

Message 3 Destiny

Romans 8:28-30 ESV And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

This message will help people understand that God uses our good, bad, and bitter experiences to point us to our destiny so He can fulfill His plan.

INTRODUCTION:

A hammer and a chisel in the hands of a sculptor can turn a piece of stone into a work of art.

With each blow, as the hammer strikes the chisel, chunks of stone fall away, eventually revealing a beautiful sculpture.

Though the process of chipping away at the stone seems harsh and unyielding, the result is well worth the effort.



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Likewise, when God gets His hands on our joyful and painful experiences, He can turn our lives into masterpieces that display His glory and channel His blessings to others.

God will use our skills, training, and interests to help us discover our purpose in life.

He will also turn our failures and sin into opportunities to form us into the people He created us to be.

And even when we face injustice, persecution, and unbearable tragedy, God will transform our pain into a passion for Him—if we let Him.

Some of the primary tools God uses to help us identify our divine-designed destinies are our experiences.

God is able to thread together the good, the bad, and the bitter experiences that life has taken us through to shape a beautiful masterpiece of destiny and to accomplish His purpose in our lives.



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1. GOD USES ALL OF OUR EXPERIENCES TO BRING HIM GLORY

God sovereignly works through all of our experiences to glorify Himself and achieve what is best for His children. Remember: ***(Romans 8:28-30)***

Through good, bad, and bitter experiences God prepares us for our destiny.

2. GOD USES YOUR GOOD EXPERIENCES TO FULFILL HIS PLAN

Good experiences are the positive things that have happened as a result of God's will and your good choices.

God can and often uses your good experiences, your education, people you know, family, etc., to craft you specially to fulfill our God-ordained destiny.

God took Saul's training as a Pharisee, sanctified it, and used it to prepare the converted "Paul" to craft the theological foundation of the church in the New Testament letters he wrote.



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(Acts 22:3) "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day

God used Peter's trade as a fisherman to turn him into a fisher of men and a leader in the early church.

(Matthew 4:18-20) While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

God used Moses's training in the royal Egyptian household to give him access to redeem God's people.

(Exodus 3:10) Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.



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God used Esther's beauty to make her the queen so she could save His people.

(Esther 4:14) For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

3. GOD USES YOUR BAD EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE HIS WILL

Bad experiences are the mistakes, sins, failures, consequences, and regrets that have occurred because of your own choices.

God can take your bad experiences and turn them into tools to bring Him glory.

Peter denied Jesus three times but God used that failure to humble Peter and prepare him for ministry and to strengthen other Christians.

(Luke 22:31-34) "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,



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32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

Winston Churchill said that success is moving from one failure to the next without losing any enthusiasm.

We must learn from our failures and the consequences of bad choices and be humbled so God can use them for His good.

How did God bring Peter back after he denied Jesus? When Peter was out fishing on the Sea of Galilee, he saw Jesus on the shore cooking fish over a charcoal fire. (John 21:9)

The Greek word for charcoal is only used two times in the New Testament—once when Peter was warming his hands over a charcoal fire when he denied Jesus (John 18:18), and the other time when Jesus cooked Peter's breakfast over the charcoal fire.



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God took Peter back to the place of his failure— to the charcoal fire where he denied his Lord—humbled him, and then told him to feed His sheep.

Finally, Peter was ready to help others.

4. GOD USES YOUR BITTER EXPERIENCES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS DESIRES

Bitter experiences are the things that have happened to you, but that are not your fault, such as abandonment, abuse, neglect, injustice, and disease.

Joseph was born into a dysfunctional family, sold by his brothers, wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife, sent to jail unjustly, and forgotten.

In His timing, God elevated Joseph to a position of influence.

Joseph didn't let bitterness take over.

He saw God's hand working through evil people and injustice to put Joseph in a position to save his family and his people.



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(Genesis 50:20) As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

God was always with Joseph, enabling him to withstand the trials.

As Joseph recognized God's sovereignty, he trusted Him and didn't allow bitterness to take root in his heart.

(Genesis 39:20-23) And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.



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- 2. GOD USES YOUR GOOD EXPERIENCES TO FULFILL HIS PLAN**
- 3. GOD USES YOUR BAD EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE HIS WILL**
- 4. GOD USES YOUR BITTER EXPERIENCES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS DESIRES**

TAKE-AWAYS

- A. Some of the primary things that God uses to help us identify His divine, designed destiny are our experiences.**
- B. God has the ability to take our mess and construct our miracles.**
- C. One of the reasons many have not reached their destiny that they have not learned from their failures.**
- D. God has a way of taking our bad and making us better.**



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E. If you have failed, don't make it a waste. Make it something God can use to take you to a destiny that benefits others.



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