



PNEUMA: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PERSONAL DESTINY (John 15:5-7)...**Week 5**

The Spirit does not operate automatically in a believer's heart.
He waits to be depended on.

Donald Campbell ~ NT Scholar

- Where I've Landed on "Destiny"

- **Destiny...**All of us have a "destiny in God." Essentially, this is our pre-ordained, God-given, purpose for being alive.
- **Personal Assignment...**As we walk out this destiny, we will fulfill God's plans for our life. In other words, we will accomplish the particular "personal assignment" that was created specifically for us before the creation of the world.
- **Counter-Cultural...**In order to discover our personal destiny, we will be required to live a somewhat counter-cultural lifestyle. It's all part of us denying ourselves and pursuing the things of God. If we give into the pull of the culture, we will likely be derailed in this pursuit because of the distractions of the cultural.
- **Lost Rewards...**If we fail to discover and live out our destiny, our salvation will not be negated, but the eternal experience we have with Jesus may be altered. Any rewards that would have been attached to our particular destiny may be "lost" as well.
- **Partnership with God...**Personal destiny is not really something we pursue, but more something we position ourselves for. We cannot attain our destiny without God, yet he will not give us something we don't desire and invest ourselves into.

- My Thinking Challenged by Francis Chan ([Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit](#))

- **I think a lot of us need to forget about God's will for my life.** God cares more about our response to His Spirit's leading today, in this moment, than about what we intend to do next year.
- To be honest, **I believe part of the desire to "know God's will for my life" is birthed in fear and results in paralysis.** We are scared to make mistakes, so we fret over figuring out God's will. We wonder what living according to His will would actually look and feel like, and



Francis Chan, author of **Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit**

we are scared to find out. We forget that we were never promised a twenty-year plan of action; instead, God promises multiple times in Scripture never to leave or forsake us.

- **God wants us to listen to His Spirit on a daily basis**, and even throughout the day, as difficult and stretching moments arise, and in the midst of the mundane. **MY HOPE IS THAT INSTEAD OF SEARCHING FOR “GOD’S WILL FOR MY LIFE,” EACH OF US WOULD LEARN TO SEEK HARD AFTER “THE SPIRIT’S LEADING IN MY LIFE TODAY.”** May we learn to pray for an open and willing heart, to surrender to the Spirit’s leading with that friend, child, spouse, circumstance, or decision in our lives right now.
- Thinking, questioning, and talking can take the place of letting the Spirit affect our immediate actions in radical ways. **God wants to see His children stake everything on His power and presence in their lives.**

- A Biblical Take on Destiny

Here’s a fascinating thought...the Lord didn’t just create a blueprint for our lives, then hide it from us until the appropriate time for us to begin discovering it for ourselves.
He created us for himself. He created us to have a relationship with him.
He created us to lean into relationship with the Holy Spirit on a moment-by moment basis.

- The **Father** saw us the way he created us, knowing that **Jesus** would open the door and the **Holy Spirit** would have no trouble getting us there.
 - **You saw who you created me to be before I became me!** Before I’d ever seen the light of day, the number of days you planned for me were already recorded in your book. (Psa. 139:16 TPT)
 - **You saw me before I was born.** Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psa. 139:16 NLT-SE)
- **Who is doing the “working out?”** The Lord is. As much as we think it is our responsibility to make our destiny happen, it is the Holy Spirit who is doing the heavy lifting. Our ability to fulfill the destiny we have in God is directly tied to our relationship with Jesus. He promises us that he will never leave us or forsake us. Essentially, what he is saying is, “If anyone is leaving this relationship, it won’t be me!”
 - **The LORD will work out his plans** for my life— for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don’t **abandon** me, for you made me. (Psa. 138:8 NLT-SE)
- **What is it that gives God “great pleasure?”**
 - ³ Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him with all our hearts! ⁴ And **he chose us to be his very own, joining us to himself even before he laid the foundation of the universe!** Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. ⁵⁻⁶ For **it was always in his perfect plan to adopt us** as his delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that his tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify his grace—for the same love he has for his Beloved One, Jesus, he has for us. And **this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure!** (Eph. 1:4–6 TPT)
- **We will be given anything we want, when what we want is everything he wants to give.** This is how destiny functions. Unfortunately, not everything we “get” is what he wants to give. The good news is, whatever he gives will produce fruit and glorify God. It’s not really difficult to figure out what God is giving.

- ⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For **apart from me you can do nothing**. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ **But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!** (John 15:5–7 NLT-SE)

- Personal Destiny Today

- **Permission...**Does the Holy Spirit have your **permission** and **cooperation** to do “not my will, but your will be done” in your life?
 - God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it **not by pushing us around but by working within us**, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. (Eph. 3:20 MESSAGE)
 - ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes**. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (Eph. 4:21–24 NLT-SE)
 - Accept each day just as it comes to you. Do not waste your time and energy wishing for a different set of circumstances. Instead, **trust Me enough to yield to My design and purposes**. ~ **Sarah Young**, Jesus Calling: , Aug. 17
- **Passion...**What if you are walking out your personal destiny NOW? What if your destiny is not a future event, but a current reality?
 - **Jon Tyson**, in his book, ***The Burden is Light: Liberating Your Life from the Tyranny of Performance and Success***” says, “Passion always critiques complacency.” If you ask the Holy Spirit to give you a passion for the here and now, you will find it much more difficult to let the wounds of the past or the fears of the future define you.
 - Whether you’re talking about spiritual or less-than-spiritual pursuits, we will always discover our destiny in God not just what we do, but the way we do it. **William Booth**, Father of the Salvation Army, put it this way...”Work as if everything depended upon work and pray as if everything depended upon prayer.”
- **Patience...**If you sincerely want the Holy Spirit to step-by-step, day-by-day, release you into your destiny, just how long are you going to give him to accomplish that in you?
 - When God wants to make a mushroom, he takes six hours. When God wants to make an oak tree, he takes 60 years. The question is: Do you want your life to be a mushroom or an oak tree? ~ **Rick Warren**
 - **Patience doesn’t come naturally.** That’s why we have the Holy Spirit. He strengthens our resolve to endure without complaint when progress seems sluggish. After all, God is slow only from a human standpoint. From a divine, eternal perspective, He’s always working at the perfect speed.
 - How does the Holy Spirit work in your life? The answer is gradually, but powerfully: “And the Lord — who is the Spirit — makes us **more and more** like him as we are changed into his glorious image” (2 Cor. 3:18 NLT-SE).



Jon Tyson, author of ***The Burden is Light: Liberating Your Life from the Tyranny of Performance and Success***