and direction for raising the children You've assigned to me.

#### Day 9 Keys to Success

'...The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time.' Ecclesiastes 9:11

As we journey through life we will spend the majority of our adult lives working to earn an income, either through our own businesses or being employed by others. What we will find is that success isn't directly correlated to our efforts alone. It's possible to work very hard and not get the commensurate results for a variety of reasons. Added to this the Bible tells us that a critical factor for success is being in the right place at the right time. The only way to ensure we have this combination right is to be dependent on divine direction.

'Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

"...I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!" Psalms 32:8-9 MSG

We have an assurance that the Lord will give us specific instructions, but our results are dependent on staying close to Him and more importantly willingness to align with His guidance as He leads. This may sound simple, but because we have our own will and ambitions, there will be times when what the Lord is leading us to do doesn't appear to immediately align with our objectives. However, that will actually be the best path for us to take.

'And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!' Psalms 90:17

When we are in alignment with His agenda, He will point us in the right direction and position us accordingly. Ultimately it's the Lord that makes our efforts successful not our handiwork alone, and knowing this reshapes the way we plan our businesses and careers and prioritize hearing from and aligning with Him first.

**Prayer:** Lord open my ears to hear Your instructions and stir my heart to follow Your directions. As I do so make my efforts successful.

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