



**You Have a Dream**  
**8 Keys to Your Divine Destiny**

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# **You Have a Dream**

## **8 Keys to Your Divine Destiny**

*This book is dedicated to all the pastors, elders, deacons, and workers in every Tree of Life Church who serve with love, joy and gratitude to help other people connect with their dreams week after week with no thought of reward and no ulterior motives.*

*You are true heroes!*

## Foreword

Benjamin Conway is a young man with a great vision! I highly recommend “You Have A Dream” to everyone because it covers all the bases that one needs to bring one’s visions and dreams to pass. I believe without a doubt that Ben’s visions and dreams will all come to pass. His vision for a Tree of Life Church Network is already mushrooming.

At 75 years of age, as a visionary and dreamer who has lived out what is written in this great book, I have been in ministry for most of my life. I have been working on a specific vision that God gave me over 60 years ago when I was a teenager, and I believe it is soon coming to pass. It can sometimes take most of a lifetime to see your dreams come to pass.

Read this book and absorb the keys to your divine destiny. Then I encourage you to get started on what God has called you to do with your life—and don’t quit!

- Dr. David D. Duell, Co-Founder of Faith Ministries International Network, *Denver, Colorado, USA*

# **You Have a Dream**

## **8 Keys to Your Divine Destiny**

**Key 1: Remember You Were Knit Together By God**

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## **1. Remember You Were Knit Together By God**

This book has been written for one reason: I have had enough of seeing precious Christians go through life with no sense of purpose, with no sense of destiny, with no sense of calling.

The truth is this: when God carefully, sensitively, and thoughtfully knit you together in your mother's womb, God was not just tying up DNA strands and building your beautiful tiny feet and hands.<sup>1</sup> Now He did do that – He is your Designer and your Creator, and you are a wonderful and beautiful creation of the Most High God, but He did something so much more than that as well.

As amazing as God knitting together your body is; the truth is much, much more wonderful than even that! God did not just knit together your body; He knit together your soul. He created your inmost being!

Your feelings, your personality, your hopes, what makes you glad, what makes you sad, and what makes you mad – God knit that together in your mother's womb as well. So many people are unhappy with their unique personality because the world does not like unique, but God made you unique.

Paul told the Romans not to let the world squeeze you into its mould – and that is advice we must take on today. The world wants to crush your dreams, it wants you to become a clone of everyone else in the world. But God has a better plan for you – in the Old Covenant when a stone was chosen to be part of the temple of God you were not allowed to take a chisel to it or damage it in anyway; now you are Living Stones and the church is the temple – it is not the church's job to change your personality or deny your uniqueness

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 139.13-14

and wisdom. There is a space in this world for you and it is the right shape for you and your personality.

God made you special. He made you awesome. There is no one like you and there never will be. Personality type tests are always inaccurate because we are not people that can be categorized and pigeon holed – we are unique, we are awesome, and we are wonderful.

God knit together your soul, and when He did one of the threads He beautifully and skilfully wove into your personality was a dream. Every single human being born on planet earth was designed to have a dream. This dream is a powerful, life-changing, world-changing dream that only the person with the dream can fulfil, because it was uniquely, tailor-made for them by the God of the universe.

You need to remind yourself that you were designed by God. Start to look yourself in the mirror and tell yourself:

“I am designed by God”

“I am awesome”

“I am unique”

“I have a destiny”

“There is no one like me, and there never will be”

**You need to speak life over yourself and your destiny, not death.**

If you catch yourself saying “It’s only me”, “what can I do”, “I’m just the toenail on the body of Christ”, “I’m just human” then re-train your mouth to speak

good about you and your destiny. You need to be your own cheerleader, not your own worst critic and enemy!

God made you on purpose with a purpose because He loves you. That's the truth. There are things on this planet that only you can do. There is a church on planet earth that without you would be diminished because God designed you fit perfectly into that church. There are people who will never be everything they can be until you walk into their live.

You are an amazing individual. You are special. I know this may sound repetitive but we must drown out the voices in the world, and draw you to focus on what God says about you. He says that you are the apple of His eye (Psalm 17.8), He says that you are His friend (John 15.15), He says that you are blessed (Ephesians 1.3).

When God first made Adam, the angels cried out in amazement: "What is man, that You are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8.4).

Realize this today: God is mindful of you. He has not forgotten you. He has not left you on the shelf. He is not teasing you. He has not got a second rate destiny for you. He is God – the Creator of the heavens, the Redeemer of the human race, the greatest being there is and ever can be: and He thinks about you. He has not and will not forget you – you are simply far too precious for Him to do that!

And every thought God has is to prosper you and not to harm you. Every single thought He has about you – and He has millions – is simply Him planning how to make your life better!

Let your identity as a child of God and as a work of art crafted by a Genius God permeate your thinking.

Any other identity you assume or allow others to force on you is a cheap and shoddy substitute.

Please don't read on any further until you have spoken positive words over yourself and your personality and your destiny. Jesus said in Mark 11.23 that you will have what you say – so start saying some good things now!

## 2. Believe You Have a Dream!

Let's make this personal to you now. You are not reading this mini-book by chance. You are not looking at this sentence now by chance. The Lord Jesus has planned for you to read this book since the beginning of time because the Lord knitted you together with a dream in your personality. I do not know whether you found this book on the floor, bought it online, picked it up in a shop or whatever, but I do know this: it is not a coincidence that you are reading this right now. And what I say next is not for someone else, it is entirely and totally for you:

*You have a dream from God. You have been given a dream in your inmost being by God.*

You have a dream from God. You have been given a dream in your inmost being by God. Nearly all people resonate with that – they know in their inmost being that they were created to be significant, to do something bigger than themselves, to impact and help people across the world. You want your life to mean something, to count for something, to make a difference to someone.

However, you might be one of the people in the world that just think: I really don't have a dream. If you are thinking like that, you need to know that it simply is not true. You have a dream. God designed you with a dream, He knit together your inmost being and in your inmost being you have a dream.

The reason you feel you do not feel you have a dream is because the dream you have has been abused so much you have chosen to let go of it and forget it. Some people spend their lives being told they are

average, and they hear every day that they can never achieve, and that they will never amount to anything.

And if someone is told that they are worthless and that they will never succeed often enough they will start to believe it, and every time their dream comes back to them, they push the thought away, as it is too painful to have a big, significant dream when you think you are a little, insignificant person. So you neglect and subvert your dream so much, eventually you forget to be a dreamer. You forget to be a person of hope, a person who is inspirational, a person who is a leader.

But a dreamer is who you are, a hope of impossible hopes is who God designed you to be, a dreamer, a hoper, a visionary, a bringer, a leader. God knitted you together to be a force of life in this dying world. He designed you to bring bold hues and vivid shades of awesome colour to our monochrome, timid world.

You have a dream. That is the truth. Whether you believe it or not, whether you know what your dream is, the truth is you have a dream.

Ephesians 3.20 says that “God will do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or imagine.” The word *imagine* there means to create a picture of a positive future with your mind. It would not be incorrect to say “God will do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or dream.”

God is going to exceed your dreams – but before God can exceed your dreams, before you can live in the midst of your dreams – you have to have a dream.

As the famous theologian Oscar Hammerstein once said: “If you don’t have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?”

So before you read another chapter, let that thought settle in your mind: you have a dream. God designed

you with a dream. There is something inside you that when you do it, it will make you come alive. It will produce maximum results with minimum effort. It will lead to a life of righteousness, peace and joy. It will be a fruitful life – and people will even pay you to do it.

That is the truth. You have a dream.

If you struggle with believing you have a dream, find a quiet place and just tell yourself over and over again: I have a dream, I am a dreamer.

Let the largeness of our God, and His graciousness, flow through your soul and your imagination as you speak those words.

### 3. Consider You Are Special!

There is nothing about you that is ordinary, or dull, or normal. You have been knit together by the most creative, most gentle, most kind, most patient, most awesome being in the entire universe! And He only makes masterpieces.

If your dream is dead or dormant, it is only because you have been lied to. Someone has told you a lie: they have pointed out your flaws, your weaknesses and your doubts. They have harped on about your insecurities, emphasised your inadequacies, and crushed you where you were most vulnerable. They have convinced you that the past is the guide to the future, when nothing could be further from the truth.

The truth is found in the book of Ephesians, a letter penned by a man who was once the single worst sinner of all time – a man dedicated to destroying the church of the living God – and who then became a herald of the unconditional, unchanging love of God. The truth is found in the words of a man who let hate rule his heart and then found that he was designed by a Master Designer who gave him a supernatural, heavenly dream and who found out that peace is only found in the middle of doing your dream.

The truth is this: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*<sup>2</sup>

Look at the first five words closely: for we are his workmanship. The Greek word for workmanship is *poiema*. It is where we get the English word “poem” from; and it means to make something special, to make something worth celebrating. Let that sink deep into your mind: you are special because God – the

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<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2.10

Lord of the universe, the Captain of armies and armies of angels, the Great I AM – made you special. He knit together your inner self and made you a masterpiece. You are somebody worth celebrating.

You are special. Now you need to hold onto that and develop that as a mind-set and attitude because the world wants to bring you down and kick you in the teeth and tell you that you are rubbish.

Most people think that identity is based on performance: that if you do lots of things well then you are special. Unfortunately in any sphere of achievement only very few people can be the top performers. In any organization, there can only be a couple of top sales people; there can only be a couple of top students in the school; there can only be a handful of people who are good enough to be professional football players. And then when we do not make the grade that we set for ourselves, we feel decidedly un-special and then we start to feel ashamed.

Shame is defined in the dictionary as: A painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behaviour. When we do not even meet our own standards of behaviour or goodness, when we realize that we try and compare to others but are not as good or as beautiful or as talented or as compassionate or as wealthy or as happy as they are, we feel shame.

Shame *is* painful – it really hurts. When you walk into a room and think that everyone else in the room is better than you, smarter than you, happier than you – it really hurts.

But God has provided the solution for shame. You see the world bases identity on performance, but God turns the whole thing upside down and lets us build

performance on identity. Before Jesus healed a single person, before He preached a single sermon, before He raised Lazarus from the dead, before He fed 5000 people, before He died for us – before any of those things, God spoke to Him from heaven and said “This is my Son, in Him I am well pleased!”

Think about it: God affirmed Jesus before He did anything. God puts identity before performance. When the prodigal son came home, the Father in the parable did not insist that the son do anything – He gives him a robe and puts sirloin steak on the grill before the son does anything!

That’s how God works. You might feel you haven’t done enough to be special, you might think you do not deserve being called special. But God affirms identity and lets us build our performance on the affirmation.

Right now God has something to say to you. Right now, God wants these words to fill your heart and mind:

**You are my precious Son.**

**And I am well-pleased with you!**

That is the truth. You are God’s son, and He is pleased with you. Don’t argue with that, don’t doubt it – but believe it and enjoy it. Before going any further, you need to accept that you are special.

You are special. Not because of what you have done, but because of who you are. You are special because God has declared that you are His son. You are special because God is pleased with you.

Let that truth wash away all the shame from your mind. From now on, never again let your identity be based on your performance. Never let yourself put yourself down because of age, beauty, intelligence, or what you have or haven't done. Your identity is based on what God says to you: you are His Son and He is pleased with you.

You don't have to worry about what other people think about you ever again. You just need to consider what God thinks about you, and He only has good thoughts about you.

You see the reason you don't act special isn't because you are not special, but because up until now you did not know how special you are.

Now you know how special you are – you can start living special. You can now discover your dream and start seeing it come to pass. You are going to stop living a hell on earth and start living a heaven on earth.

But it gets better than that – you are something more than special. You are something that is above and beyond just being favoured. God has designed you on purpose for a purpose and you are His highest creation.

You are in fact, God's masterpiece.

#### **4. Accept that You Are a Masterpiece!**

You might not feel like a masterpiece, but it doesn't matter what you feel like: you are still a masterpiece. The people around you might treat you like dirt, something common; but that is only because they have never discerned your true value. You are a masterpiece.

A lady from New York found a piece of artwork in a rubbish dump. She fell in love with the power of the image and had the painting valued – it turned out it was worth over \$1 million as it was an original Rufino Tamayo.<sup>3</sup> Think of that: a masterpiece designed by a genius and it was lying out with the rubbish. So do not be surprised if people do not recognise that you are a masterpiece. Do not be amazed if people do not recognize that you have been designed by a genius or if they get your value wrong.

At the end of the day, it's not the job of other people to recognize how amazing you are. If you are waiting for someone else to discover you then you will be waiting a long time.

One of the things I do spectacularly is preach (and I am humble enough to say this!). I am a great preacher. God has graciously given me a gift to impact people's thought processes and lift and inspire and challenge them with my preaching. The day I was baptized in the Holy Spirit I just had that ability. I have to study a lot and work at it, but when I step into the pulpit the results are supernatural.

So I know a bit about preaching, and a bit about being a young preacher. Most young, aspiring preachers I know are somehow waiting for a person to give them a break. They are waiting to be at a conference of

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<sup>3</sup> Tamayo was a Mexican painter, heavily influenced by impressionism.

hundreds and thousands of people and for the preacher at the front to get up and say “you know what, the Lord has just shown me there is a better preacher than me in the room” and then points at you and lets you preach.

If that is what you are waiting on you will be waiting a long, long time. You need to stop waiting for men to open a door for you – it’s not their job. You need to realize that God thinks you are a masterpiece. God is going to open a door for you. God will do it – and it will happen. As long as you are looking to man to open the door and affirm your brilliance, you will miss God speaking to you and opening the doors to you.

When Paul became a preacher and an apostle, the one thing he did not do was hang around Jerusalem and wait for someone to suddenly recognize his brilliance and give him a pulpit. Yet – so many young men today called by God are hanging around growing, lively churches with strong, anointed pastors waiting for a chance to preach to be given to them. They will be waiting a long time! Paul rather went out into the world and acted like a masterpiece – soon enough word of his success reached the apostles. Go where God has called you to go and do what He has called you to do!

Look to Him! He has made you a masterpiece. He is not going to let you fail or fail to put you on display. He did not make you to hide you away, but to show you off. Your time is coming, but no man is going to open the door for you: God Himself is going to open the door for you and place you exactly where you need to be. Exactly where you dream of being.

You need not to be moved by your past, or your feelings or circumstances. You are a masterpiece...

you are God's work of art and you are unique and you are valuable.

## **5. Thank God He Has a Destiny For You!**

Once you have it settled in your mind that you are a masterpiece then you can start to consider the next part of Ephesians 2.10: *created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*

God designed you as a masterpiece to make more masterpieces. There are some good works to do on planet earth that will never get done unless you do them. The moment you are in Christ Jesus (the moment you become a Christian) then you have qualified to do a specific group of good works to make this planet a better place.

Right now if you are a Christian, God has a to-do list for you –and it is stuffed with things that you are going to love doing. Now religious people do not like that idea – because religion has created a picture of an austere God who wants you to do things you hate.

I remember sitting down with several ministers and I was talking about how I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord called me to London to plant and pioneer a church that will become a mega-church and a church planting church. I know what God has called me to do, and so should every Christian!

Anyway, the question was asked: where in the world would you choose to plant a church if I was not called to London. I said either West Africa or America. I love the West African culture, the food, the openness to the things of God, and I would love to pastor out there. Also, I love the positive attitude of America and know I would be well received there. I then said that I would not be keen to pastor in Australia because the pace of life is so relaxed and I am a get-up-and-go kind of person and I would find the cultural difference difficult.

I was not being rude to Australians, I love Australians and some of the greatest churches in the world are Australian, I was just pointing out that I personally would find the culture hard work.

Well, one of the pastors with me said to me “Don’t say that out loud!” I wondered why, and it turned out that he had the opinion that if I said out loud that I did not want to live in Australia that somehow God would hear me, and make me live there just to teach me a lesson or to just wind me up. Nothing could be further from the truth, God is not some sort of thug sitting in heaven wondering how He can wind us up and sort us out! God is love and He loves you. Let me tell you the truth – and I have proved this again and again – doing what God has designed and called you to do is the greatest, most peaceful, most wonderful thing in the world. Following God’s to-do list is, literally, living the dream, because you are doing what He has designed for you to do.

You can relax – God has a great destiny for you that you will love. So right now: thank Him for giving you a destiny that will fit you perfectly.

## **6. Find Your Destiny – It's Important!**

Once you have become a Christian and been filled with the Spirit, the most important thing for you to do is to find out what God has designed you to do and do it, because by doing what you were knitted together to do, not only will you have the most fun in your life, you will obtain maximum results for minimal effort.

Life is not supposed to be blood, sweat and tears – not that I am saying that it is not hard work – but it is supposed to be abundant life, a full life, joy unspeakable full of glory. If your life is not abundant and full of joy, perhaps what you are doing is simply not what God has either called or designed you to do.

I am designed to preach. That is when I am my most alive – I flow in the Spirit and watch people's lives change before my eyes. I love it. Now, I am designed to pastor as well – if I tried to be a field ministry, it would work for a season, but it would never be maximum results. It would never be fullness of joy. Fullness of joy is only found in your dream.

The reason so many people are so depressed, so down, so negative, so broke, so forlorn is simply because they have never found out what God has designed them to do and started doing it.

### **How To Find Your Destiny #1: Your Dreams**

Now, that leads to the most important question: how do I find out what God created me to do?

The fact is that when God designed you and knitted you together He gave you the desire to do what He designed you to in the form of a dream. So, the first question you must answer is this: what do you dream of doing?

Just relax for a moment and consider: what do you dream of doing? It might be that the monotony and pressures of just living and surviving have taken the ability to dream away from you; it may be that people have mocked and laughed at your dream so much you cannot bring yourself to even admit you have a dream; it may be that it has been so long since you had the dream that you point-blank do not believe it can ever come true.

Fine, ignore all that – you have held on to that for this long and it has not changed your life. Get back to dreaming. Start to dream. As a famous theologian once said “You got to have a dream, if you don’t have a dream, then how you gonna have a dream come true?”<sup>4</sup>

What do you dream of? Do you dream of travelling the globe, preaching the gospel and healing the sick? Do you dream of running your own business? Do you dream of building a shelter for the homeless? Do you dream of writing a masterpiece? Do you dream of a happy family, where peace reigns and your children’s children are enjoying your presence and your wisdom?

Right now, do not let reality interfere with your dream. Do not let circumstances dictate to your inspiration. The Bible says “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he”<sup>5</sup> – if you think that you are a loser who will never achieve anything, that is how you will end up, even if some generous person gave you millions of pounds you would lose it all because that is what you think you are.

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<sup>4</sup> Admittedly, your mileage may vary on whether Oscar Hammerstein was a great theologian. But the point remains: you have to have a dream!

<sup>5</sup> Proverbs 23.7

Let yourself dream. We live in an intensely material and practical age and often dreaming is seen as a waste of time. No way! Ephesians says that God does more than we ask or imagine,<sup>6</sup> part of your mission as a Christian is to let your imagination run riot: let it get totally out of hand. Dream big! Dream huge!

I believe I am the pastor of 2700 people. The only place those people live right now is inside my mind. The Lord told me to move to Dagenham and plant a church that would grow to be a mega-church of 2700 people. So, that is how I see myself; that is how I dream.

You might say there are a lot fewer people in your church than 2700. True – but a few years ago there were no people in our church, and in my dreams there were 2700 people then. It is a lot easier to dream of a large harvest now as the shoots are coming up in the ground. As I keep dreaming and keep believing, then God will keep doing more than I can ask or imagine.

Dare to dream. Whatever you want to do, dream it and keep dreaming it. When I am alone, I imagine myself preaching to 2700. When I preach on a Sunday, in my mind I am preaching to thousands. People often comment on my messages that they should be preached to thousands. I take the care over the messages in the same way I would if I did have thousands there on Sunday mornings. Why? Because in my mind, they already exist and I am the pastor of thousands.

As I see myself is how I am, and if I keep dreaming the dream God has given me then I assure you it will happen. One day you will come to Tree of Life Church and visit us and see the thousands. Who knows – maybe you will be person 2700!

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<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 3.20

You need to keep dreaming about your destiny too. It might be larger than you can deal with but keep dreaming. Keep dreaming! Keep dreaming! Don't quit dreaming! Your dreams will come true.

David Cho, the pastor of the largest church in the world, used to sit in his bed at night and imagine he was on the top deck of a tourist bus that was going past all the parts of his destiny. He was looking out of the bus and the tour guide was saying "This is the largest church in the world, this is people being saved and healed and delivered" and that was how he fixed his imagination on what God had called him to do.

Andrew Wommack when God called him to build a multi-million dollar facility debt-free for a ministry HQ and Bible College, when he had the plot put down masking tape where the walls were going to be, and would not walk through the walls because in his mind they were already built.

Those men are extremists you might say – yes they are: extremely successful within the kingdom of God. You might want to copy a couple of men who are failing and struggling and frustrated, but I prefer to follow the example of people who are impacting the world with the gospel and who see salvations and healings wherever they go.

You are going to have to dream your dream. If you are leading a small group of people, dream of them healed, dream of them being a success. If you are running a business, dream of success.

## **How To Find Your Destiny #2: Act Like Your Dream is True**

When our church was in debt to the tune of £3000, we were in trouble. At that time in our church history,

£3000 might as well have been £10 million! We simply did not have it and I saw no way of getting it. Bills were coming in and it looked like we might have to close the church down.

So I made a bank statement of my own. I took out the numbers on the bank statement and wrote in what I dreamed they should be. I wrote out dream offering envelopes and I wrote cheques to the church for £1000 and kept them all in a folder. At that time, our largest gift ever received was for £350, a £1000 gift seemed impossible. But not in my dreams – every night I went through the folder and I dreamed that I was the pastor of a church with no debt and a healthy income.

Now as you dream you start to act like what you dream to be. This is the important second step of walking in your destiny: dream, then act like your dreams are true. What I thought about was this: what would the pastor of a well-off, financially successful church do?

The answer was obvious: give generously. So for the next three weeks I gave away every single Sunday offering. One week we gave the whole amount to a missionary, one week to a worship leader we know, one week to a ministry that we love a lot.

That was hard work, because all it did was get us deeper in debt. Certain people in the church were concerned I was doing something crazy and unwise, but I had a dream. And every evening I went through my dream folder and let myself dream, let myself imagine, let myself touch my destiny.

Within three weeks of giving all that money away, the money came in. Two people gave gifts of over £1000 to our church. The church suddenly had a growth spurt, and some of the new people were generous to us. Our average offerings went up and money that the

government had owed us for months suddenly was released to us.

Since that day, our church has never been in debt since and our income for the year following was over six times the income for the year before – over 500% year-on-year financial growth.

### **How To Find Your Destiny #3: Start Small**

But you must notice and acknowledge that you grow into your dreams – just like every human started off as a baby, and every tree started as a seed, every single dream starts off small.

The gospel of Luke tells us that to be faithful in the big things you have to be faithful in the small things.<sup>7</sup> Sometimes someone will tell me as a pastor “when I become a millionaire I will really help invest into the vision of this church” when I know fine well they do not give anything now. If you do not give generously when all you have to your name is £10, you will never give generously when you are a millionaire. It is that simple. He who is faithful in the little things will be faithful with big things.

You may be called to build a huge homeless shelter, feeding and providing care for hundreds of homeless people. Start by buying your local homeless person a soup! You may be called to give millions to the kingdom, start by tithing now. You may be called to have an international healing ministry – think about whom you know who is unwell and offer to visit them and bring them some fruit and lay hands on them.

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<sup>7</sup> Luke 16.10

Now I know God can provide £3k when we need it, I need to develop my faith and keep growing towards a church of 2700 people. So I organise a summer conference (called Heal the Nations, see [www.healthnations.net](http://www.healthnations.net) to find out more) that is going to cost £20k (possibly more) and stand back and trust God.

If I had never trusted God with the £3k how could I ever trust Him with the £20k?

But now I am not climbing out on a limb here because I have learned to trust God step by step and I am growing into my dream – God told me to move to Dagenham, God told me to start Heal the Nations, but even though these things are God-inspired we still need to dream about them because if you do not think they will come to pass, then as you think in your heart – that is who you are and that is what will happen.

You have to change how you see yourself before you change what you can do.

**If we do not step out in faith, we will never find out what we can achieve in Christ.**

God is a good God and He has given you the power of the imagination, the power of dreaming. You can dream yourself out of debt, you can dream yourself healthy, and you can dream yourself into a better marriage. You can dream yourself right into your destiny!

**How To Find Your Destiny #4: Your Emotions**

As you dream, let your emotions go with you. What makes you excited – it makes you excited because that is how God designed you. If helping the homeless makes you excited, then that is because God designed you that way because He has helping the homeless for you in your destiny. If youth work is what makes you excited and happy, then I guarantee that is in your destiny. If studying the Word of God in Greek and Hebrew gets you on fire, then I know you are called to in some way teach the Word to others.

Your emotions are one of the biggest keys to your destiny. The Scripture says “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart”<sup>8</sup> – this does not mean delight yourself in God and you will get what you want. It means that if you delight yourself in God by worshipping and praising Him, He will give you desires. He will put dreams and visions in your heart of things you want to do. That is one of the key ways God leads us into our destiny – through giving us a desire to do something. If you have a desire to serve, to invest, to give, to help, to minister, to preach, to teach, to heal; that desire did not come from the devil! It came from a good God who designed you, designed a unique destiny for you, and leads you into that destiny by giving you desires and dreams to do certain things.

Religion tells you that serving God means you never get to do what you want to do. Nonsense – serving and following God means getting to do the things that you are designed to do. What do you want to do? How do you want to help? That is how you were designed to help. Follow that desire and you will not go far wrong!

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<sup>8</sup> Psalm 37.4

One of the biggest lies of religion is that anger and sadness are negative emotions. No – there is no such thing as a negative emotion, just negative actions based on emotions. For example, if you get angry that someone you know is poor and does not have enough money to get by that is not a negative emotion. It might lead to a negative action if you steal or manipulate someone to give to them through guilt or fear, but it is not a negative emotion. If it leads you to give generously to them, it is a positive emotion!

Anger is in fact one of the biggest clues to what you are designed to do. Ignorance gets me angry – when I find Christians who have been Christians 20 years but they still think God does not like them, they have never seen a miracle or spoken in tongues, and they are still unsure of their salvation and think they are unworthy scummy servants; that makes me angry. It is a clue that my ministry is to teach and inform people of the truth of the new birth and their destiny in Christ.

I have to be careful to ensure my anger is motivational and drives me to love people, and that it does not make me kick out at people. Jesus was angry that the Pharisees had made His Father's house a den of robbers, but He only kicked the tables over, not the people.

What makes you angry is a clue to what you are designed to do, is a clue to what you should be dreaming about. Whatever winds you up – imagine a world where that does not exist. I imagine a world where every Christian knows who they are, every Christian lays hands on the sick and they recover, every Christian is equipped to minister to others and fulfil the Great Commission. That dream motivates me to keep doing what I am doing.

Maybe you are wound up and get angry by the fact your church does not see more miracles. Guess what – start dreaming of miracles happening in your church. You may be wound up by the fact your church does not have enough money – so start dreaming of receiving money and writing big cheques to your church. It may frustrate you that there is no church in your town teaching the gospel with grace, basing everything on the complete work of Christ – maybe you should be starting one.

Every emotion you have should lead you back to your dream and destiny. Every time there is conflict or a problem within our church, I let that push me back into dreaming. I am glad our church has more problems as it is because we have more people! If you want a problem free destiny, then what you are saying is that you want a people free destiny as people will always cause problems. But God has never designed a destiny that does not involve helping people and lifting people to a higher level, so your destiny will always involve conflict and trouble. Get used to it – in fact, get excited about it because it means that you are achieving your destiny.

When I am searching for a larger hall so we can have church, it does not burden me or get me down – it gets me excited; it means we have filled another hall. When our church is facing bills of tens of thousands of pounds, I just rejoice because it means we are achieving things in the kingdom.

Don't let circumstances and pressures push you away from your dream, let them push you into your dream.

If something is making you angry – why? Is it because it is standing between you and your dream? If so, start dreaming some more and imagine that

problem does not exist. As you start to think of yourself as an overcomer that is what you will end up!

Your emotions are vital in letting you know your dream. What you cannot stand is what you are called to sort out. Doctor Barnado could not stand seeing children sleeping rough, so he sorted it. Martin Luther King could not stand seeing people treated differently due to the colour of their skin, so he did something about it. What you cannot stand is one of the biggest clues to your destiny. Let anger fuel your imagination, just do not let imagination fuel your anger!

These steps should help you find your destiny. You may need to consider some things, set some time aside to pray and ask the Lord to give you wisdom (James 1.5) and boldness. But God is on your side and He wants you to know the hope of your glory more than you want to know yourself!

## **7. Find the First Step**

### **One Small Step for Man**

Occasionally people will come to me and share their dreams with me, and - as they are sharing -the enormity of their dreams is a pressure on them. They want to plant a church and build it to 500 and the pressure to do it is overwhelming. They want to give a million pounds and the pressure is too much. They want to set up classes for children failing exams, and set up a building to do this, and the practical side of things is making them freeze.

I am glad that such people are dreaming big – and you must understand this fact: if a dream is not so big you can handle it without God’s help, you have not yet found out your dream and destiny yet, just a cheap substitute – all God-given dreams require more than you have. But the people feeling pressure from their big dreams have not learned that you achieve a dream in steps.

So many people are looking for a quick fix in this world. That is why the lottery is appealing because so many people want instant wealth, and that is why over 70% of teenage girls in this country have music star as their stated ambition because talent shows make it look like you can have instant success with little work.

And that culture has been imbibed into the church. Many people are looking for a revival that essentially means that suddenly hundreds of people start coming to church and the Christians do not need to witness, evangelise, go out into the streets and do the works of Jesus. Charismatics have developed a revival based mentality which is just a way of getting spiritual success with no work! It’s lazy, defeatist and not Biblical.

There is no instant success in the world or the church. That is a fact. The Bible says the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.<sup>9</sup> Anything that is ordered by God and designed by God is not instant. It takes a series of steps. You cannot go from pastoring 5 people to pastoring 500 in one week, it takes steps. You cannot go from unknown to multi-media ministry in one week, it takes steps. You cannot go from a brand new business with one customer to a company serving thousands within one week, it takes steps.

Everything ordered of the Lord comes with a series of steps. Things have to be done in a certain order or they just will not work. If God calls you to start a church of thousands, your first question to God must be: what is the first step? If He calls you to have an international ministry, or run your own business, or get promoted at work, or be out of debt, or whatever, then always start by asking: what is the first step?

God is not looking for sprinters; He is looking for people in it for the long distance. And the first thing we have to do whenever we know we have a destiny, is find out what the first step is and take it. God is not looking for you to run with the whole vision today: He is looking for you to take one step.

God does not want you to feed the world – He wants you to take the first step and feed one person. He does not want you to give £1 million; He wants you to tithe from the money you are getting in now.

When we moved to Dagenham to start a church, I was getting frustrated because I did not know how to pastor and run a church and do all the things that I thought were necessary. Then all of this dawned on me, and I realized the truth: I only have to take one step.

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<sup>9</sup> Psalm 37.23

We have four children, and sometimes after dinner, the kitchen can look like a bomb site. If I look at all the dishes that have to be done, it can be a little discouraging. But if I just do one dish, then another, then another, I can do them all. That is the approach you need to have for your destiny: it's not your job to do everything at once, it is your job to take the next step.

### **The Next Step Will Not Get You There**

One of the things that often brings confusion as you launch out to see a dream come true is that the next step often looks very, very different from the complete dream. For example, when we left my house for our Sunday celebration services, we moved into a hall that seated about 90 people. Now, my dream is for a church building that seats 3000 people. The step was very different from the dream, but without the step the dream will never come true.

Meeting in that first hall taught us how to pay bills monthly, how to organise deacons and ushers, how to deal with late comers, how to seat people with large families and little children. It was a necessary first step – moving into a building that seats 3000 as our first step would be utterly foolish, there had to be a first step, and a second step, and a third step.

If you keep on making each step, one by one, reaching out in faith and making each step you will eventually look around and find out that you are walking in the middle of your dream.

Wherever you are in relation to seeing your dream come true, you should be asking the Lord to give you the wisdom and insight to know what the next – or first – step is, and then step out in boldness.

## **First the Blade**

The first steps of any dream are always small, and people often miss them because it is tempting to despise small things. We naturally want to impact and change the world – and that is a noble goal and it comes from the fact that we are made in the image of God and are designed for significance. But unless we appreciate the small things in life, we will miss the first step of our destiny.

Many people are missing their destiny because they do not realize that small things are very important. Don't be one of these people – because you will miss out on the joy of the Lord and miss out on your destiny.

So many people mistakenly think God deals with people through crises and miracles. They think that if someone needs healing that God's best is a mighty miracle in a big church service. That is simply not true – God's best is that you just believe the Word and receive your healing. God is supernatural, but He is not concerned with the spectacular so much.

We used to own a car in the late 1990s that could only be described as an old banger. It was out of date and out of shape in every single way. Its spark plugs had a mind of their own, and sometimes the engine would turn over and sometimes it would not. There were several times we laid hands on the car and commanded it in the name of Jesus to work and it did. It was a miracle car.

Finally the car died and there was nothing more we could do. But praise the Lord someone gave us a newer car within a couple of months. We never needed to pray over this car in tongues, we never had to lay hands on it. It was a blessed car.

Now you do not need to be a genius to see that the blessed car is better than the miracle car. The same is true for your destiny. Yes, there are always times of miracles and times the Lord will do amazing things for you, but His best for you is a natural growth and increase.

For example, imagine you are at church and the preacher calls you out and says “You are called to have a mighty international healing ministry!” Everyone is cheering and rejoicing, and you are excited. You have found out part of your destiny.

Now what most people want at that point is a miracle destiny. They want to be at a conference with hundreds and thousands of people present, and the speaker to walk in the pulpit and say “The Lord has just told me not to preach because the great Jim is here” and you then get up and start to preach and healings just happen because of your awesome smile.

I am not saying that will never happen, but it is not God’s best and you cannot base your hopes and your destiny on the off chance that this happens – it is just the same as a Christian playing the lottery, waiting someday for their ship to come in without ever putting any ships out.

No – if the Lord is calling you to an international healing ministry then start a small group based on healing. Go and find out the names and addresses of the shut-ins associated with your church and go and visit them and teach them about healing and pray for them. Join your churches’ healing ministry team. Offer to pray for your colleagues at work. As you step out in faith one step at a time, your ministry will grow and increase and develop until suddenly another nation calls you.

## **Filled with Faith**

This is how Philip ended up being an evangelist. He was a Spirit-filled man, full of faith and faithful to his local church, the church in Jerusalem. Philip was chosen by the apostles in the church to wait on tables and serve soup to old ladies while the apostles spent more time in the Word.

There might have been a temptation to resent the apostles sitting around reading their Bibles preparing sermons while he was making hot soup, cutting vegetables and serving people who may or may not have been kind to him and may or not have been grateful for a free lunch. But Philip never took that temptation, he served faithfully. And then suddenly, we find out that Philip is preaching the gospel in Samaria. How did Philip ever get an invite to Samaria?

Because he was serving! People saw him serve and minister – and I am sure Philip was praying for the food as he made it, then ministering and praying for the old ladies as he served them.

Maybe some of the old ladies were healed as Philip prayed for them. Maybe one of those ladies had family in Samaria and that is how Philip got invited. We do not know exactly what happened – but the point is that he was invited as he was serving; as he was doing something.

Working in the soup kitchen was the first step to a mighty ministry and destiny as a healing evangelist. The first step did not look like the first step to being a healing evangelist, but Philip was humble enough and gracious enough not to miss the first step because he wanted an instant international ministry!

When I first started going to church, I used to arrive early and put the chairs out every week. It was hard work, especially when we had a new born baby in the house, but I knew that it was helping the church and helping the pastor. After about a year of doing that, the pastor asked me to help catch people when he prayed for them. Our pastor at the time had a powerful healing ministry, and often when he prayed for people they crashed to the ground. So, I spent about six months catching people as they fell and watching my pastor minister healing to the sick.

Then one Sunday I turned up, ready to catch people after church and the pastor pointed out that there are a lot of people in the church and that for the sake of time, he needed help praying for people. He then told me that when he called people up for healing that he would start ministering down one end of the line and I would start at the other end of the line. I was kind of stunned but he said just to do what I had been watching him do for the last six months.

I did, and as I laid hands on people they started receiving their healing. Now, I am invited to churches just to hold healing services and have seen sick people healed all over the world! But, putting out chairs did not look like a natural first step to a healing ministry and it would have been easy to miss it if I was only looking for something spectacular.

If there is no opening to serve your church in the area you want to serve, find something to do and do it with all your heart and all sorts of doors will be open to you.

There are deacons in Tree of Life Church who are so faithful and so passionate about serving and helping, when the church grows there will always be

promotion available for them because they are faithful in the first steps.

The same is the case with employment – I know people, who sit at home after getting up at 11am, watch daytime TV and eat cereal all day that are waiting for a dream job to fall out the sky and pay them a fortune for doing nothing. It is never going to happen – go out there and get a job, any job and then more opportunities will open up.

## 8. Kill the Dream Killers

When you realize what the first step to your dream is, and you start doing the first step, not despising the day of small beginnings, and being faithful to God, and you start using your imagination to see yourself where you want to be, then you are dangerous to satan because you are soon going to impact the planet for the kingdom of God.

Satan has a few tricks and plans to stop you standing up for your dream. He has a number of devious, sneaky lies which will entrap you if you let them which will cause you to miss out on everything God has for you!

Satan cannot force you to do anything. Jesus said “All authority has been given to me”<sup>10</sup> and all means all – the devil has zero authority. The only thing he has is tricks and lies, so if you do not believe the lies then you can resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The lies of the devil are designed to stop you from dreaming, and stop you from taking the steps necessary to walk in your dream.

When the devil lied to Jesus and tempted him, he first dealt with Jesus directly in the wilderness<sup>11</sup> and tried to convince Him to worship him! When Jesus dealt with the devil by standing on the Word of God, the devil left him and the Bible says that “When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”<sup>12</sup>

That is the last time we hear of satan tempting Jesus until Peter tells Jesus that he will not let him die and go to the cross and Jesus tells Peter “satan, get behind

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<sup>10</sup> Matthew 28.18

<sup>11</sup> Matt. 4.1-13

<sup>12</sup> Luke 4.13, NASB.

me.”<sup>13</sup> This is a very important point to consider when dealing with the devil. He will first try and mess with your thinking directly, when you resist him and this fails to work, he will hunt around your friends and family to find someone who will voice his lies to you. Often it is those closest to us that are used by the devil to attack our dreams and tell us they will never come true!

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood,<sup>14</sup> so do not be upset with people – but that does not mean that you have to believe the lie and receive the attack on your dream. Wisely confront if you have to, ignore if you have to, but do not let people lie about your dream and your destiny!

No matter how any of these lies come to you, they are attacking your dream and you must deal with them to see your dreams come true!

### **Dream Killer #1: You Are No One Special**

This one is so old they tried it on Jesus. Jesus was preaching in the synagogue and talking about the anointing on his life to rescue people, and people started to say “this is just the carpenter’s son!”<sup>15</sup>

Whenever you start to present your dreams and believe your dreams and make moves towards seeing your dreams come true, someone will come along and tell you that you are no-one special, that you are just like your dad, just like your mum, not like your dad, not like your mum, never going to be different, never going to make it.

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<sup>13</sup> Matt. 16.23

<sup>14</sup> Eph. 6.10

<sup>15</sup> Matt. 13.55

“Just who do you think you are?” is the cry of the small thinker who wants to keep your dreams from coming true.

We need to ignore those words. In the natural, Jesus was the son of a carpenter and not qualified at all to preach, teach and heal the sick. But the fact is that Jesus was not limited to natural things – in the spirit, He was the Son of the Most High, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Carnal people can only look at natural things and can never see what is going on in the spirit realm. My friend Dave Duell says that “if we could see each other in the spirit realm, you wouldn’t believe how awesome we all are”.

You are awesome – remember you are God’s masterpiece. When people say things like you are from the wrong side of the tracks, the wrong colour, the wrong age, the wrong social class, the wrong personality, the wrong everything, then you need to remember that those people are merely showing off how carnal and immature they are by their judging you according to the outside. If they were spiritual, they would realize how amazing you are! Do not get carnal back by judging them and attacking them, simply ignore them.

When I was planting Tree of Life Church in the early days, I worked as a postman to get some extra money. That is a great job for a church planter – you get much needed exercise, a chance to listen to messages on mp3, and you finish work before anyone else so you have a chance to pray and do some paper work before meeting people for ministry! One day I was putting some letters through the letter box when I heard three or four dogs inside the house barking. They were going berserk because I had put a piece of post through the letter box.

As I was walking to the next house, the Holy Spirit said to me “why not go back and talk to the dogs?” I thought what a strange idea but the Holy Spirit continued saying “why not take the time to explain that you are not a threat to the house, that you are a postman and that you are bringing useful information to their master?”

I thought that is silly, arguing with a barking dog. But the Holy Spirit showed me that whenever we argue with someone who cannot see what we see in the spirit, we are arguing with someone who cannot understand us, our nature and our language. It is as dumb as arguing with a dog.

Never forget that you are a son of the Most High God. Never forget that you are a king and a priest, that you are more than a conqueror, that you are a new creation, that you are a friend of God, that you are a masterpiece created to work masterpieces on planet earth.

Do not let people kill your dream by telling you that you are not big enough, good enough, capable enough to walk in your dream. Do not let people kill your dream by laughing at your first step towards your dream.

### **Dream Killer #2: Not Taking the First Step**

Sometimes taking the first step to your dream looks in the natural as a step backwards. Carnal people will try and talk you out of it because they are genuinely concerned you are taking a step backwards because they cannot see that it will lead to something awesome.

When I left my career as a school teacher to start the church, certain people were stunned and tried to talk

me out of it. At times, I felt like quitting because the church was so tiny and it did not like it was growing or was healthy. But I kept going, and eventually it did start to grow. Do not quit on your dream, do not quit on what God has called you to do. It might look to people around that you are a bit loopy or that you are taking a step backwards, but if you are taking a step to your dream it will always lead to a far better place than where you are right now. There may be a desert when you leave your place of slavery and take the first step to your promised land, but keep walking and keep taking steps and eventually you will cross over into your dream and see it come true. You were designed to have a dream come true!

When you take the first step into seeing your dream come true, sometimes it can feel like all of hell is throwing itself at you to stop you seeing your dream come true. Keep walking, keep taking those steps because the desert will only last for a season, but your Promised Land lasts for the rest of your life, and the reward for impacting the lives you will impact you will take into eternity with you.

### **Dream Killer #3 Not Grasping the Geography of Dreams**

Your dream is tied to a specific geographical place and a specific group of people. If you fail to discern this you may never walk in the fullness of your dream! Moses was called to the people of Israel – his destiny was to set them free, and if he had not stayed with them. Aaron was the high priest over Israel, and if he had not stayed with Israel he would never have fulfilled his destiny.

You do not just need to know what you are called to do, but where you are called to do it! Where in the

world are you supposed to live is so vital, because a ministry crafted by God to work in London will never work in Birmingham, or Paris, or anywhere else in the world.

#### **Dream Killer #4 Being a Clone**

Because your dream is totally and utterly unique, when you start to walk in it you will be criticized because you will be doing something no one else has ever seen before. Don't get upset about that.

When I first started preaching I took any preaching engagement I could – and everywhere I went someone compared me to someone else, “you are the next ...” they would say. Once I was preaching in a church and a guy said “You know which preacher you remind me of?” My rather unhumble attitude was thinking “I bet it's Kenneth Copeland or Andrew Wommack”, but he turned to me and said “Joyce Meyer.” Bubble deflated!

But the truth is this: I am not the next Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Andrew Wommack, Benny Hinn, Smith Wigglesworth, John Wesley – I am the first Benjamin David Conway. I am me. I am unique. I don't look to others for a model of ministry any more, I look to the Lord to see how He wants me to flow with Him.

You are not anyone else, and if you try and fit in to anyone else's blueprint, you will miss *your* dream. Utterly and totally.

## **Dream Killer #5 Caring What Other People Think**

Proverbs 29:25 tells us that “Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.” Peter denied Christ and almost set his vision of being a church leader into tailspin because he was scared of people. Caring what other people think is one of the things that will stop you doing what God has called you to do.

The woman with the issue of blood was scared to be known in public and almost missed out on her healing. I know preachers who agree with what I say about grace and faith and the complete work of Christ in private but would never say it in public because they are genuinely scared of losing their people. I know pastors who listen to me preach every week online, but would never let their church know this!

Being scared of people will always short circuit your destiny. If you are scared to lay hands on the sick because you are worried what people would think of you, then you won't see that many miracles. If you are afraid to teach on finances because you will lose people, you won't hear many financial testimonies in your church. If you are afraid to take a course at work to get promotion because the people in the office will call you names, then you will stay at the same level for the rest of your career.

You need to get to the stage where you do not give a rip about what anyone thinks of you. If God tells you to do something, you need to not confer with flesh and blood – you need to just do it.

When God spoke to me about having an annual conference called Heal the Nations, besides starting Tree of Life Church it was the single biggest thing I had ever done. Certainly the money involved was staggering to me, absolutely staggering. I did not

know if anyone would turn up or if any of the speakers would want come – except that God told me who to invite and who to ask and that they would all come.

I did not ever ask anyone's advice or permission on whether to hold that conference. I have asked a couple of people's advice about certain ways to do things, but I never asked anyone whether to do it or not. God said to do it and that was enough for me. It should be enough for anyone.

Never let other people's opinions determine whether you do what God has told you to do.

## **Conclusion**

God has given you a dream. He gave it to you before you were born. There are countless people who need to hear the message inside you, receive from the service that God has designed you to do, hear the song God has placed inside you, and receive the finances God has planned for you to bring into the kingdom.

If you listen to these steps and consider them, then one day – and one day soon – you will be standing in the midst of your dream. You will be enjoying a life of maximum results with minimum effort. Psalm 126.1-2 says that those who dream have mouths full of laughter.

The more you consider what I have said in this book the happier you will become. Joy gives you favour with people that no other emotion ever will. You will enter into your dream.

This is your time. This is your season. You reading this book is no mistake at all. Begin to dream. Begin to walk in your dream. And soon you will walk in the fullness of your dream.

Hallelujah!

*Thanks for reading this book by Benjamin Conway.  
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