

Huddle

Ordered—Final Steps
August 25 2013

What has challenged you most as we have discussed God ordering our lives?

Sovereign & Provident - God is Sovereign; He has the right to do whatever He wants. Nothing happens without His direction or permission; nothing takes Him by surprise. By providence, He divinely intervenes within natural law to direct all things toward a worthy purpose.

Proverbs 19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand. NKJV

Purpose - God is not random. He has created each of us for a specific purpose! And He will reveal to us the secrets to make His purpose succeed in our lives.

Philippians 2:13 It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

What purpose are you working toward and how did God reveal it to you?

Called -

Exodus 31:2–5 "See, I have called by name Bezalel And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. NKJV

Finding what you are good at or what you have a natural or "God-given" ability to do well, is an important key in finding your purpose. You find it by:

- Offering yourself to God for His use
- Don't conform to the world but be transformed by God
- Realize failure is often the main key to success
- Use and develop the gifts God has given you; start now

Step 1: Habits - Daniel had a habit or custom to prayer three times each day (Daniel 6:1-10). Jesus had customs to pray, teach, go to synagogues, and perform miracles. He did them over and over again. They were behavior patterns acquired by frequent repetition—habits.

So many times we rationalize our negative behavior patterns. We justify ourselves by simply telling ourselves or others "Rational Lies". Instead we must observe, learn, and take on the nature of Jesus.

Overcoming a bad habit requires training and discipline.

- Three Rs - Recognize, Respond, & Repent
- Change your atmosphere
- Be honestly accountable to someone you trust
- Replace the bad habit with a good one

A person who strives for excellence doesn't give up when he makes mistakes, and he doesn't avoid tasks for fear of failure. He asks for God's strength to accomplish the task and asks for God's endurance to complete it.

How has God recently fine-tuned your calling?

Fulfilling Your Destiny - John the Baptist was a unique person called by God for a unique time in history, just like each of us. He vividly illustrates we have been put here to be a redemptive voice. Sometimes our voice is dimmed through distractions.

- Misplaced goals
- Wrong relationships
- Ungodly affections / out of balance living
- Confused expectations, voices
- Unresolved hurts

How have you reduced distractions?

Significant -

Proverbs 23:19 My child, listen and be wise: Keep your heart on the right course. NLT

The devil will always be trying to get you out of the place God has given to you.

Satan's number-one objective is to destroy our joy of faith. We have one offensive weapon: the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). John Piper

Jehoram didn't utilize the place God had given him to make a positive difference so he "departed without being wanted". Research of people over 90 says they wish they had reflected more, risked more, and done more to leave a legacy.

What place of significance has God given to you that you will joyfully fight to make it count for God?

Let's Get Real!

How can we as a group, help you overcome a bad habit?

Step 2: Write It Down — Only 3% of a college graduating class had written down their goals. Years later only those 3% had met their career and financial goals.

Proverbs 29:18 Without prophetic vision people run wild, but blessed are those who follow God's teaching. GW

A vision for your life not only defines where you are heading it REFINES that which you will refuse to settle for. That which you write about the most, talk about the most, pray about the most, dream about the most ...is EXACTLY where you'll end up! Don't REPRESS your dream; EXPRESS your dreams!

Where do you want to end up 10 years from now?

Step 3: Commitment To Excellence, To Improvement —

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. NIV

Walk it Out

What do you need God's strength and endurance to accomplish this week?