

# How to Steward Your Destiny

By Trevor H. Lund



## *How to Steward Your Destiny*

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In the garden the serpent asked “Did God really say...?” (Genesis 3:1) and that’s a question satan keeps asking us today. It is so easy for us to forget the promise God has spoken to us. They are like to seed that falls in the rocky ground:

*The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. Matthew 13:20-21 (New Living Translation)*

As soon as problems come, the joy of the seed that’s planted is forgotten. You and I need to remember the prophetic promises given to us.

I don’t want to say, “I have 5 steps for you.” because these steps are fluid and not always in the order that we’ll see in the portion of Scripture where I’m going to draw them out. Let’s call them “points.”

And it’s not that you evaluate once in your life and you’re onto something else. Every time you have a transition, a change or a new adventure you may need to go through this process.

Also, I haven’t been able to find a timeline for these points. Sometimes I go through them in an afternoon, other times it takes me years. But there is wisdom in knowing the process of stewarding a prophetic word.

Let's see how a woman who had nothing but problems did it.

## **2 Kings 4:1-7 - Elisha and the Widows Oil**

*The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves."*

*Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"*

*"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil."*

*Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."*

*She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one."*

*But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.*

*She went and told the man of God, and he*

*said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."*

Here's what I've picked up from this story about stewarding a prophetic word.

## **Point 1 - Seek counsel from wise sources**

The woman had a problem and she went to the prophet.

I often get the question when someone has a life-changing experience with God, "How do I know God's timing?"

There's no formula for this. Sometimes God speaks and we know we need to do it now. Other times there is nothing we can do about it now, so we wait with expectation. Sometimes we get a word that just doesn't make sense to us in the moment.

It's OK. Learn how to steward it.

The Bible says six times (Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28) that things must be confirmed by two or three witnesses. You don't need to be running off the first time you hear something.

It's OK to wait and ponder. In the upcoming points I'll show you how you can. Before we get there however,

there are two things you need to know once God has confirmed His call with two or three witnesses:

### **1. Don't get caught up getting confirmation**

James tells us that when we ask for wisdom God will give it, without finding fault. But if we don't believe we're getting the wisdom we ask for, we'll be double-minded and tossed like a wave of the sea (James 1:5-6). Know God is speaking to you. You're his sheep, you know His voice.

You can't get a home run if you don't swing. Too many people are afraid to swing the bat. They're waiting for that perfect pitch. Listen - it's OK to strike out. It's not OK to strike out without swinging. (Well, it is...you're still under grace. I just don't want to push the analogy too far.) The point is - hear and obey - don't try to re-hear and re-hear and re-hear. Don't merely listen to the word, do what it says. (James 1:22)

### **2. He might not give clear direction again until you obey the first command.**

I learned this one the hard way.

God told me starting a web design business was going to be a waste of time. I thought that was just for while we were in New Zealand. When I returned to Canada, I had all kinds of ideas for businesses and started a publishing house, a web design, graphic design, editing, SEO and printing business.



I was waiting for Him to tell me “No” again. I was simply doing what made sense for me to do.

Five years later I was looking for direction and God took me back to the day I knew in my spirit He said, “It’s a waste of time” and I knew the last five years in business were. He then reminded me of his audible voice saying, “I’ve given you time to write.” Then I felt Him ask me, “Did I ever tell you to stop writing?”

I didn’t start anything without seeking God first. When He gave no direct sense, I assumed He was letting me use my common sense and skills. What I learned later was that He had spoken and He was waiting for me to obey.

Looking back, I see it’s not that simple. He was telling me through my wife and through other people asking me to write for them and through a stranger who heard me on the radio talk about my books tell me, “That’s what you need to be doing,” that God was giving me direction, but I wasn’t picking up on it. Instead I was letting the giant of “You’ll-never-make-a-living-from-writing” drown out the call of God to write.

Even if you see the destination and can’t get there from where you’re at, I’ll show you how you can start moving towards that direction with your thoughts, speech and actions.

## Point 2 - Look to What You Have

The woman was asked what she had. It was oil.

I'm assuming you have a prophetic word, but what if you don't? It doesn't mean God isn't interested in your destiny. It may simply mean you've never been in a place to get or understand a prophetic word. That's not a problem, there are three things you can do to find out God's plans for your life.

### 1. Consider Your Nature

God loves how He's made you. The gifts and passions are not mistakes. You weren't born into the wrong family to pick up bad habits. Sure, we all need to get over some of them. But He's given us a unique perspective and passion to live. It's good. It's valuable. It's holy.

Stop thinking God's a kill-joy that will only ask you to do things that you say, "I'll never do...." That's not Biblical and yet I hear it from the most amazing people.

What's Biblical is the Father knit you together in your mother's womb and wrote all your days in a book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139:13-16). He wants the best for you and has given you your dream.

Here's questions you can ask yourself to start defining those dreams:

*What games did you play as a child? What dreams did you daydream about? What's the one thing you would be doing if money was not a problem?*

These can all be clues to your destiny.

Take it a step further and see God's hand in places you might not consider looking.

*What upsets you? What ticks you off? What makes you angry?*

Anger is not the problem. It's when we sin in our anger that we don't reflect the nature of God (Ephesians 4:26-27). We can be upset at sin and injustice and pain and suffering and completely have the Father's heart. It reveals part of the treasure He's entrusted you.

Just make sure to ask God if it's your problem that you get upset at the person in front of you who has 14 items in the 12 item line or if it's a reflection of His Divine revelation of justice. I'm not saying it's one or the other. God will let you know when you ask.

## **2. Look to Your Passion**

Are you having a difficult time knowing what you're passionate about? We've all been there. When we're off course and going through the motions, or so caught up with someone else's agenda we can't see God's plan, it's difficult to know what you're passionate about.

But God knows your passions. He's given them to you.

You can use this tool when you ask the Father to reveal the treasure He's hidden in you. It's a simple two steps, but you need to use them.

### **a. Invite**

Invite Him to bring to your memory a passion from your childhood, or an encouragement from a teacher or pastor or friend.

It's as simple as praying:

*Father, I need direction and encouragement. I don't know what to do at this point. Show me a glimpse of the treasure you've hidden in me that others have seen and encouraged me with. However you want to speak it to me, help me Holy Spirit to understand. I know you said as I delight myself in you, you'll give me the desires of my heart. Show me the desires you've put in my heart.*

### **b. Listen**

Now wait for Him to speak and show you a memory to encourage you. He will. He loves giving good gifts to His children. He could bring you memories or a vision or whatever He knows you can understand or seek out

understanding for. Don't get up too quickly and don't think He won't reveal it to you over the next few days, weeks or months. Keep inviting until you get what you need.

### **3. Look to Your Pain**

The other way is to see what your destiny may be is to look back on your life and see the places you've been beaten up. Look to see where the stressors have been strongest. The enemy sees the glory that God has deposited in you and does everything he can to steal, kill and destroy it.

Now, here's a Kingdom secret. You may only see pain in those situations, but something far more important was also happening.

While the enemy was attacking you, God was seeing the glory He's deposited in you be refined and shined and made to reflect Him.

In Malachi it says:

*He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;  
(Malachi 3:3)*

When a silversmith, smiths silver he holds the silver in the hottest part of the flame. He won't take it out of the flame too early. He won't take it out of the flame too late. He watches it closely - very closely. He watches it closely because there is a moment when he knows the impurity has been separated and the dross has been

cleared...it is the moment – it may not seem like it, but it is when He is closely watching the silver in the flame – that He sees His own reflection.

God keeps you in the hottest part of the flame because he sees the good in you that he needs to refine. He won't take you out a moment too soon. He won't take you out a moment too late. He's going to see you reflect his face.

We may go through life unaware of the consistency of the flame. When we have the choice, we may withdraw from it and avoid it's purification. Allow the Spirit to show you the patterns in your life when the enemy has attacked. You'll see it's also the Father wanting to purify. Those places most likely are where your destiny lies.

You have a call, you have a destiny. Your steps are ordered by God (Psalm 37:23).

### **So what else do you have?**

If you know your prophetic call, or you just have learned it, get an understanding of what else you have.

*What skills, what knowledge, what passion?*

Take some time and itemize them.

It doesn't matter if you can't see how they fit your prophetic call. You really are amazing.

Your best talents are the ones that it's hard for you to

see because you find them so easy you think everyone can do them. Most people can't. You really are special. If you can't see them, ask your friends what they are.

Take them before God and commit them to His plan for you. Tell Him you'll use them as He directs, even if He asks you to use it in faith.

The widow had a little bit of oil and was told to pour it into as many vessels as she could find. You'll likely be asked to do the same.

## **Point 3 - Borrow**

The widow was told to gather up all the empty jars she could.

In stewarding your destiny, learn from others who are walking the path you want to walk. You're not observing them to copy them, but to glean what you can. God isn't in to copycats. He made us all unique for a reason.

Borrow from the Holy Spirit - He teaches you all things.

What skills will you need that you must improve on? What wisdom are you lacking? Whose anointing will you come under?

Use what you borrow and make it your own.

## Point 4 - Shut the door

Shut the door to criticism. Shut the door to naysayers. Shut the door to voices who are agreeing with the enemy. Take what you've borrowed and add what you own to it... make it all your own.

### a. Dream

Dream about your prophetic word. What will it look like?

*...for as he thinks within himself, so he is.  
Proverbs 23:7 (HCSB)*

Know God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

### b. Declare

The second thing you can do when you shut the door is to declare the promises of Scripture.

*Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident. God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete. (2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (The Message))*

Let the Spirit lead you to the promises from Scripture

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that speak to you on a particular topic. Then personalize them, write them out, and regularly declare them out loud. For example:

**Ask for increased favor with God and with man.**

*I declare in Jesus' name that I am blessed with the favor of the Lord. His favor is a shield and protection around me. I grow in favor every day with God and man. I am favored in everything I put my hands to and everywhere I go. The blessing of the Lord's favor opens doors for me that no one can shut. I am blessed beyond measure because of the undeserved, unmerited favor of the Lord.*

*I am constantly filled with goodness, because the favor of the Lord blesses me. I have favor everywhere I go because I seek good and because I love wisdom. I am favored at home, in my church, in the work place, marketplace and everywhere I connect with people. The rich among the people entreat my favor. Those in authority favor me. I am favored in all my dealings because of the blessing of Christ over my life. ( According to Psalms 5:12, 45:12; Proverbs 3:4, 8:35, 11:27, 14:15. From an email sent out by Patricia King <[---

Expectancy Ministries](http://www.ex-</a></i></p></div><div data-bbox=)*

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### **c. Practice**

When you're behind closed doors, away from the public eye - practice your passion. It's OK to make mistakes. It's OK to not always get it right. It's OK to not be perfect. Hone your skills. Keep pouring that oil until all the vessels are full. You can't get more of what you have until you pour out what you've got.

Do this in private. Please hear what I'm saying... For example, if God has given you a passion to see people healed. I'm not saying, "Don't pray for anyone on the street until you know they'll be healed." I'm not saying, "Don't pray for anyone at church until you have a testimony." Both of those situations are private, even though they are done in public. They are private because you're not confronting the prophets of Baal on primetime TV.

God may give you a great ministry. He may ask you to do many public challenges. When it's time for you to practice, it's not time for you to make public challenges. Your church family is a safe place for you to practice.

There will come a time when you are to launch that new business or release that movie, or run for public office or start that mom's group or syndicate that teaching or publish that book - those are times to be public. You're never going to be ready for the next step until you practice behind your closed doors.

Do you know you should write one million words before you get published? I'm getting very close. I did that in private...except for my blogs. You hone the skills, you learn the art, you channel your passion, you do that behind closed doors.

Shut the door to criticism. Shut the door to naysayers. Shut the door to voices who are agreeing with the enemy. Shut the door so you can dream with God. Shut the door so you can agree with His promises. Shut the door so you can practice. This is how you take what you borrow and add to it what little you have so have something that others are going to find value in.

## **Point 5 - Go Sell**

The prophet told the woman to, "Go..."

There will be a time when God says, "Take it out into the open, show people what I've poured out through you. They're going to find it valuable."

"Going" means it's time to take public what you created in private. It means you launch that business, run for office, shoot that movie, write for that newspaper, start that ministry...whatever He's put in you to help fulfill your destiny.

It's time to "go," when everything is filled. I'm not saying you won't need to be re-filled, I'm saying everything is so full, you can't keep it inside. I don't want you to lose sight of the call. You're not meant to be behind closed doors forever. Having a room full of supernaturally filled

pots is useless. You've got to make public use of what He's given you in private.

As you go, the steps fall into place. Let me explain what I mean: The widow never asked, "Who do I sell to?" or "What price do I set?" or "Do I sell here or there?" or "Do I try to undercut the competition?" or "Do I sell with my story?" or "Do I leverage the oil I have to get more empty jars that I can fill up with more oil?" or "Do I wait until the fast when the price of oil goes up?"

No. Every indication is she went and did what she was told. Her kids were going to be slaves. She would have obeyed to went out and sold as she was told. The prophet said, "go" and we can assume she went.

## **Jesus Set the Pattern**

I can't tell you when it's time for you to go. But I'm glad to say Jesus gave us the pattern for how we are to "go".

In John chapter 20 Jesus was already crucified and buried and rose again. His disciples were hiding behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders and Jesus appeared and showed them his hands and side. Then He said: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)

As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us. The same manner and the same means and with the same Spirit in which the Father sent the Son, so the Son tells us to

“go”.

From the context, we see “the going” is earmarked by peace. He said; “Peace be with you” Jesus earlier said: So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:31-33).

Jesus’ walk is permeated with peace. He didn’t fear storms. He didn’t fear demons. He didn’t fear men. He didn’t fear impossibilities. I think we can see how He walked in that peace.

## **He Kept in Step with the Spirit**

Jesus only did what He saw the Father do (John 6:33) He only said what He heard the Father say (John 12:49-50). The intimate relationship that Jesus had with the Father is what’s available to us today. As we go, we don’t have to worry, because we keep in step with the Spirit.

## **He Obeyed**

Jesus obeyed to the point of death on the cross (Philippians 2:8). The widow obeyed the prophet and took what she had and took what she borrowed and in faith poured out the only thing she had of value. As we go, it’s not just that we have this mind-shattering relationship with the creator of the universe, it’s that we

obey what He tells us to do.

This is liberating...this is why I can say we “steward our destiny.” Your destiny is entirely on His shoulders. It’s what He’s entrusted you to share with others. You steward the treasure He’s entrusted with you. You manage the destiny He has planned for you. Your responsibility to move in your prophetic destiny is to keep in step with the Spirit and obey what He says. It’s an amazing partnership deal. There is no downside to this...as long as you understand God is good and in a good mood.

## **He Had Friendship With God**

The final point of “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” is that as we keep in step with the Spirit, and as we obey what He tells us to do, Jesus says that we’re no longer servants, we are His friends. We are His friends because we know the Father’s plans (John 15:15).

As we go, we go in peace. We go in peace because we keep in step with the Spirit and obey what He says. Because we obey what He says, He no longer calls us servants He calls us friends. He calls us friends because He reveals all the Father reveals to Him. Our steps are ordered by God because we are friends with God. As the Father has sent the Son, so the Son tells us to go.

## **How Do I Know When I’m To Go?**

I'm often asked, not in so many words, but with the same sentiment: "How can I orchestrate the emergence of my destiny?" You can't. Need proof? Moses knew he was a leader and so he killed the Egyptian who was beating his fellow Israelite. He was trying to step into his destiny before he or the people were ready for it. He had to learn to take care of sheep in the wilderness. He had to know he couldn't do what God was asking him to do without the help of God and others. He needed another 40 years of wisdom and ripening.

This is great news. God is the one who is going to open up doors that no one can shut and shut doors that no one can open (Revelation 3:8). When you're walking righteously, it is God who directs your steps (Proverbs 20:24). When you're diligent at learning the skills you need and growing the fruit that you need, it's going to happen. God hasn't taken you through what He's taken you through so you can sit and look nice on a shelf.

I'm confident the good work that is started in you will be completed (Philippians 1:6). Steward your destiny well!

*(This booklet has been based on an excerpt from Hope In Transtion by Trevor Lund. Copies of this booklet and the book are available in bulk orders, special editions or digital downloads from <http://ExpectancyPress.com>)*

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