

## Discovering your Destiny – Part 2

Proposition: God's first language isn't English, be open to all forms of revelatory guidance.

I won't recap on where we left off last week suffice it to say that what we looked at last week was just the facts from the Word. These are the things we can be sure that God wants us all to do. And I finished last week simply stating that if you have this attitude to obey Him before he guides you, if you make the choice – I am going to do whatever he wants me to do, before he speaks to you, that attitude above all else will open the door for you to receive personal revelation from the Lord for your life.

### **The future is full of choices all within God's will**

I want to draw in your imaginations a couple of pictures that will create for you I hope a visual understanding of How God's will works.

Firstly the way to salvation is described in Scripture as a straight and narrow path and standing at the end of that path is Jesus Christ. You have to go through him to get into the will of God at all. Once you are in life then becomes like a garden or like the Tardas on the Dr Who movies. You enter into Gods will through Jesus and the foundations we talked about last week then once you are through that door, there are clear boundary fences but a huge amount of choice within those fences, all within the will of God.

### **Like a garden**

Entering into the will of God is also like **Like a Tardus**. You enter the tardas, the police box through this little door thinking that things are going to be quite restrictive and tight on the inside. That living according to Gods will is going to be really hard to do. You enter the door and then inside you go wow, so much freedom, real freedom and real choice. Once you are in, through the narrow door you find that God no longer calls you servants but friends. He calls you a co-laborer with Him. Meaning you can discuss things with him and together you begin to determine what happens next. There are lots of different choices within the will of God. And if you make a mistake, he is quick to take our mistake and re work another plan, in fact scripture says that he will work all things together for good for those that love him.

So living in Gods will becomes like an adventure, like a marriage to a great spouse who you just love spending time with. Its not hard or awful, but fun and fulfilling.

### **God hides things for us not from us**

People sometimes say to me. Russell its so hard to get a detailed plan for my future from God. He seems to be into just working things out one day at a time with me. Why does God hide his will from me and cause me to search so energetically for it?

Jesus said on the sermon on the mount “*seek first the kingdom of God*”. (Matt 6:33). He said that we had to receive the kingdom of God as a little child (Luke 18:17)

In Proverbs 25:2 we read *It is the Glory of God to conceal a matter; but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

Why doesn't God just send me an e-mail or write on a vivid on the wall what he wants me to do? Or shout at me with a loud voice.

Scripture would suggest to me that God and us are closer and God actually gets more glory when we have to seek him out.

Maybe I could illustrate it for you like this.

I don't come from a family that hides Easter eggs for little kids at Easter but I have watched the families that do. Mum and dad hide the eggs in places that are age appropriate so that little Johnny or little Wendy will find them. On a chair or a table if they are tiny tots. Maybe in a tree or some place harder if they are 8 or 9 years old. The eggs are hidden where the children will find them. And I observe that as I watch families play this kind of game the mum and dad get so much pleasure out of the kids discovering the Easter eggs, maybe even more than the kids. I think that is like it is with out Father and our pursuit of His will for our lives.

Things are a bit hidden – but hidden in a way that He knows we will get it and stay close to Him during the process of seeking and searching.

### **Whatever your calling – the measure is faithfulness**

This I really want to stress to you. Every believer is in full-time ministry right now. Only a few might have pulpits in buildings but everyone else has a pulpit so to speak in their areas of expertise and influence in the world.

Every one of us is called by God to do kingdom work. He chooses who does what or serves where.

Some will be evangelists. Some will be on a benefit and serving voluntarily in the community. Some will be stay at home mums. Some will run businesses. Some will humbly and serve employers and help their employers succeed. Some will be noticed publicly and some won't. Every one of us has a call upon our lives. For a season it might be to do one thing and then 5 years latter the call changes. I am always tempted to think that those who are involved in teaching and discipling children are the most important in the kingdom. They have the most significant call on their lives. Now that is what I think, but it's not what God thinks.

I would really love you to understand this.

The value that God puts on your ministry and calling has nothing to do with your title or how well known you are. It has everything to do with how faithful you were to do the things that he asked you to do.

I believe that when the rewards are given out in heaven there will be some stay-at-home mums that get a greater reward from God than some international missionaries.

Whatever you are called to do in your ministry, do it faithfully in a way that brings Him the glory. Don't worry about what others think or who is the most important. Just honor Him with your obedience and faithfulness. You are all called. The issue is how faithful are you to your calling.

***Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying "this is the way, walk in it."***

Lets look at

### **SOME OF THE WAYS THAT GOD GUIDES (OUTSIDE OF SCRIPTURE).**

Last week we looked at biblical guidance. This week the focus is on revelatory guidance. How do I hear his voice and walk in it?

#### **1. BY PLACING DESIRES AND PASSIONS IN YOUR HEART**

There is no question that spending time with God changes our desires. We always become like the One we worship. But its not because he is using our friendship to program us to do His bidding. Rather I think that the Holy Spirit in us gives us a desire to please Him, and so the more we hang out with Him and worship Him, the more we want to please Him and that worshipful attitude is what allows God to change our thinking and our hearts. Being around Him helps us see who we are and what we are made for.

One of my favourite scriptures on guidance has always been this

***Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart."***

Just by living with that worshipful attitude and living close to the Lord one day at a time you find that you want to do what pleases Him. And he puts into your DNA the very things that you are wired, made to do well. Passions and desires that will take faith to succeed. Just by spending time with Him you begin to imagine and see how He as made you and how that can achieve something significant for His kingdom.

If some one who has got the foundations down and just loves the Lord comes to you and asks you what you think they should be doing with their lives. You would be safe in asking them this question. What would you like to do or dream of doing for God if there were no obstacles in the way? Because the answer to that question they will already have and will show you the arena that God wants them to serve in.

RBC is a place where we encourage you to pursue the desires and passions that God puts in your heart. We don't want you to be like anyone else or to fit in a box. We want to encourage you to fulfil His unique calling on your life.

## **2. BY SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH PICTURES AND VISIONS**

When Juliette and I were first married we would pray for some one together and I would get so jealous of the fact that she would say a paragraph or two from God to the person and I would be left there with just a picture in my head. Later I realized that the symbols I saw in the pictures related to symbols in the bible and to get a picture from God was of equal importance as a prophecy, it just needed interpretation.

## **3. BY SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH PROPHECY**

Prophecy is always comforting, encouraging or good for building character. When you receive a prophecy from some one else what you will hear from God through that person has already been deposited in your spirit through your prayer time at some stage. If you get a prophecy that tells you to do something that you have never thought of or dreamt of doing I would shelve it and treat it cautiously. But if you hear a prophecy over your life that points the valuable qualities, gifts or calling God has placed in you, I would take that as a confirmation of divine direction. I was youth pastor for a couple of years in Tokoroa, then I stepped out of ministry to focus on some family issues. I used to ask God weekly. Lord will I ever get back into ministry and I used to really grieve over the fact that I wasn't serving a church some where. One day I snuck into the back of a church I had never been to where I knew absolutely no one. I slipped into the back row just to hide and listen. The preacher John Picari stopped speaking, looked down the isles at me and said "God is telling me you are called to be a pastor and there are many fruitful years of ministry ahead for you yet." I am a pretty staunch guy but I was feeling pretty undone that evening. What he said was divine revelation through another believer. It did give me guidance but it confirmed and encouraged what God had already put in my heart.

## **4. BY SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH DREAMS**

God has always spoken to people through their dreams and in most cultures outside of the western world people just expect God to speak that way. One of the very enjoyable things about my bible study group at Anna and Milan's house on Wednesday evenings is that most weeks there are dreams to interpret before we begin the bible study. Probably one out of every three dreams is full of symbols from the book of Revelation encouraging us to be kingdom focused as the end times are near. The dreams are really encouraging.

You might get one every now and then that has to do with too much Pizza or something watched on TV during the week but the dreams that are remembered the next day clearly and bring comfort or encouragement are definitely from the Lord and full of direction.

I would encourage anyone if you get a dream in the night and it has a positive effect on you and you remember it clearly write it down.

Ask the Lord for an interpretation.

Dreams are a common language of the Holy Spirit.

I have found that the more you know of the bible the easier it is for the Holy Spirit to give you the interpretation of a dream or a vision.

The reason is that the symbols in the dream will relate to symbols in the bible.

Water will relate to cleaning or to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

A tree will relate to a persons influence on their surrounding just as mustard trees and cedar trees in the bible are used to describe a persons influence.

A house in the dream will relate to who you are sharing your life with.

A vehicle in the dream will often appear as a way of God describing your purpose and direction in life. If you have a dream about being in a vehicle, take particular note of who is there with you.

I was praying for a lady a few weeks ago, outside of this church and I saw a picture of the front of her head being like a movie theatre, almost like a see through TV screen. And so I said to her have you been getting dreams from God recently? She said yes, often. Well what do you see yourself doing in the dreams? She said she saw her self casting demons. So I said to her. Is that something you would like to do? Yes, but I never have she said. Now while its good to get a book or to study deliverance ministry. While its even better to get along-side some one who is already doing it well to learn from, I said just be open to God using you in this area. Look for opportunities and then just do it and you will find he is faithful because he has pointed that direction for your ministry through your dreams. Just be open and step out in faith and do it.

## **5. HE SPEAKS TO US THROUGH CO-INCIDENCES**

Now I am not sure if co-incident is the right word but how many times have you felt the need to call some one or go and see some one, maybe some one you haven't seen for ages and then just at that moment they turn up at your door to see you.

My favourite scripture in the bible is John 10:10 The thief (referring to satan comes to rob, to kill and destroy. But I have come (Jesus said) that you might have life, and have it to the full. Every time I see those numbers 10:10 I get so encouraged. Often I may not have looked at a clock or the watch for hours but when I glance it says 10:10. When I see

10:10 inside I just go, yeh, God is on my side. I am living a full life. I am on the winning team. Yehh! I have just loved this month and this year. I see 10:10 all over the place. Is that just random co-incidences or is it God encouraging me forward through these apparent co-incidences.

Finally and this for me is the biggest form of guidance outside of the Scriptures

#### **6. HE SPEAKS TO US THROUGH AN INNER PEACE.**

*Philippians 4:6-7 “Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and request to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with a peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.”*

No I enjoy seeking out truths in the bible. I enjoy getting different forms of revelatory guidance from God. But out of all these forms of guidance, do you know the one I trust most. If I have to make a big decision, I won’t procrastinate ever. I will research the issues as best I can then I will pray and the direction that I have the most peace about is the direction I will go.

7.5 years ago two church’s issued a call to us at the same time. Both were small church’s at risk of closing down. Both were smaller church’s then the one that we were pasturing in, in Raetihi.

I summed up logically which church I would prefer to serve in. But ultimately our choice to come to RBC and not New Lyn was based on the fact that when Juliette and I went to New Lyn and stood on the church property we had no peace, but when we came here and stood on this ground we had a peace from God. And so we sold our home and moved to Waitakere based purely on the guidance of the peace of God that was given.

Now if you get revelation that you are uncertain about, obviously test it against scripture and then submit it to a few trusted friends to test it for you as well. On occasion the enemy will speak in a voice that sounds and feels a lot like the Lord but those two tests would prevent him fooling you.

My friends, avoid sin like the plague and just love the Lord. If you do that, you can trust him to direct your paths. Be open to how He might like to speak to you. God’s first language is not English and he would like to take you on a treasure hunt that you will enjoy and find so fulfilling.