

Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 3_Overspiritualising, Signs, & Confirmations



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Scriptures mentioned:

*We can make our plans, but
the Lord determines our steps.*
Proverbs 16:9 NLT

*The Lord will fight for you; you
need only to be still.*
Exodus 14:14 NIV

*Then the Lord said to Moses,
"Why are you crying out to
me? Tell the Israelites to move
on..."*
Exodus 14:15 NIV

Summary

In this episode we start chatting about the unexpected turns our careers have taken as we endeavor to live out our purpose, whether or not Christians can overspiritualise decisions about staying in certain situations versus stepping out and trying something different, and the idea of signs and confirmations.

Let's Discuss...

- What do you find yourself doing in life now (perhaps in school, work, relationships, etc) and is it what you expected? Do you feel it aligns with God's purposes for your life?
- Jake says that in seasons when the opportunities presented to him were not what he expected, he reminded himself, "Who I am is greater than what I do." How can we guard against attaching our identity to what we "do" and instead remember that our identity is found in who we were created to be - children of God in intimate relationship with Him and becoming more like Him...?
- What does it mean to "overspiritualise" things, and is this really possible for a Christian? Do you agree with Steph, that if we are walking with God and surrendering our will and desires to His, then we can begin to trust that God is leading us through our own internal will and desires, rather than waiting for a voice outside of ourselves to give us direction? Could this be dangerous?
- Take a moment to reflect on Exodus 14. By this point in the narrative of Exodus, the Israelites have been enslaved by the Egyptians for over 400 years (Exodus 12:40), and God is in the process of working through Moses to set them free. God has already done many miraculous wonders to bring them to this point, including sending plagues on the Egyptians to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go (Exodus 7-11) and leading the Israelites on the path they should take with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22).
 - » Despite all God has done to bring the Israelites to this point, they find that Pharaoh is coming after them yet again. What emotion do we see them experiencing in Exodus 14:10?
 - » Taking a look at this example in Exodus 14:14-15, how can we as believers know when it's time to "be still" and when it's time to "move on"? In this instance, what caused Moses to tell them to be still?
 - » Although the Lord came through miraculously over and over again to bring the Israelites to freedom from slavery, why do you think they continued to struggle to trust Him? Can you relate to the Israelites in this regard?
- Have you ever experienced a sign or confirmation of something that God was speaking to you? How can we know that these confirmations are from Him?

Bonus!

- » Read Judges 6:36-40. Why do you think God did this for Gideon?
- » Read Matthew 16:1-4. Why do you think Jesus responded in this way to the Pharisees' and Sadducees' request for a sign? Jesus implies that there are already signs around them that they don't know how to interpret. How can we increase our awareness of and ability to correctly interpret the signs that are already around us?

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Let's Pray...

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.
Proverbs 16:9 NLT

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5 AMP

- While it's ok to ask God for confirmation, James tells us that if we ask for wisdom, He will give it to us generously. As we seek to live out His purposes in our lives, let's ask boldly for wisdom, discernment to know when we should be still or step out in faith, and a deep trust that He is already going before us and guiding our steps.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **Delighting in God's Will | Discernment | Pastor Rich Villodas** at New Life Fellowship Church NYC [video]
- **Learning to Listen to Your Heart | Discernment | Pastor Rich Villodas** at New Life Fellowship Church NYC [video]
- **Prudence and Discernment | Discernment | Pastor Rich Villodas** at New Life Fellowship Church NYC [video]
- **Gold, Darkness and Dwarves [Matthew]** by Tim Mackie (on the Parable of the Talents) [video]