

Living Life God's Way

Chapter Two: Using God's Choices to Fulfill My Destiny

Spiritual truth to be mastered: The constant affirmation of God's work in my life and the use of every situation and relationship to grow and please God.

Why do we need this truth operating in our lives? Without this skill, I will not be able to see God working in and around me and will miss His "clues" to my destiny and His encouragement. I won't see what He has made me to be and do.

TUESDAY:

I am committed, Father, to finding You in all situations and to turning pain and pressure into life and growth.

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Ephesians 1:11: "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will..."

Hebrews 5:8: "Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered."

Hebrews 12:10-15: "Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 'Make level paths for your feet,' so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

John 5:17: "Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.'"

God's Word has the power to change us. You must read the Word for yourself. If your frame of mind is to read for "teachings" or for "others," you will miss what God has for you. God says His Word is your life ([Deuteronomy 32:47](#)). Getting in your "right mind" happens as the Word penetrates you and challenges you. God's Word is a scale that measures where you are. It is a mirror and a picture of who God is. The Word is alive and powerful ([Hebrews 4:12](#)).

The speed of our lives is what keeps the Word from penetrating us. We must slow down and find God's pace. We must fight being overly trafficked. **You and I ARE the message.**

We are going to have to be the message. For that to happen, we must hear from the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. This will only occur when we slow down!

The purpose of a Sabbath is to slow down enough to hear God. The Sabbath is not about God; it is about you. We need the regular pause that the Sabbath provides. This is part of the strategy God has for us.

We won't be awakened by anything but God no matter how "religious" it is. It is God who wakes us up. Why would we ever try to start our day without Him? He wants us to be conscious of His intimate involvement with us.

Matthew 10:30: "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Matthew 6:26: "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

Psalms 34:15: "The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."

Psalms 50:10-11: "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is mine."

Psalms 68:19: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Selah."

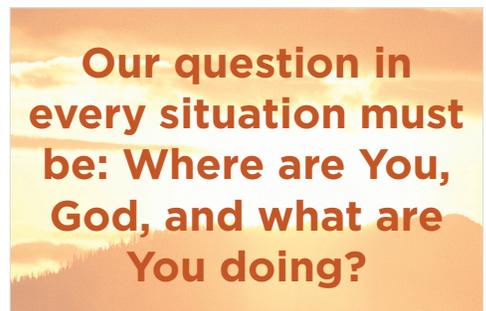
We must see the "holds" we get in during the day as opportunities to practice the truth that works. In our churches, we must dismiss "excitement" and "information" and get into real practice and instruction. We must stay on truth until we get it. How?

- By confessing and searching for God's sovereign choices in my life and the lives of others.
- By searching for God's voice and will in the events and circumstances of each day.
- By practicing "posting" when I feel pressured while distancing myself momentarily to focus on God's presence.

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The challenges in life have one primary purpose: **TRAINING US.**

What are you getting out of your training? What are you learning? Training means the repetition of the right things until they become a reflex. Walking in our sleep, bumping into all manner of things, we rebuke and push away the training God has brought to help us. The secret to training is accepting it as God's sovereign choice for your life. He is planning on what you're going to look like thousands of years from now. He sees us in the eternal perspective.



God is a master weaver, and He is weaving your life.

Are you at peace with God's choices for your life? If not, you need to do business with Him now.

Evolution is a fundamentally racist idea. Darwin's book is a colonial justification for European imperialism. Its full title is, ***On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.*** Evolution has undercut the notion of destiny and purpose. Things don't "just happen."

God turns evil into good. In His sovereignty, He permits sin to come against us because He knows how to bless us and others through us. Take two great examples:

Joseph in [Genesis 50:19-21](#): "But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them."

Jesus in [1 Corinthians 2:8](#): "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

To reject God's choices is to reject God and find fault with Him. Who are we to tell God, based on our own "supreme knowledge," that we have a more accurate assessment of our condition, convicting Him of lying about how He thinks of us? The "self-acceptance" trip is an accusation against God Almighty. Stop fighting the reality of who God has made you to be. What is the blessing Father is looking for from your life?

Our response to God must come from a place of humility. "Father, it hurts, but I bless You for the deep purpose You have for me in this. Teach me. Train me. Get what You want out of this situation." We must know at our base level that He has our best interests in mind.

[Isaiah 28:10](#): "For He says, 'Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line, a little here, a little there.'"

God is a systematic teacher. He is only working on two or three things in your life at a time. You are being worked on the same things every day. When you see His way, the chaos will be shown to be a pattern of strategy. You will not go on to the next level until you master this one. He is into mastery, not completion. When you get free, you can help break holds on others.

Satan wants you to think there is no pattern. He wants you to think that you and everyone around you are constantly "evolving." Satan is trying to get you to work on things God doesn't have for you now. **THIS PRODUCES SPIRITUAL HERNIAS!!**

What is Father after in your life? Life is not about "right and wrong." It's about growing up. It is about training and learning. It is about the real stuff of life. Life is the opportunity to work out your salvation. You have to find what God is after today. NOW is the acceptable time to train and choose life.

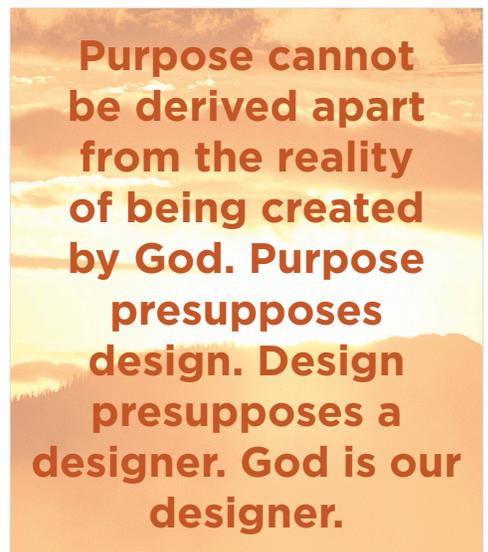
Life is playing the cards God has dealt you, to His glory.

Making It Real:

Strategy is best defined as a calculated plan of action set forth to achieve a certain goal. By this definition, God is strategic. He tells us that He plans.

[Jeremiah 29:11](#): "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

If God is a planner (and He is) and Jesus, His only begotten Son, does only what He sees the Father



doing, then you and I must follow in those footsteps. The only question is how?

How do we see God's plan? The answer is daily revelation. We must seek God in every circumstance we enter. He is there, and He is working with us to fulfill His purposes in the earth.

In the modern, democratic state, we have a sense of equal treatment for equal offense. Our justice system in the United States is supposed to be predicated on the belief in the equal "rights" of all its citizens without regard to race, gender, age, or religious belief. This system is aptly named "justice." But God is not only the God of justice. He is also the God of mercy. Justice is blind and issues its judgment without partiality. Mercy, however, is considerate and empathetic. How can God be both? The simple answer is because He is a father. Punishment is for the purpose of justice. Discipline is for the purpose of training.

Our Father allowed Jesus to take all our due punishment in terms of justice. However, in terms of training, [Hebrews 12:7](#) says,



"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?"

So, it becomes easy to see that justice in an ultimate sense is a "done deal." Training, on the other hand, is an ongoing affirmation of being God's children.

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How does God view me?

I am loved enough by God for Him to die for me ([John 3:16](#)).

I am saved in Christ by His work in and for me ([Philippians 2:12-13](#)).

In my flesh, my fallen self, I am motivated by selfishness, fear, ([Hebrews 2:15](#)), and self-deception ([Jeremiah 17:9](#)).

The power of God through the Holy Spirit will triumph in God's plan to make me into a person conformed to His image.

The question is not, "Will you work out today?" rather, "What will you learn from your workout today?" Self-acceptance is only found in trusting God's choices, believing He is leading us to freedom and maturity.

**As you reflect on this lesson, pray about it and make notes in your journal.
What is the Lord saying, and what are you thinking about today's workout?**