

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

October 2012

To all moving forward:

Have you ever laid there thinking about what it is you're supposed to do and your mind wanders back to what you used to do and it seems like there's nothing to do but go back to what is familiar? Wouldn't it be easier just to do what we've always done? Just one good lick so I can get on my feet, one good score to get situated. Hear me men: the devil *is* a liar! As followers of Christ you have to make up your mind and let your heart be changed to fulfill His destiny for you. Each of us has been created to do just that! I know many of you have envisioned yourself before a mass of people, youth, kids speaking words that would encourage them to not do the things you used to. You see yourself visiting them in prison, youth detention centers, schools and churches wanting them to see the same light that's been made visible in your own life. And then here comes the devil whispering in your ear and tells you, "Who are you kidding? That's never going to happen! Who would ever listen to you? Look at yourself! Who do you think you are?" Resist the devil and he will flee! Plead the blood of Jesus around your mind, body and spirit for that is how we overcome! By the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony! Ephesians 2:10 says, "*For we are His workmanship, created for Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*" Every journey has to have a starting point and the journey to fulfilling God's destiny for your life is no different. How did Jesus' ministry began after His baptism and those inspiring words from heaven, "*This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.*" Matthew 3:17? But immediately he was sent into the desert to fast for 40 days and then be tempted by the devil. Hardly the way for a king to begin fulfilling His destiny it would seem. Yet the devil was there telling Him the same things he's been telling you! Dream with me for a moment. Put aside all your weaknesses, your fear, your impediments, everything hindering you from the magnificent life that God has designed for you. 2 Timothy 2:21 talks of doing this. "*Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.*" If God can keep all of your microscopic cells in order and functioning to keep you alive, can He not also make use of a cracked vessel for a purpose only He can come up with? In case you haven't noticed, God's word is full of "cracked pots" who have been transformed into supermen who continue to inspire us even till today! Legacies aren't for the lions of mankind, they are for the lionhearted. It is often common people who possess uncommon qualities who God uses to make a difference in this life. God has no favorites. In Acts 10:34, Peter concluded; "*God is no respecter of persons.*" Regarding impartiality: All are needed. All are welcome. He is equally available to all who desire Him and come to Him with humble hearts.

Whom do you most admire? Who inspires you more than any other? Who lifts your spirits and makes you want to be all that God created you to be? Think of that person for moment, and then ask yourself, why shouldn't my life be just as inspiring? Here come those devilish thoughts again! 'I'm too messed up. I came from such a dysfunctional family'. Or, 'I'm not smart enough, or maybe I'm not very good-looking or tall'. How about: 'I'm broke. I'm not rich or powerful. I don't have connections. The breaks never go my way'? Maybe you're reading this from a wheelchair or crutches/walker and thinking, I can't even walk, how can God do something glorious with my life? There is a powerful promise in 2 Chronicles, Chapter 16 Verse 9, "*The Lord searches all the earth for people who have given themselves completely to Him.*" He's looking for a surrendered heart - all of it - not half, not the part that makes you comfortable. So you say, "Uh Oh, I'm about to be rejected." But God doesn't reject people, people reject

God. Have you ever noticed what people say when they hear a great testimony? "If God could do this with *that* person, then He can do it with anybody - maybe even *me!*" And once that seed of faith is sown, you're on the path to fulfilling His destiny for you.

We all start our lives with different weaknesses and problems. And if it wasn't for a truly amazing God who makes so much out of so little, we'd still be broken and useless. But a lot of our messiness wasn't ours to begin with - it was inherited. *Not all inheritances are what they're cracked up to be.*

Some parents model love my servanthood, self-sacrifice and Godly obedience, and their children are blessed for it. Other parents model selfishness, brutality, hatred, abuse and neglect; their children suffer for it. But, good or bad, for better or worse, we are all passed down the "sin gene" No one is exempt. That is exactly why no one has any greater or lesser standing before God. Each can approach Him with equal boldness, throw himself upon the mercy seat and say, "Take me, God, and make me what You will." For those whose inheritances were not blessings, you're left with 2 choices: pass down the same bitter inheritance, or change history for those who come after you. To do that, you have to allow God's light to shine in your dark and broken heart. You are a special creation! Not an accident.

I was a child born out of wedlock, a date-rape baby, but in God's plan I wasn't a mistake. God had a purpose and a plan for me. In coming to prison, God has always looked out for me, but I've had to go through some stuff. I know He called me to lead worship and bring healing and deliverance through my keyboard playing and singing. I've been blessed to do so at every unit I've been on, until God pulled the plug - or allowed it to be pulled - to show me some things that I needed to work on. I didn't like it at first, but I can now see after getting dropped all the way down to medium custody and away from leading that he allowed it for my betterment. And now he's placed me right where he wants me to be, being an example still, and given me back the ability to step back into a leadership position - all because of his love for me, but also due to my obedience - that was/is the hard part. From my perspective, it looked like everything was caving in against me. But from His, He knew all along what would be best for me, for He knows my heart is to do His will. I desire His destiny for me.

You too were meant to leave footprints in time. Every believer, every disciple, every follower of Christ was predestined for this. You were ordained to be both a destiny shaper and a path maker for those who will come after you. Footprints in time cannot be left by passing on "things" but by passing on "ourselves", including our stumbling and letting the world watch God accomplish His will anyway. Noah got drunk; cowardly Abraham lied about Sarah not being his wife due to fear of the Pharaoh; Jacob swindled his brother; Moses committed murder; Samson lusted for a foreign wife and ended up blind and enslaved; David impregnated another man's wife and then murdered her husband - and still these men are mentioned as "heroes" in Hebrews 11 - the faith chapter. Let's not be too quick to judge, who will leave footprints and who will not. The question is, will I? Will you? If you commit your heart fully to God, your words, deeds, sufferings and triumphs will inspire others to fulfill God's plan for their lives. And if you motivate just one soul to be a warrior fully committed to God would your life be wasted? He's counting on us!

Praying that your destiny for Him is fulfilled...

Chief

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Christ's

Heart

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