

7. Choose To Persevere Through The Opposition

James 1:2-4, NIV – (2) *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

- Trials will come, and when they come, we will either break-through, or break-down.
- Maturity and full resources only comes through perseverance.

8. Choose To Remember Where Our Source Of Victory Is

1 Corinthians 15:57, NIV – “*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

1 John 4:4, NIV – “*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*”

- When seasons of difficulty come from the enemy, seasons of promotion come from the Lord!
- The devil isn't going to roll out the red carpet just because we decided to do something great for God, but as we choose to allow God to be our source, the red carpet of the blood of Christ becomes our path to victory through every challenge.

SUMMARY – EIGHT COMMITMENTS

1. I commit to enjoy each step in my journey.
2. I commit to know the father on my journey.
3. I commit to obey the father on my journey.
4. I commit to focus on my journey, not someone else's journey.
5. I commit to live for God's approval, not someone else's approval.
6. I commit to accept opposition as a confirmation of the Father's will.
7. I commit to persevere through the opposition.
8. I commit to remember where my source of victory is.

ENTERING INTO DESTINY

Part 1 – Preparing For Destiny

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LOOKING BACK – LOOKING FORWARD

1. Two Ways To Look Back:

- a) Reflect on the accomplishments of 2007
- b) Reflect on the difficulties of 2007

2. Two Ways To Look Forward

- a) Look forward with dread.
- b) Look forward with anticipation.

THE WONDERFUL NEWS ABOUT OUR DESTINY

1. God Works For Us To Fulfill Our Destiny

Romans 8:28, NIV - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

2. God Works In Us To Fulfill Our Destiny

Philippians 2:13, NIV – “... it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

3. God Works Ahead Of Us To Fulfill Our Destiny

Ephesians 2:10, NIV – *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

4. God Works Behind Us To Fulfill Our Destiny

Jeremiah 15:11, NIV – *The LORD said, “Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose ... in times of disaster and times of distress.”*

5. God Works Through Us To Fulfill Our Destiny

2 Thessalonians 1:11, NIV – “*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may ... by his power ... fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*”

CLARIFYING YOUR DESTINY

- Our destiny is not a point or a fixed position where we will one day arrive. Instead, our destiny is in our daily journey with God, and as we live each day, journeying with Him, He will move us to accomplish certain things that are all part of His plan and purpose for us.
- We will not fulfill our destiny by focusing on a specific goal, and working hard to fulfill that goal, we will only find and fulfill our destiny as we journey with the Lord, and while on the journey He will continually lead us and present opportunities to us, for us to accomplish, and for us to enjoy

IMPORTANT CHOICES ON THE JOURNEY TO DESTINY

1. Choose To Enjoy Each Step In Our Journey

- Even when we don't understand all that God is doing, we need to choose to trust Him, and enjoy the journey. This is the key to freeing our heart and mind of unnecessary burdens and worries.

Romans 14:17, NIV – *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

2. Choose To Know The Father On Our Journey

John 17:3, NIV – *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

- God's purpose for our life is directly tied to our relationship with Him in this life.
- Our destiny FOR the Lord cannot be separated from our destiny IN the Lord. HE is our destiny, and He is our companion ON our journey to destiny.

3. Choose To Obey The Father On Our Journey

Genesis 12:1, NIV – *The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.”*

- Day by day, as we live out our love for God by actively believing and obeying, our path and direction will become clearer.

4. Choose To Focus On Our Journey, Not Someone Else's Journey

Hebrews 12:1, NIV – *“... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

- We should focus on our journey with God, for in it is our destiny

5. Choose To Live For God's Approval, Not Someone Else's Approval

1 Thessalonians 2:4, NIV – *“On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.”*

2 Timothy 2:15, NIV – *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one [who has already been] approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed ...”*

- We are to speak, to minister, and to live as one who has been approved by God.
- If we want to be in God's perfect will for our life, we cannot be someone who lives for the approval of others.

6. Choose To Accept Opposition As A Confirmation Of The Father's Will

1 Corinthians 16:8-9, NIV – *“(8) But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, (9) because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.*

- Fulfilling our destiny and reaching a new level with God often means facing new opposition from the enemy.