

PREVIEW

The CLARITY Series

Herb Paynter

Nudges,
Encounters,
Pushes,
and Shoves

Recognizing God's Will and Direction



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Introduction

God doesn't look around for volunteers and then try to find something meaningful for them to do. He designed each person from the get-go for a very unique purpose... His purpose. And that purpose was designed to fit them and their personalities like a glove.

You were given the gift of eternal life through your belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. Even though that decision was new to your life, it wasn't a surprise to God. He has known that you would believe in Him all along, and He has laid out a purpose for your life that is larger than you can possibly imagine. Your arrival on Earth was planned by God long before time even began. He had a plan for you even before you were born. You belong here right now and you've been on His mind forever.

Every believer has been designed to achieve something special in this life; something very fulfilling. Your life is certainly no accident. God not only designed you for a purpose, he uniquely equipped you to accomplish that purpose. And if you are listening closely to the Holy Spirit's guidance, your purpose will become more clear every day. Here's a clue...

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Both of these verses guarantee that God will both shape the desire and reveal His purpose to those who focus on Him for guidance. God's purpose for each individual is so unique that only in its discovery can there be total human fulfillment. In

spite of what you've been told, humans do *not* have the ability to shape their own purpose. Each of us were born with a *divine* purpose specifically designed to match our god-given intellect, personality, and talent package.

The godless world denies this unique life-plan, embracing instead self realization, positive thinking, and even good vibrations. Humanism is the belief that all personal direction is guided by internal human consciousness, and this philosophy is steadily pushed and promoted by an unbelieving world.

But God alone knows how to fulfill you since He alone designed you. Every ability and talent that He fashioned and installed in you was intended to be developed and used to their fullest, and in ways that honor and reflect Him. When our talents are used only for our own pleasure and advantage, they never seem to provide the total fulfillment that we expect. There is some accomplishment and advantage gained but only temporarily. No matter what the gain we enjoy, there is still the need to gain more.

On the other hand, when we focus our natural abilities and God-given talents for un-selfish acts and seek to use those talents to help others and glorify God, the personal fulfillment is overwhelming; we simply use the talent the way it was designed. The more we serve God and others, the more we feel we have a sense of purpose and meaning. God designed our talent "cups" to be poured out for His use and He fully intends to fill those same cups to the brim with his blessing. He has pre-designed each one of us with a lifetime of opportunities perfectly matched with our talents, personalities, temperaments, and abilities. We weren't intended to find fulfillment in life... we were intended to find meaning.

This process that God calls *ministry* is why we were each given diverse and unique interests and abilities. God designed man to serve Him. He made that very evident from the very beginning.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

We, as Adam's direct descendent are also given specific assignments that He expects us to accomplish in our lifetime. Our assignments are quite unique and specialized. What He expects from you will be different from what He expects of anyone else, but be assured... He made you for a specific set of circumstances that He will reveal to you at the proper time.

Just as God spoke with Adam regularly about what He wanted Adam to do, God will speak to you at the appropriate times in you everyday life. The important thing is for us to be "tuned in" to hear His voice when He speaks, and that starts with delighting in Him... dwelling on His Word, and maintaining a constant expectation of His silent voice.

I was always aware of my own father's relationship with God. It was not at all unusual to see him in his everyday life, while working or driving a car, silently moving his lips. As a young boy I was amused by this and one day I asked him what he was doing. He answered that he was simply talking to the Lord. He was so intent on the private conversation that his lips formed the words without a sound coming out of his mouth. Dad dwelled on the Lord.

What we need is to hear directly from Him on a regular basis. But how does that happen? Stay tuned.

By Design

Your *purpose* in life will be revealed to you through God's *Holy Spirit* and revealed to you through your *human spirit*. This *purpose transfer* is accomplished through the quiet stillness of your thought life.

Those “good ideas” you’ve had throughout your life have actually been directives from God. You’ve been getting these daily “direction assignments” from Him all your life, you just didn’t realize that they originated from God. He has had your best interest in mind all along because it is in His best interest for you to succeed.

The cycle of success is reciprocal; He wins when you accomplish your divine purpose in life and you realize personal fulfillment when you discover and serve that purpose with the gifts and talents that He has provided. You were created to be fulfilled! But not in the normal fashion of human accomplishment.

God’s design system was a self-perpetuating process of Him giving you the tools to accomplish His purpose, revealing what He wants you to do and then blessing you for obeying. Man has a free will... he can choose to follow any path he wishes, but he is only truly fulfilled when he follows the path that God directs.

He created you to deliver measured acts of His will throughout your life. It’s all part of His plan and *intent* for you. His master plan includes certain directed activities in your life. Your life is not a scripted, predisposed involuntary mandate, but it is the life that was literally designed to “fit” your personality and talents. He designed you and therefore, He knows you better than you know yourself. The following verse reveals the Apostle Paul’s understanding of this principle. Paul realized that God had a purpose for his life that stretched well beyond his personal salvation.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul recognized both his personal purpose in Christ (*that for which also I was laid hold on*) and the process through which he continued to receive his personal assignments (*those things which are behind* and *those things which are before*). He further addresses this issue to the church in Colossae.

Colossians 1:29

To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Realizing your potential in life begins when you understand that God created a *purpose* for you even before He created a *you*. Your daily assignments were outlined and cued before you existed! Your earthly purpose is the very reason you were created, and your earthly assignments were designed to fulfill that purpose; preparing you for your future life.

This present life is actually on-the-job training mentored personally by God's Holy Spirit. Each daily assignment you are given is a unique learning exercise designed to prepare you for your unique purpose and position in His coming earthly kingdom, and beyond.