

## CHAPTER 3 – PURPOSE AND DESTINY

*Before I made you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I chose you for a special work. I chose you to be... (Jer. 1:5)*

Dreams are a snapshot of your future. A dream introduces possibilities and potentialities to your reality. Your dream is the catalyst to your vision. Without a dream, vision isn't attached to anything. Your dream helps you to lean into your future. It gives you something to hope for. It helps you to turn on your expectations for more than what you are currently experiencing. It inspires faith and turns on the passion to pursue your vision with purpose.

I believe every person on earth has a dream. Many times they never act on those dreams because of fear. Other times it's because of discouragement or criticism from family, friends and others who aren't doing much with their own lives. People like these will never support your dreams because when you act and start taking steps to fulfilling your dreams, it makes them look bad. It's easier to discourage you and put you down in the hopes that you will stay in that place of stagnation with them. You have to learn how to ignore negative voices and move forward. You have to get the courage to leave them behind and move forward. If you don't your dreams will die and you will end up in a place of mediocrity like them.

Dreams require vision and foresight in order to come to fruition. Sometimes it seems like we have been working smart toward obtaining our goals but nothing seems to be happening. It seems that we take two steps forward and five backward. Things are just not working out as we would like. Don't be discouraged. Let me share with you an experience that I had recently.

I woke up one morning and lay in my bed meditating. I started talking to God about some of my dreams. I said God there are some things that I have been believing you for, for years and I still have not yet seen them manifest. Am I doing something wrong? That was the right question to ask. You see, God took me on a retrospective journey that put things into perspective for me.

He reminded me of the following:

- When I was 16 I dreamt of writing a book while I was in high school. To date I have written 3 books; an eBook and two printed copies.
- I always dreamt of playing the guitar as a child. Even though I couldn't afford to buy my own guitar then, or to take lessons, I pushed against the odds to learn. Today I own 2 guitars and write and play my own music.
- I almost didn't graduate from high school because of a lack of finances. A neighbour stepped in to help out and I was able to graduate. I made a promise to God then, that just as how this neighbour helped me financially, when I grew up I would help other children to go to school. I have helped six children to go to high school.

- And there are many other things that I won't mention right now, but the moral of the story is, I am living out my dreams.

There are parts of my dream that has not yet come true, or things that don't seem to be working the way I would like them to and because of that it seemed like my dreams weren't being fulfilled. But I am living my dream and for the rest, they will manifest in their own time. In the book of Habakkuk 2:2 he says, "write the vision and make it plain..." You have to write out your vision clearly. Do you know what you want and how to get it? The writer in Habakkuk continues by saying, "the vision may delay, but it will come. It's for a set time..."

A gentleman I know reminded a group of us recently that there is a time factor in destiny. So even though we want everything to happen now, there are times when we need to exercise patience. A friend and I were talking about this recently and we said we don't have a problem exercising our faith, it's the waiting that's the problem. Neither of us likes to wait! But faith requires patience so if you are exercising faith, you have to wait for the set time for a thing to come. But in the meantime you are going through a period of preparation. Don't try to wiggle out of it. In that time of preparation if you really apply yourself and pay attention you will learn to do things differently, to think differently, and that will help to move you forward.

Set goals to work toward if you want to see that dream manifest. This is where many people become frustrated. They pray and sit there waiting for God to come down and do it for them, but the bible says faith without works is dead so you have to get up and take action everyday toward seeing that dream manifest. Set goals and work toward them daily, even if it's only for 10 minutes per day. God is not going to come down and do it for you. You are going to have to step out and he will meet you on the journey. So I encourage you today to take action daily toward achieving your goals and fulfilling your dreams.

I leave this with you, whatever dreams God has given you, you have his guarantee that he will see it through to completion, and he will be with you until the end. But remember, you have to do your part.

I am borrowing some words from my spiritual mentor to help encourage you to step out and activate those dreams TODAY.

[Quote]

1. DON'T WAIT FOR CONDITIONS TO PERFECT. If you're waiting for the "perfect" moment, you may never get started. I like how author Tim Ferris approaches a challenge: "Conditions are never perfect," he says. "'Someday' is a disease that will take your dreams to the grave with you. If it's important to you and you want to do it 'eventually,' just do it and correct the course along the way."

2. START SMALL. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time! Don't worry about what will happen in a month or in a year. Simply focus on the next 24 hours and do what you can to get closer to where you want to be.

3. MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH. Leave room for God to work! Have the courage to act, even if you don't have all the answers or resources right now. If you want to see His hand, look to God to do what only He can do.

[End Quote]

With God all things are possible. Now get up and GO!