

## PURSUING YOUR DESTINY – SEPTEMBER 2018

*Destiny is not a matter of chance; it's a matter of choice. It's not a thing to be waited for, but a thing to be achieved.* ~ William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925)

As children return to school and young adults begin or resume college, September is an opportune time for each of us—young, old, seasoned saints and newbies—to access our lives and determine our next steps. I've often said that the two most important days in our lives are the day we are born and the day we find out why. Once we discover *our purpose*, we can **pursue our destiny** or choose to ignore it. God gave each of us free will, so the choice is up to us!

If life isn't what you thought it would be or what you want it to be, we have choices: we can endure it, complain about it, or change it. We can pursue life with zeal, vigor and determination, or we can give in, give up, lose hope, or host pity party after pity party. My prayer is that each of us would *choose abundant, victorious life!*

In Genesis 12, God called Abram to leave his family and all that was familiar to him to embark upon an uncertain future. Abram trusted God and took the faith walk. We can all learn some lessons about **pursuing our destiny** from Abram.

**Pursuing your destiny will COST something.** God didn't give Abram clear directions. He just told him to leave. When we take up the faith walk, our trust and hope must be grounded in Christ. We must learn to '*trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not onto our own understanding*'. This faith walk may cost something—the loss of meaningful relationships, a different or less profitable career path, or a lifestyle much different than the one we envisioned or desire.

**With God, you CAN fulfill your destiny.** God makes it clear to Abram that He will bless his obedience and make him a great nation. When we are obedient, God can bless us far more than we could ever imagine. Remember, our ways are not like God's ways and blessings aren't always monetary or tangible!

**Your destiny is not just about YOU.** When we say 'yes' to Christ and do things His way, He can not only change our destiny, but that of 'generations to come.' We must let others know what Christ has done in our lives. Our testimony could be just what someone needs to hear to change their destiny.

**Pursuing your destiny is a CHOICE (free will).** We have a choice—we can say 'yes' to Jesus or do things our way. And, when we have moments of doubt (*and they will come*), we must remember what Christ has done in our lives and stand on His promises.

As we pursue our destiny, remember that God is with us—at home, in church, in school, on our jobs, or on college campuses. He loves us, and all that He does is for our good and His glory! Don't be deterred or fearful. Step boldly into wherever God is leading you and **pursue your destiny!**

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner

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