



# The CLARITY Series

Herb Paynter

## Nudges, Pushes, and Shoves

Recognizing God's Will & Direction

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## Introduction

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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.

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