Seizing Your Destiny
Part 1 - Recognizing Your Potential

I. 1Corinthians 9:24-27 - Here Paul uses an illustration from the Grecian games to challenge us to "Seize our Destiny."

- Contained within this passage of scripture are 4 specific insights on how you as an individual can “Seize Your Destiny.”

- To do so you must "Recognize Your Potential" in order to "Release Your Passion" so that you can "Regulate Your Priorities" which enables you to "Reach Your Purpose."

A. We need to become believable believers. The emphasis is on believable.

- **Heard Testimonies that didn’t match my experience.**

  1. It is hard to take an ordinary man from and ordinary background and tell him “he must be god-like.”

    a. **People will say “that is not very Christ like.”**
    b. Romans 8:29, the goal of the Christian life.
    c. Elizabeth Talor said “just because I’m not good at marriage”

  2. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

    a. **Peter spoke by the spirit and by the devil**
    Peter walked on water and sunk
    Peter act courageous in front of the soldiers, but acted like a coward in front of the servants.

    b. He went from flowing to failing to flowing to failing.

    c. **Christianity is not about a mandate to be perfect but a means to be perfected.**

  3. Paul the Apostle referred to himself as the “Chief of Sinners” and yet we continually eat a perfect word from his stained hands.

    a. **The heroes in the bible were not perfect, but they were powerful. Here is a list of some of God’s best.**

      - Noah drunk and naked in his own tent.
      - **Abraham lying and putting his wife at risk of rape to save himself.**
      - Lot having an incestuous relationship with his daughter.
      - **Moses murdering an Egyptian to prove that God sent him.**
      - Aaron doing fireside aerobics in front of a golden calf.
- David committing adultery and then murder to cover it.
- Peter the rock, denying and cussing before a frail servant girl.

b. They were not superhuman, but they were revelatory.

c. They were often chastised and corrected, but they were never discarded

- Out of their struggle to live for God they gained insight
- Psalm 51 - If I were writing the Bible I would leave that chapter out
- If we wrote a book about our life would we leave certain chapters out.

d. When we share with others do we share both victories and failures, strengths and weaknesses and obedience’s and disobedience’s.

- I have found that people can relate to me more in my weaknesses than they can in my strengths.
- The Bible is a great book because we can relate to it.
- No other Holy book paints it’s Hero’s with such honesty.

3. God can’t change into somebody you are pretending to be already.
   1 Corinthians 5:6 & 2 Timothy 2:13. (John Stanko)


   a. This scripture declares that these heroes were made strong out of weakness. In order to be a real success, you must be strengthened through struggle.

   b. Look at these men mentioned in Hebrews 11:32. Examine their lives. They were not glaring examples of flawless character; yet they epitomized faith toward God.

   c. Gideon failed by requesting a sign. Barak wouldn’t go into battle unless the queen went with him. Samson shined on the battlefield but had struggles in the bedroom. Jepthah made a foolish and destructive vow

   d. We must be careful when judging the weak moments in their lives. We must consider the entirety of their lives. 1 Corinthians 4:5

   e. If we do, we will see that a dent in their armor did not disqualify them for the battle

C. Although heroes don’t have to be perfect, they must be people who are resilient enough to survive tragedy and adversity.

   Resiliency is the ability to bounce back - Popeye

1. If you don’t survive, you can’t save someone else from it.
2. Live long enough to invest the wealth of your experience in the release of some other victim whom Satan desires to bind or incapacitate. 2 Cor. 1:3&4

- I survived a 30 year prison sentence
- I survived a betrayal of a best friend

3. God has a different definition of peace and safety than we do. To be wounded in the fight is a great honor.

- It is by the Lord’s stripes that we are healed, and it is through our stripes that we, too, are given the authority (passion and power) for healing (purpose).

- In the very place that the enemy wounds us, once we are healed, we are given the power to heal others.

- Lord allows bad things to happen to His people, so that they can receive the compassion for others by which the power of healing operates.

4. I can’t help but wonder if we have forsaken some of God’s finest people, because they have failed and have come under attack.

a. They could bring us a voice from the grave - they could if we allowed them express the truth that there is life after death.

b. Dead circumstances cannot hold down the body of someone who has been chosen

5. Thank God for the heros of the Bible who remind us that if we were put out to pasture by closed minds who decided that our dry bones couldn’t live again, that there is God that is still in the business of recycling human lives.

a. Revival must start in the trash can of our churches and community.

b. Because in ignorance and religious pride we have discarded what God has regarde

c. I’m afraid we have killed our heros because we were looking for the Superhuman and perfect.

d. Its time for us to redefine and redirect our gaze to find the heros of God among us

e. We must forget that God purposely chooses to use misplaced and rejected people.

HE MAY BE LOOKING IN YOUR DIRECTION
I've stopped fighting my love of sports, love of travel, sense of humor and aggressive nature. I'm taking seriously many interests that I've had for some time. I don't want to be selfish or self-centered in pursuing these interests, but I do want to be who God made me to be. The apostle Paul wrote: "But by the grace of God I am what I am.” (1 Corinthians 15:10). I am not excusing my shortcomings; I have plenty of those. I am trying, however, to use all that I am to communicate the love of God to the world.

The world is waiting for you, not to be something you're not, but to be the best, fullest expression of who God made you to be. Are you fighting who God created you to be? I know you're not perfect; no one is. Yet God seems comfortable using people in their imperfections. Will you let Him use you this week? What can you do this week to express who you are, who God made you to be? Maybe you can stop resisting and simply celebrate who you are this week and let your streams refresh someone else. Stop trying to make your streams so pure that they no longer taste like you. That never was God's intention and isn't should be yours. Let the waters flow this week and be yourself. If you taste good enough to God, you should taste good enough for yourself.