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Fulfilling Our Destiny #2
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Each of us have been given a plan or purpose by God for our lives, however, many times these plans will not go as planned. There can sometimes be road blocks or bumps in the road that will take us a different direction than what God has intended for our lives. Just because this has happened does not mean that we are to quit, stop and give up. The enemy wants to hinder us in our journey. Hinder means break up the road that we are traveling, it can cause us to stumble and break stride. It may take a little time for us to get back into the race, but we cannot let discouragement enter into our lives. Winners may go down, but they always get back up. God has a magnificent plan for us, Psalms 139 tells us that we were known even in our mother's womb. Jeremiah tells us that he was formed in his mothers belly and that God had set him apart and spoke of his future.

Jer 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." KJV

Our calling may different from others, but God has a definite calling for each of us. We are to be helpers to others through the plan that God has for our lives. We are able ministers of the new covenant as mentioned in 2 Corinthians chapter 3. The new covenant always ministers life.

Rom 8:28 "And *we know that *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who *are the called according to his purpose." KJV

* make this word to be "I", making it personal to all of us, there being no doubt in our minds

There are two principles seen in this verse. There are different anointings for people that God has called, such as; teachers at school, in the local church, gifted in finances, in serving or helps. He can cause our disobedience to serve Him when we return to Him if we have backslidden.

Eph 2:10 "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]." AMP

The key here is that we get in His plan or purpose; He has prearranged and made it all ready for us. This was done before the foundation of the world, the challenge sometimes may be getting on the right road or right path that He has made. There can be many voices that will make it hard to hear the voice of the Lord.

2 Tim 1:9 "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," KJV

We can't be good enough, this calling is from Him according to the place and purpose that He has for our lives. There are many books in heaven for each of us, they tell of the plans that God has for us and reflect all the things that have happened to us during our lifetime before our calling, they are preparation time for us.

Gen 15:1 "After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant *compensation, and your reward shall be exceedingly great." AMP

Gen 15:1 "After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." KJV

* compensation means offset the effects of variation or error, make up for the loss or weakness of another.

In order for us to make a journey and to fulfill our destiny, the road we travel may have been broken up or we have a hiccup in our life, but the God that we serve is greater than the adversary and God is big enough to offset any error or variation from the path and put us back right back on the right track, making us able to redeem the time that we may have lost. God is a God of restoration; His mind is that we will fulfill our destiny regardless of what the enemy has tried to do to us. We will have the favor and blessing of God on our lives.

Phil 3:13 "Brethren, I count not myself to have *apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those *things which are behind, and *reaching forth unto those things which are before," KJV

Paul is in prison during the time this was written, reading chapters 1 and 2 will tell more of his story and how he came to be there. He had let go of the past and was not blaming the past on his circumstances now.

In order for us to fulfill our purpose, we must let go of our pasts, the mistakes that we have made or the hurts that we have encountered, if we don't it will cause the future to be aborted. Hanging on to the past will not allow us to reach our destiny, we must forget about it, we must get out of our comfort zone, we must walk by faith. Why do we have a tendency to hang on to the things of the past that are a hindrance to us? We must let go of the negative things that have happened. Every decision that we make as we stretch forward, causes us to come closer to the finish line that is before us. In order for us to accomplish the purpose for our lives, we must be sold out, there must be a commitment. If we are going to accomplish what God has commissioned us to do, we must have this kind of commitment, there can be no turning back and it may not be an easy thing to do.

Examples are given of people who made commitments, some chose to finish the race ahead of them while others did not. A lady swimmer who took two times in order for her to finish crossing the bay in California, stated because of not being able to see what was ahead of her the first time, had stopped but when she was able to see in her mind the finish line she was able to reach her goal on her second attempt. The only way that we will finish our course is to be able to see the finish line, fulfill our destiny pressing toward the mark, the high calling of God.

* apprehended, he didn't believe that he had finished his purpose or crossed the finish line, even though he was in prison

* things left behind means to loose out of our mind, be ignorant of, to forget it not having the right word just lost for the moment

*reaching means to stretch ones self forward

1 Thess 5:23-24 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." KJV

The story of Joseph tells of the destiny that was on his life, his purpose or destiny was to preserve the Jewish race in the earth. Joseph was 17 yrs old when he had two dreams regarding his future, he shared with his brothers and because he was his fathers favorite, it only caused them to dislike him and they begin to look for ways to dispose of him and eventually sold him to some traders headed for Egypt. God had given him the dreams.

Reading Genesis starting in chapter 37 through the end, chapter 50, gives the complete story of Joseph, all the circumstances that he faced but how God had a plan for his life, his destiny was to be fulfilled, the results, rewards and blessings that were a part of Gods plan came his way. Joseph fulfilled his destiny as shown with each incident that arose, each detour that the enemy threw his

way. Regardless of the circumstances, he was able to know that God was with him and he was able to see the end result, his attitude with each bump in the road only enabled him to continue with a greater knowing that God was faithful. Joseph chose to forgive all that had betrayed him, letting go of the past.

Gen 37:14- "And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem." KJV

Gen 39:2-6 "And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured." KJV

Gen 41:49-51 "And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. 50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn *Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." KJV

Gen 50:15-23 "And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. 16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, 17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. 18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. 19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them. 22 And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived an hundred and ten years. 23 And Joseph saw *Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of *Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees." KJV

*Manasseh means to forgive and forget

*Ephraim means to be fruitful, double prosperity

Can dreams keep living? If God has given dreams to us, they will never die, the dream is always alive because it has God's life in it. God was always with Joseph even though circumstances changed for him many times. Joseph served his masters and God blessed them because of Joseph, favor and increase followed him. Favor and increase will rest upon us as we follow the Lord. When his brothers were brought before him, he chose to forgive and forget the past, revealing himself to them and meeting with his kindred, bringing them all together.

In order for us to fulfill our destiny, we must let go of the past, we cannot allow offense to grip us or strangle us, we have to forget past, the hurt and disappointment that comes our way in order to fulfill our destiny. When we are hanging on to the past, not stretching ourselves to move forward, we need to get up and go again. Things that are blessed of God cannot be cursed. Forgiveness is one of the most important things that will enable us to fulfill our destiny. The tragedy of life is not when a man dies, but what dies in a man while he is still alive. Get back on track, finish your course, your best days are ahead. Make a commitment to let go of the past and continue to serve the Lord, putting Him first.