



You are a
WOMAN
of Destiny

Book with Study Guide

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10 Keys to LIVING your God-Inspired DREAMS

Study guide-Week 5

Release it to Increase it!

What has God placed in your hand?

Moses had a staff. For forty long years, he had been working with a staff in his hand as a Shepherd. Until one unforgettable day, God appeared to him in a burning bush, revealing his God-sized destiny. Like most of us, Moses couldn't see past his human capabilities and quickly decided he was not fit to be the deliverer.

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11

Of course, he was correct! He, in and of himself, could never in a million years pull off what God was asking of him. But God was not asking him to do this alone, and neither will he ask us to go alone.

So He said, "I will certainly be with you. Exodus 3:12a

After the Lord had finished communicating to Moses how glorious and thorough the deliverance would be (Ex. 3:14-22), Moses still seemed to be stuck on point A.

Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' Exodus 4:1

So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

He said, "A rod." Exodus 4:2

This staff (or rod) represented all that Moses had become. He kept it with him always and no doubt it had traveled many miles, being put to seasoned use. Leading, guiding, and protecting an endless flock, this staff had become a very real extension of himself. But now the Lord was asking, that which he had attached himself to and limited himself by, to "cast it to the ground" (v3). In asking Moses to "cast it to the ground" He was not asking him to get rid of it but to exchange it. When Moses picks the staff back up, it was no longer an ordinary staff but was now the "rod of God." (Exodus 4:20)

What is in your hand? Too often people get stifled by what they don't have instead of offering what they do have.

The Lord has chosen you, acutely aware of your limitations. He is not in the least bit hindered by your perceived handicaps. He only asks that you offer what you have fully to Him and He will make something extraordinary out of your ordinary.

Fanny Crosby lived in the 1800's and wrote over 8,000 hymns, many that have become well-loved and sung the world over for decades. As an infant, she developed an eye infection that was mistreated by a doctor, resulting in her complete loss of vision. But rather than growing up to view her blindness as a misfortunate handicap, she chose to embrace it, becoming proficient in her ability to concentrate and memorize. Fanny began writing poetry by the age of eight, and would go on to become one of the world's most prolific hymn writers of all time. In her own words, she attributed the strength of her ability to not having her sight.

"If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me." (Quote is taken from eaec.org)

If you are presently feeling boxed in, limited or held back by your circumstances, remember God is **with you**. He wants you to succeed right where you are, as you partner with Him to make much of your little. Don't limit what God can do through the struggle. Embrace the struggle as an opportunity to identify and develop God's anointing on your life.

Look up 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 in the NKJV. Read it and then fill in the blanks.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My _____ is sufficient for you, for My _____ is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the _____ of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take _____ in _____, in _____, in _____, in _____, in _____, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

What was Paul's "thorn in the flesh?" Look up the following verses and write out what you discover.

Galatians 4:13-14 _____

Numbers 33:55 _____

Judges 2:3 _____

"Infirmities" and "weakness" is defined by blueletterbible.com this way:

Astheneia (Strongs G769)

1. want of strength, weakness, infirmity
 - a. of the body
 - i. its native weakness and frailty
 - ii. feebleness of health or sickness
 - b. of the soul
 - i. want of strength and capacity requisite
 - ii. to understand a thing
 - iii. to do things great and glorious
 - iv. to restrain corrupt desires
 - v. to bear trials and troubles

It seems to me, Paul, under the inspiration of the Spirit, left some ambiguity regarding what he is referring to as his "thorn in the flesh." Though the people at that time may have clearly known, we are left with some mystery. I believe this is intentional so we can learn to insert our own "weakness."

In a dictionary look up the following words, taken from the above passage. Write down a brief definition that you believe is pertinent for each.

Infirmity:

Reproach:

Need:

Persecute:

Distress:

Now fill in the following verse inserting a personal “weakness” you are currently struggling with.

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my _____, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Many people are under the impression that God’s response “My grace is sufficient for you” to Paul’s plea, is instruction to passively endure. Nothing could be further from the truth. Grace, which Paul uses interchangeably for power, is Divine enablement. The word “strength” and “power” in verse 9 are the same identical word in the original Greek language. That word is ***dynamis!*** It means **to be able**. It is special power to achieve. Used also of miracle working power. This power is usually discovered best when we face road blocks through weaknesses.

Looking back on the story of Fanny Crosby, shared at the end of chapter 5, how did her “weakness” lead her to discover Divine enablement, or in other words, how did she discover a greater strength through her weakness?

I liken the “*dynamis*” enabling power of God to a full-bodied rushing river. Though it encounters obstacles and hindrances in route to its destination—obstructions that try to impeded its movement—the sheer force and magnitude of the water will find an outlet to keep pressing forward. Over, under, or around a mighty river will make a way! *Dynamis* power is resurrection power and resurrection power is overcoming power. Often it comes in the form of compensation. You may find you are extremely weak in one particular area but discover a Divine enablement in another area. This is how unlocked potential gets tapped into. The thorn works as a necessary pain to unlocking your greatest potential in Christ!

Because of this Paul learned to see hardship and pain as opportunities to be welcomed, even taking pleasure in them. One of the glorious truths about life in

Christ is that pain, hardship, trials and distress can actually be used to achieve a greater and glorious good.

Paul summarized his revelation of “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” this way:

“For when I am weak, then I am strong”

Paul learned the secret to discovering his greatest strength and the potential to do his greatest work was produced through some of his greatest challenges in life.

Every weakness you encounter, without exception, God has already entrusted you with His dynamis-power to do one of three things:

- a) Remove it (Speak to the mountain)
- b) Go through it (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me)
- c) Go around it (Compensation)

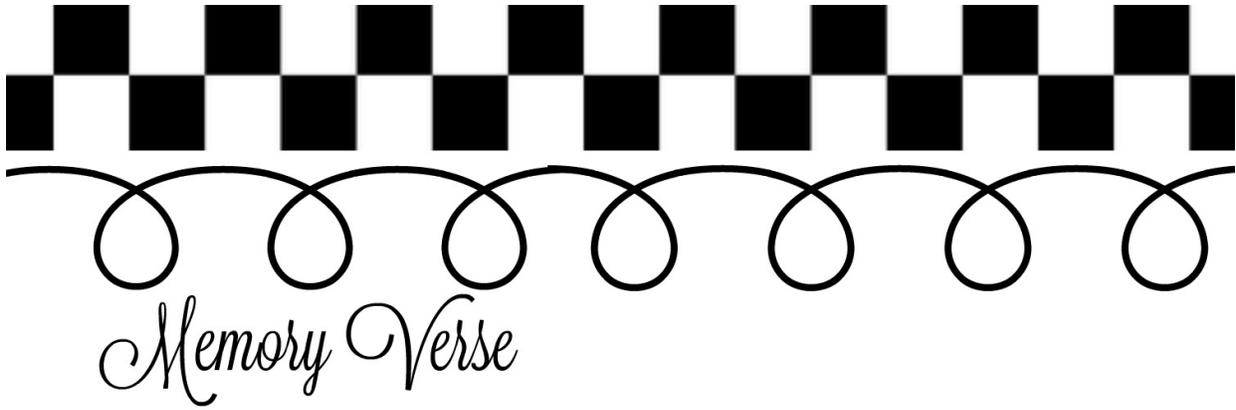
Ask God to give you wisdom for your weakness. Record your prayer below and how you think He is leading you.

My Prayer...

Memory Verse: Write out Hebrews 13:5 in the “memory verse” space provided on the following page. Don’t forget to write it, say it and pray it!

This Week’s Goal: Set some goals. Now that you have a vision statement and you have completed your vision board you need to begin setting reasonable goals to move in the right direction. Look for the pages titled “Get Specific” at the end of this week’s study. Follow the instructions. Under This Week’s Goals write: Complete -Get Specific .

Declaration: “Because my God is with me my weakness will be turned to strength so that I can accomplish all that He has planned for my life.” Remember to write out this declaration on the following page.



Memory Verse

Write it
Say it
Pray it



This Weeks Goal...



My Declaration...

This has been taken from the study guide portion of

You are a Woman of Destiny!
10 Keys to LIVING your God-inspired DREAMS

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