

The 10 Progressive Steps Of

KINGDOM VISIONS

Dr. Bill Greenman

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By Dr. Bill Greenman

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Dedication

To My Family

My wife. Meg. My best friend and life partner in the work of God.

My daughter Jennifer – truly a fair lady of the Kingdom.

My son Daniel – an awesome warrior for Lord.

My daughter Gloria – a joyful and courageous light.

My grandchildren: Josiah, Jackson, Jaeden, MacKenzie, Kyla, and Elle – such gifts of God you are to me.

You are my greatest delight in this world. I thank God for you daily and am so blessed that you are on this journey of His with me.

Introduction

I am truly excited for you as you read this book. I know the Lord will begin to inspire you and enlarge your thinking so that you will dare to dream with Him! If you will dare to dream with God, then nothing will be impossible for you! Nothing is more exciting than dreaming God's dreams, and nothing is more fulfilling than accomplishing His vision – His Dream – for your life.

In this book I want to share ten vital points, stepping stones if you will, that you will most probably experience during your time of developing your walk with God. As you read over these steps, I pray you'll find encouragement and strength from them and that you won't give in to the standard discouragements that often come with the living out of any dream from the Father.

You *will* be opposed. We *are* in a war with an enemy who will stop at nothing to obstruct the visions and purposes God has given His people. This war was won on the cross of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, but the devil and his fallen angels refuse to leave and so we must enforce that victory daily. There is no other choice for followers of Jesus.

If you know the steps you will have to take beforehand, you can avoid many of the battles and many of the pitfalls that the enemy may set before you. The Holy Spirit is with you to help you see them and to show you the way around them. *Dare* to dream. Dare to dream with *God*. Realize the power and joy of your *Kingdom Vision*.

Dr. Bill Greenman

The 10 Progressive Steps Of KINGDOM VISIONS

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A man with a sense of his destiny is
never undone, outdone,
or all done.

Anonymous

Chapter 1

Delight

*“**Delight** yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).*

The first step you must take as you dream with God is to delight yourself in the Lord. It doesn't say ask for God to help you to delight in Him – it says delight *yourself*. This is something you do on purpose to give yourself joy in your spirit! The question is, how do we do that? How do we delight ourselves in the Lord? The answer - it should give you great joy and pleasure to *spend time* with the Lord by fellowshiping with Him through prayer, reading His Word, and worshipping Him.

When we experience anything good in our lives we should turn it into a joyful thanksgiving to Him. It's a purposeful act of our will. And He's always worthy of it.

I'm not suggesting you try to pump yourself up with a big smile trying to convince yourself you're having a good time with the Lord every moment of every day. You shouldn't need to work at this at all. It should be a natural outflow for you. It's built on relationship more than decision, but you do have to decide to delight yourself in Him. It's about knowing and trusting Him, and that's only done through time spent with Him. And that time needs to be a 2 way street where you talk *and* listen. It's about being honest with Him, not holding anything back. No pretentiousness. No ego. No duty. Just loving and enjoying time together.

King David is an excellent example of this delight, and the first 11 verses of this same Psalm prove it. He exhorts us to trust, dwell, be faithful, commit, rest forsake, not fret, and wait – all in the context of a relationship with our Creator. David also extolls the rewards of doing these things as: gaining righteousness; showing your good judgment; and inheriting the land. That's a man who knows the One he's speaking about. That knowledge came from a lifetime of fellowship. And that fellowship proved to David that God is to be delighted in as a loving Father.

You can't fake this type of feeling, either. God knows, of course, if you are sincerely delighting in being with Him and having His life and will run through yours. If your life is not filled with such pleasant times spent with the Lord, then finding His Kingdom vision for you will be difficult because you won't be filled with His desires. Delighting yourself in the Lord is a mandatory step to opening your spirit to the things God has for you.

I set this point first because I firmly believe it is the prerequisite to the other nine. If you fail to establish this relationship, this heart felt delight in being with God on a daily basis, you'll lack the glorious desires He has for you and their amazing fulfillment. And dreaming with God is allowing Him to put those desires in you for they are the life of our dreams.

So ask yourself this question: "*Do I delight myself in God?*" If the answer is yes, then the second half of that verse is for you. If the answer is no, reread this chapter and take notes on what you feel you need to work on...then go to work on them till they are yours.

Chapter 2

Desire

*“Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the **desires** of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).*

Desire is the second part of the equation in Psalm 37:4. Once you truly begin to delight yourself in the Lord, when you genuinely love spending time with Him, that’s when two powerful things start to happen for you. First, God places the desires in your heart that He knows will bring you the most joy and fulfillment. Second, He begins to bring those very same desires into reality for you. That’s a pretty great reward for simply enjoying your time with Him, don’t you think?

This is beautifully stated in Philippians 2:13:

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

In this verse we see that God will give us the *will*, the *want to*, and also the *ability* to perform His work for

His good pleasure. Obviously, any desire or dream God places in your heart will be within the realm of His good pleasure. The Lord will always confirm the desires He places within you. Such desires of the heart are always both life changing and life directing. Again we see the two-way street of relationship with Him at work in us. We delight ourselves in Him through time spent – which includes learning about and then doing His will; and then God taking great pleasure in us enjoying Him as we do His will.

The word “desire” means to long for, to crave, or to covet. When I was in kindergarten a desire came into my young heart when I stepped onto a stage for the first time in a Christmas play. As the audience rose to their feet in applause, I can remember thinking, *“This is what I want to do. I like it here. I want to be here all the time!”* From that moment on I sought to be on a stage performing for people every chance I got because I *craved* their applause and smiles.

As children, my brothers and sisters and I often put on plays for neighborhood friends in our garage. I also remember spending my days in wonderful hours while watching Hollywood musicals and dreaming of being a dancer, singer, or actor. It became a strong desire in my

heart, something that I craved, longed for, and coveted. That desire grew into a dream of being a professional entertainer.

I worked on the stage every year after that until I went to junior high. Then I began to use sports as my stage for several years, becoming involved in school athletics all the way through senior high. But sports didn't fill the void that dream had created in my heart. So I looked to other things when I went to college. I tried dance class, acting, news media, film, speaking, and even martial arts – but nothing seemed to work. Then, believe it or not, I landed in the center ring as a professional circus acrobat. That *was* it!

In my sophomore year at Florida State University, I stepped into the huge, colorful, sawdust-floored tent that housed the FSU Flying High Circus. It's an extra-curricular activity on that campus for any student willing to participate, and that meant me! I became instantly enamored with every part of the show – from the practice sessions to the rigging to the costumes to the acts themselves. I spent the next 3 years there as a trapeze artist, wire walker, clown, juggler, and acrobat. Then after graduation I spent another 14 years living my dream as a professional performer and eventually as the

owner of my own circus that served as an evangelistic outreach for Jesus.

But before all of that happened I had stepped onto a greater stage, one that was to direct my life even more than the circus. That was the stage of being born again into the family of God. I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ in my freshman year of college, and my desires immediately changed. Oh, I still wished to be a performer, but now there was a new desire within me - a desire that vied for the place in my heart that performing had always held. That desire was to evangelize, win souls for Jesus Christ, and tell others how He could change their lives as He had so radically changed mine. Unfortunately, it was five long years before that desire won out over my desire to be a star.

Fortunately God did help me straighten out my motive to align with Him and His will. I began to delight in Him, giving Him full control of my life. Then He in turn began to tweak that desire, that longing to be a star performer, to fit *His* kingdom. He fulfilled that desire in our ministry called Circus Alleluia. For 12 years I lived His version of my dream – the one He always wanted for me. That desire that started in my 6 year old heart – which I later learned was from the Lord – allowed me to

combine the circus with winning souls to Christ with signs, wonders, and miracles. It was glorious!

The Lord allowed me to fulfill both desires because both of them were given to me by His inspiration. He did not take my performing desire away when I finally gave Him complete control of my life's affairs. Instead, God graciously enhanced it by coupling it with my desire to win souls. Through the stage of circus, and now preaching and teaching, I'm continually able to fulfill those two great desires of my heart.

It all started the moment I began to delight myself in the Lord completely - the moment I said, *"You, Jesus, are my reason for living, not me anymore; and not my desire to be a star. You are now the star. You are my reason, my motivation. You are the Lord of my life!"* When I delighted myself in the Lord, He gave me the desires of my heart - greatly multiplied.

Chapter 3

Dream

*Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no **vision**, the people are unrestrained.”*

Let’s look deeper into the idea of dreaming with God. What is a dream? It’s a desire that grows into a *vision* of something you want to become, to accomplish, or to own. It’s become more than a thought, more than a desire. It has form to it. It has motivation built into it. It is ever with you. Dreams are powerful things that make people accomplish and become more than they often thought was possible.

But according to the verse above people with no dream, no vision for themselves, have *no* direction. Think of it this way. Would you set out into the ocean on a ship with no maps, sonar, radar, no rudder to steer with, or any plan on where you are going or how you will get there? Of course not. You’d be at the mercy of

the waves, the wind, the ocean currents for months, and possibly your life time.

Yet how many people do this very thing with their lives? No dream. No vision. No direction. Simply adrift in this life. That is not God's plan for you or anyone. He wants you to have specific images within your spirit about *who* you are, *what* you are to become, and *how* to get there. And He has a plan to get that information into you.

When you begin to delight yourself in the Lord and He gives you the desires of your heart, those desires will come together in the form of a vision. He will take your desires and mold them into a vision, something you can actually see in your heart and mind. That vision will grow and grow and grow within your heart. The more you delight in Him, hear His voice, fellowship with Him, the more He will reveal of that dream. It's a process, not an event. It will take your entire lifetime to get it all.

Webster's dictionary explains that a dream is, "a fond hope of a vision," the very vision born from the desires of your heart. But how can you tell if your dreams or visions are from the Lord? There is a foolproof way to find out and it's very, very simple.

Godly dreams will always accomplish two things. First, they will glorify God, and second, they will help people. If the dream or vision within your heart does not do these two things, it's probably not God's dream for you.

My desire was always to be a professional performer, as I said. I actually attained that dream *without* God as the Lord of my life. When I finally reached that goal, I realized it was not God's plan for me because He gained no glory from what I was doing. No one was being helped, uplifted, or exhorted to do great things for Him, not even me! It was merely a self-honoring dream that left me completely empty inside. I came to the point where I buried my dream completely, which I'll explain later.

The key to finding and fulfilling the vision God has for us is establishing our relationship with Him so He can tell us what that vision is and what to do with it. This isn't "rocket science," it's the Father loving His kids and giving them what's best for them and those they will touch. When I finally placed the Lord Jesus on the throne of my life, He revealed to me that my vision was also His vision, I had just distorted it to fit what I thought would bring me happiness. And He showed me how easily He could take that vision that I had distorted

for my glory, and turn it into His glory and the helping of thousands if not millions of people around the world. And that's exactly what has happened.

Chapter 4

Destiny

*Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people are **unrestrained**.”*

Once God has given you a dream, it will become your destiny. It will become your future. As we saw in Proverbs 29:18, without a vision of the heart a person is “unrestrained,” they are at the very *mercy* of their circumstances instead of *directing* their circumstances. Visionless, dreamless people are like pinballs bouncing from one thing to another with no clear path and no clear accomplishment. They think they are productive in God’s Kingdom because they’re doing things believers are supposed to do, but they are missing the bigger things God has for them.

The opposite is true for those who have a vision. People with God-given vision will be restrained and guided. Your vision will guide you. If I put a bit in a

horse's mouth I can use the bridle and reigns attached to it to direct that powerful animal to accomplish amazing things. But a wild horse, while unrestrained by the bit, merely races around the plains accomplishing absolutely nothing. Lots of "activity," but no true "productivity." That bit and bridle is like the guiding vision God has for our life. It's not binding us – it's setting us free to be directed by God into an amazing adventure with Him!

Webster's dictionary defines the word "destiny" as "an inevitable series of events or that which determines those events, that is, *a supernatural thing*." Webster is referring to God Himself, the supernatural entity who causes your destiny to occur. That's awesome!

If God's vision is your destiny, then He, of course, will be in on it. Your vision and purpose for your life will direct every step you take. It will become your very future. When you have a vision, you must begin to plan that vision. As you plan that vision, you are planning your future and your destiny. Destiny is your life and it's coming whether you and God are in control of it or not.

I made plans about the vision that was in my heart. Early on I wanted Circus Alleluia to travel and win souls. Then my destiny shifted to hold seminars to teach

others how to find their purpose in life. I received the desire to write books, to teach, and to minister to others what God had taught me. I wanted to use every available means to spread the gospel. As I began to formulate the plans, I was formulating my future, which I have been living since 1976. And I will be living it when Jesus returns, should He come in my lifetime. Your dream, like mine, will become your destiny.

But make no mistake. God is not going to drop a written plan into your mailbox. You have to seek Him for it. Remember, you must delight yourself in Him to receive the desires you and He will turn into a dream, a vision for your life. Then you must work with His Holy Spirit to develop that vision into a plan of action that will unfold in many different ways over your lifetime. What an adventure!

Chapter 5

Decision

*Deuteronomy 30:19 - Behold, I put before you life and death...**choose** life that you may live.*

Once God reveals your vision and you understand it as your destiny, a decision will confront you. You can decide “yes” you will follow the vision, or “no” you will not. No one on this earth or in the heavens can or will make that decision for you. It’s yours alone. Its rewards are yours alone. But it’s not yours to live out alone. God wants to work with you all along the way.

Deuteronomy 30:19 explains that God has given us the choice of “life and death, the blessing and the curse.” A vision always brings life because it brings purpose and guidance. When you choose to follow the desire, the dream, the vision that the Lord places in your heart, you will be choosing life. You will be choosing physical life, mental life, spiritual life, material life, and emotional life

because God's dream will encompass every area of your being. According to 2 Peter 1:3 God has *already* given us everything that pertains to this life and to His godliness through our knowledge of Him. You see, it always comes back to our relationship with Him.

If you choose not to live out the purpose God set for your life on earth, you will never find the peace you seek. You will have no true success and little if any true Spirit-led life. I discovered that painful truth while a professional circus performer. I was living what I thought was my dream. I was doing what I had always imagined since childhood. I was being paid to do what I loved. I was even married to my circus partner. It should have been a joy-filled life. But it was completely empty. It had no life in it because God was not a part of it with me. Before I came to my senses I'd almost injured my wife and friends in a car accident and my wife had left me to my professional circus dream to fend for myself while she went home to her mother. Not a good time.

God is the source of all life. He is life. And He longs to give us all He has for us. But if we choose, as I did, to leave Him out of our life story He will stay out. That's not a great idea! Why would we think for a minute that by leaving the source of the very life we

desire, dream of, envision, that we could actually know what life is supposed to be like? That's absurd. But we all have done it to some extent. We have all at one time or another taken our lives into our hands and decided to do it our way.

It doesn't matter that you are a Bible believing Christian. It doesn't matter that you pray daily. It doesn't matter that you go to church regularly. None of that matters if you have missed the very reason God gave you life in the first place. If you don't choose to make the uncompromised decision to follow whatever He has for you, you're just spinning your wheels in the sand. Yes all those things are good and we should do them – but they should be the fruit and the nourishment of our vision given us by God, not a duty or just going through the motions without Him in total control.

However, making the decision to take that bit in our spiritual mouths and give Jesus the reigns to direct our lives is not a quick mental process. It must be a decision of the heart. It must be a decision for life. It must have no compromise in it. Taking the necessary time to understand fully the cost of such a decision is not an option to you. This is the second most important decision you will ever make. Making Jesus your savior

and being born again is the first. Giving Jesus total control is the second. Both of those decisions are yours to make. And God is saying, choose life! What are you going to do?

Chapter 6

Determination

*Daniel 1:8 – But Daniel made up his mind that he **would not** defile himself with the King’s choice food or with the wine which he drank... ”*

Having made the decision to run with the dream and vision that God placed in your heart, you will then be forced to exercise solid determination. Determination means a firm intention and a resolute purpose. There is no compromise. There is no maybe. There is no turning back. There is no wondering. You are focused on the goal and will not be stopped until it is realized.

In Daniel 1:8, we see that the prophet Daniel possessed just such a firm, resolute attitude. He determined not to eat from the table of the king who had captured him and his people. Daniel was a Jew and did not want to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols by this heathen king. He would not defile his body, for he

had given himself completely God. Daniel was resolute, and nothing would change his mind. He was so firm in his purpose that he was willing to give his life for it.

When you decide to run with the dream God has placed in your spirit, you must determine that nothing will stop you. It is *after* you make the decision to go with the vision of God that the battles will begin. You wrestle an adversary who knows exactly what you're doing. The devil does not only live in this world but also in the world of the spirit. He knows the spiritual activity that surrounds you, for he can see the angels that go to and fro in your life. No it's not fair – it's just so.

Even as you read this, there are demonic forces that would try to make you discard what you've just read. They'll tell you, *"No, this isn't for you. God really doesn't have a plan for your life. You're not supposed to be anything more than what you are right now. Relax! What are you getting so excited about?"*

Don't listen to those satanic whisperings! You must be determined that absolutely *nothing* will stop you from carrying out what the Lord has called you to do. The other choice doesn't end well.

When I began Circus Alleluia, I made that kind of determined decision. I began to tell people about my

vision, and their reactions were anything but positive. The fight was on for my faith in God. For the first nine months, no one wanted to believe in my dream. I was alone. Even my wife said I was missing God. But I had determined in my heart that I would attain that vision, even if no one else believed in Circus Alleluia but me. I would do everything possible to make it happen, even if I did so by myself.

I prayed and fasted and wrote the plans down as they came to me. I spent time imagining what the show would look like. I pictured how I'd share the gospel of Christ. I saw the performers, the costumes, heard the music, and in my mind I watched the people coming forward to receive Jesus as their Lord. I knew it would happen because I had received a desire from God that He was turning into a vision that would touch thousands. I could not stop. I would not. I did not.

Slowly Meg came around...after God gave her a miracle while we fasted and prayed about moving from Colorado to Florida to start that first ever circus for Christ. Shortly after that a couple of our friends joined us. Then my mother came on board. Then our pastor. Then other performers who loved Jesus like we did came to be a part of the vision. Seventeen months after

the Lord spoke to my heart about creating Circus Alleluia we held our first performance and we never looked back.

We performed across the eastern half of the USA and Canada for the next 11 years. Tens of thousands of people gave their lives to Jesus at the end of our shows. We saw thousands of miraculous healings. We had 65 performers come through our ministry – some are still in ministry today pastoring churches and travelling as evangelists. How did that all happen! It happened because I *refused* to quit! I was completely *determined* to make that desire, that dream, that decision happen with the Lord as my guide, help, and supply.

Even now my determination is just as strong. If everyone left our ministry today, Purpose International Ministries would not die because it is alive in me. I understand what the apostle Paul meant when he said, “woe to me if I don't preach the gospel!” It is consuming! Circus Alleluia was God's vision for me in the 70's and 80's, and since the late 90's Purpose International has been His ministry vision for me. That vision has propelled me around the world and I am determined that I will not stop until I have completed the course. Nothing will stop it from happening. Nothing!

When you dare to dream with God and make the decision to fulfill that dream, *you* will have to determine in your heart to live it no matter who agrees or disagrees with you. It's not an option for you. It's the only way to live in God's Kingdom if you want all He has to give you. Because of my initial determination, thousands of others became just as determined to see Circus Alleluia Ministries fulfill its vision and the same has happened for Purpose International Ministries. And I can assure you that at whatever level of achievement God asks of you, if you will make that same determination you will see your vision from Him come true and others will come to help you get it done.

Chapter 7

Dedication

*Luke 2:22-23 - they brought Him [Jesus] up to Jerusalem **to present** Him to the Lord...shall be called holy to the Lord.*

After you have determined in your heart that you will act on the vision God has given you, you must dedicate yourself to it. Dedication means to devote to a sacred purpose or to set apart for the worship of Deity. Your vision will become sacred to you. Why? Because it's God's vision! Is God sacred to you? Do you love to worship God? Can you see how every one of these 10 steps takes you back to delighting yourself in God, which is done with worship and praise and thanksgiving and prayer? The dreams and visions He gives you are sacred to Him, so be sure they are sacred to you.

In the scripture above Mary and Joseph followed the Law and brought their first-born son to the Temple to

dedicate, or present Him to the Lord. They were willingly giving Jesus to the Lord for His will to be done. They were promising to raise Him in the ways of God. They were declaring their dedication to Jesus and Jesus to God.

When it was time for the Levites to take their place as the priests of Israel there was a dedication ceremony. When Solomon completed the glorious temple to God there was a dedication ceremony. When someone is born again through the Lordship of Jesus they are baptized as a dedication unto Him and His will. But a ceremony isn't *living* in dedication – it's just a symbol of the decision. Dedication is a daily walk, a life that proves your decision and determination. It is non-negotiable. It is sacred to you.

The visions God has given me are sacred to me, and have become my worship back to God. First it was Circus Alleluia, and now Purpose International and its offices around the world is my worship to Him. And yes, the businesses I'm involved in are also part of my dedication to God. They are a part of my life's work. I worship and praise God with whatever is produced through those entities. I have determined not to bow to anything that would take me away from the

accomplishment of this dream of serving God in whatever way He dictates, to which I have dedicated myself.

Involved in that dedication is not just the development of teaching and training materials or opening up offices on each continent. My dedication does not start or end there. My dedication to that vision from God begins with my *daily* dedication to God. If I were living out this vision only for myself, I would have stopped long ago because I don't think I am worth that much work. But God *is* worth it! And *you* are worth it! And I am worth it because God sacrificed His holy Son for me. You have to believe that too. You have to believe that you are worth it – to you and God. You cannot fulfill the life He has for you if you have an opinion or view of yourself below being worth His death and resurrection.

So, I focus part of my life dedication on myself, for His sake. I have to live in a way that honors Jesus' sacrifice for me. I have to be dedicated to taking care of my spirit, my soul, and my body. I have to see myself as sacred to God. I have to act like my body is sacred to me too. I have to act like my body actually is the temple of the Holy Spirit, as God said in His Word, and treat it as

such. I have to spend time in the Word of God and prayer and worship to keep my spirit strong. I have to be around other people of like dedication to God that can keep me accountable in my soul and strong socially and not be a lone ranger. Those are mandatory.

When you dedicate yourself totally to your vision it will become a worship unto the Lord for you. It will become your praise, your focus, and your sacred purpose. In Matthew 6:21, we are told by Jesus Himself, *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* The vision that God gives you will come from your heart. It will become your treasure and it will be obvious to those around you. What treasure is on display in your life right now?

Chapter 8

Discipline

1 Timothy 4:7b - ...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness, for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds a promise for this present life and also for the life to come.

Discipline is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is one of the most indispensable parts of a person's life who wishes to fulfill the vision God has for them. You must gain self-control in order to train yourself to be orderly and efficient in all you do. You must establish your character as one of humility and servanthood. There is nothing of value in this life or in the life God has for you that will not require such daily discipline.

In the verse above Paul explains that Timothy should discipline himself for the purpose of Godliness.

Godliness is God-likeness. It's acting like God himself. No person can do that without discipline because it goes against all that is our fallen human nature and all that this world shouts at us from every direction. I always say that if you want to find the will of God look in the opposite direction of whatever the world is pushing. And no, it's not easy to live in the opposite direction of the world. That's why you need discipline.

Once you've dedicated yourself to your dream, your vision from the Lord, you must then exercise discipline in spirit, soul and body. If you neglect any of them you can fall short of His plan for you. There is no maybe about that. Most of us can understand the spiritual part of our lives, and even the soul part of keeping our mind, will, and emotions in line with God. But I find many followers of Jesus fall down in the area of disciplining their bodies, using the excuse that Paul told Timothy it was of little profit. Of course that is true in comparison to Godliness that profits in this life and after – but he didn't say it's of no profit. If you think I'm too strong on this point just look around at the amount of obesity, sickness, and death among Christians and ask how much could be avoided by discipline of their

bodies. I love the body of Christ, I just wish they loved their body *for* Christ a bit more.

It will take much discipline to devote yourself to your dream with all 3 aspects of your being, but you can do it or God would not have told you to discipline yourself. I once heard a preacher say, “When I want to find out how godly a person is, I don’t check their church attendance records - I go to their house and open up a closet!” When I heard that, I went home and cleaned my closets. I hung up my clothes, put my shoes in order, and sorted and folded the clothes in my bureau drawers. That was the beginning of a discipline that has lasted from the late 1970’s to this very day and I have no intentions of stopping.

If you don’t discipline yourself in everyday tasks, you won’t discipline yourself when it comes to your vision for the Lord. How can God trust you with a world-reaching vision for your life if He can’t trust you to reach into your closet and hang up your clothes? You may be asking, “Does God really care about how tidy my bedroom is?” Absolutely! Just read what Jesus Himself said about discipline in Matthew 25:23 and Luke 19:17 in the parable of the talents. He called it stewardship, but it’s the same idea. You can’t have one

without the other. We all know people who have been given great talent, money, and influence yet squander it due to a life sadly lacking in personal discipline.

Jesus said in this parable that if we will be faithful in little, He will put us in charge of much. It takes great discipline to be faithful in anything, but especially in the little things. The reward was exactly the same for the two good servants who doubled their talents. First and foremost it was entering into the joy of their master. Do you get that?!

Jesus is saying here that if we will become disciplined enough in our lives to rightly steward what He's given us we can enter into the joy of our Master – the Lord God! But that's not all! We also receive the multiplication of whatever He gave us stewardship of already. That means added responsibility, but it also contains all the perks that go with it. However, if you can't gain the power and blessing of making discipline a life habit you will never know the greatest possible level of the joy of your Master in the way available to you. Don't forget that. Yes, God loves you and enjoys you, but this is something more. Much more.

Discipline will require sacrifice. It's definitely not for the faint of heart. It won't always be fun. Many times

it won't be fun at all. But the more disciplined your life becomes, especially concerning your visions and dreams, the more you will accomplish for the Lord. And the more self-control, peace, efficiency, and orderliness you'll have in your life. Pretty good trade off, wouldn't you agree?

I am a very social person and love to be around people. In my early years of ministry, God had to teach me to discipline myself. There were days when He told me, "I want you to go into your room and study My Word today." I would obey. Then friends would drop in. As I rose to greet them, the Lord would say, "Stay here and study."

Now these people were my friends, they were in my house, and they wanted to see me; but I would not get up – I made myself obey the Lord. Once a close friend came to the bedroom door and said, "Hi, Bill," but I didn't even speak to him because God was teaching me to be disciplined. He had said, "You spend this time with Me and discipline yourself to concentrate on Me and My Word." That may sound hard, but I needed it that way.

Those early years of discipline have more than paid for themselves. I have no regrets about the days that

I locked myself in my bedroom to fellowship with God through His Word. Now I enjoy and look forward to such times. The same goes for changing the way I interact with people, my thought patterns, holding my tongue when I want to say something unnecessary, and seeking things that are pure. And it means doing all I can to keep my body healthy with good food, good exercise, and good sleep, to name just a few disciplines. Yes, discipline requires sacrifice, but the rewards are always more than worth it in every area of life and especially where our dreams and visions from God are concerned.

Chapter 9

Diligence

*Proverbs 24:16 - “A righteous man falls seven times, and **ris**es again.”*

A disciplined person must be a diligent person. Diligence means to be constant, to make careful and continual effort. It means that you don't quit just because your schedule was derailed or someone didn't keep his or her word. It's about not allowing a temporary failure to dictate the completion of a goal or vision. You pick up where you left off and start again. As the Bible states above, “*A righteous man falls seven times, and rises again*”. That is diligence. Don't stop just because things don't go right for a day or two. Things may not go right for a couple years! So what! Just because your vision doesn't seem to be going according to your timing is no reason to quit. Be strong! Be courageous! Show God you trust Him!

Discipline requires diligence and vice versa. You cannot live a diligent life without a disciplined lifestyle. And diligence will be required in living out your dream, desire, and vision from the Lord without a doubt. How do I know that? Because nowhere in His Word is it said that following in God's plan is going to be easy and without problems. In fact the very opposite is promised. Jesus himself said that in the world we *will* have tribulations, but the Lord *will* deliver us out of them *all*. King David said in Psalm 91 that though many troubles *will* come, the Lord *will* rescue us. Jesus said even wise men who have dug deeply into His word to build their lives for strength *will* be faced with mighty storms seeking to take them out – but those storms will *not* be able to move those who act. Jesus even told us in Mark 10 that when we give for the sake of the gospel we *will* receive 100 times in return in this life, *with* persecutions.

The questions you must answer do not include, “will I have problems?”, but instead:

- Will I work through them with the help and power of God?
- Will I be diligent?

- Will I press on toward the mark, as the apostle Paul said in Philippians chapter three?
- Will I endure for the joy set before me, as the writer of Hebrews said of Jesus?
- Will I rejoice at the trying of my faith, as James said in chapter one?
- Will I be that diligent son or daughter and discipline myself to keep going no matter what happens?

When you begin to discipline yourself by setting schedules and making plans to do certain things at certain times, you may not always accomplish what you planned to do on time, if at all. Life happens. You may sleep late one morning when you meant to be up praying. You may be forced to go somewhere or do something at the time you set aside to study the Word. Or someone may deliberately or unknowingly stop you when you had planned to work on a special project. Even the weather can change your plans. Inevitably, circumstances will keep you from doing what you had planned to do at some point. This is where diligence comes into play.

For many years I wondered if Purpose International would ever get off the ground. We fought through difficult financial problems, sicknesses, and a lack of vital people needed to make the ministry function at the highest levels. At times I wanted to give up. I was very frustrated because I'm a doer. I don't sit still. If God gave me a job I'm going to get it done. Sometimes I even yelled at God and wanted to know why we had to go through those problems. But I never considered quitting as an option, no matter how I felt.

My emotions are not my boss – Jesus is. My wife is not my boss – Jesus is. My friends are not my boss – Jesus is. My enemies are not my boss – Jesus is. And Jesus has never said a word to me about quitting. He has told me things are over, like Circus Alleluia Ministries, but never has He told me to quit. Diligence is not under the command of circumstances, circumstances are under the command of diligence, because Jesus is my King!

I had made an uncompromising decision to be diligent, that I would not quit. I decided that nothing would make me stop moving toward the goals the Lord had given me. No matter how hard I was knocked down, I would discipline myself to always get back up. Yes, we've had many trials, but I believe we've come out

victorious in every one because we never gave up. We learned. We changed. We prayed. We fasted. We made new plans. We adapted. We talked to new people. We simply decided to stay after the will of God. Whatever it took we did it and we always will.

And guess what? It worked! Purpose International grew and the vision began to unfold. We've published curriculums used by hundreds of students in ministry universities on several continents. We published books and curriculums for youth groups, homeschoolers, and Christian schools. In 2007 we opened an office in Kenya, Africa that's working with the government, the media, the educational, and the church realms of that nation to change its mindsets to the Kingdom of God. And our vision continues to expand because *we never let a roadblock become a mountain bigger than our God*. We simply found the best detour over, under, around, or through the problem and kept moving forward.

Quitters never win, and winners never quit. You will have to be diligent in your discipline. Romans chapter 12 tells us *not* to lag behind *in our diligence*. Rise up and pursue your dream again! Look yourself in the mirror and tell yourself to get back in the race! Ask for help if you need it! Read your dream out loud to the

Lord, yourself, the angels, and anyone near you who wants to listen and then go again. You *can* do it, or God would not have given you the desire, the dream, the vision in the first place. Rise up!

Chapter 10

Death

*John 12:24 – “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies** it remains alone; but if it **dies**, it bears much fruit.” Jesus*

At some time in your vision, maybe several times, death will come. You will do your best. You will be diligent, disciplined, determined, and devoted, but death will come. You cannot avoid it. There will come a point in your vision when it must die. The key is to know it's necessary and that it's not the end. There may come a time when a part of your vision comes to it's conclusion, but that is not the same as death in this word from Jesus.

It's a godly principle. Jesus spoke those ominous and greatly misunderstood words Himself and about Himself. It's not negotiable. It's not something you can talk God out of. It's a promise, a prophetic truth we

must all embrace as the grace and mercy of our loving Father. You can see this principle time and again throughout the Bible.

In Genesis The Lord gives Abraham his promised son, Isaac. He lets him enjoy him for about 12 years. Then God does the seemingly unthinkable. He asks Abraham to kill his seed – the very promise of God manifest in the flesh. Abraham, by faith in God's word that through Isaac untold millions would enter God's Kingdom, obeyed. He raised the knife to kill Isaac fully expecting God to raise him from the dead. And as we know God spared Isaac and His promise of a people that would populate His Kingdom came true.

Jacob was told by his father-in-law that he could have Rachel for his bride. But then Laban tricked him and it took 14 years and some miracle goats for the fruit to come forth and their marriage to happen.

Joseph's dream from the Lord was that his family would bow to him, yet they almost killed him and he was a prisoner for many years before it came true.

David was prophesied to be king of Israel, yet it was many years, filled with some near deadly times, before that happened.

The apostle Paul was given a specific word directly from Jesus Himself as to his calling to preach the gospel to the gentiles, but he was almost murdered and then spent about 14 years learning how to make tents before he was released into that ministry.

Perhaps the greatest example of this principle is Christ Himself. Jesus spent the first 30 years of His life waiting for the Father to say, “Now is the time.” Yet, He knew before the foundation of the earth that He would be the savior of all men. That’s a long time to have a vision and not see it happen. And when it did come time He only had three and a half years of public ministry. But the fruit was awesome – even though it was not yet His best fruit.

Jesus was the only hope for the world to be saved. He was the Messiah, God in the form of a man walking on the earth with us. God’s vision of restoring Israel to rule over the world appeared to be at hand. Then tragedy struck, and the vision seemed to die. Jesus was executed and buried. It seemed that the entire dream and vision had been destroyed.

In reality, the principle of the seed, its death into darkness and it’s glorious resurrection, was in operation again. After Jesus rose from the dead, God’s vision was

able to spread to every continent. It will eventually touch every nation in the world. As His fruit, we are able to bear more fruit, much more fruit than He could have borne by Himself. We can actually do all He did and even greater works due to this seed-death principle. Death and resurrection is the way of God's Kingdom for our fallen world. You and I as followers of Jesus are the proof.

At some point the vision given you by the Lord will die. God has a reason for this. Your vision must never become more important to you than He is. Many times, when we begin to embark on the vision God has for our lives, we develop tunnel vision, seeing only that vision and nothing else. We become so locked into making that vision happen that it becomes the focal point of our lives. There is always the danger of your vision becoming more important to you than God or anyone or anything else.

In my own life, my vision of Circus Alleluia Ministries was forced to die for that very reason. About half way through our Circus ministry life my pastor came into my office and told me that the Lord shared with him that I was to become assistant pastor of our church. Immediately, I said, "I don't believe that was

God.” My desire was to be anything but a pastor. However, I had made the decision many years before that I would always pray over a word given to me by a spiritual man or woman. This was no exception.

So I prayed, and, amazingly, the Lord confirmed to me that I was indeed to become the assistant pastor. At that point my vision died. Though I didn’t realize that was what was happening at that moment, it soon became painfully clear.

My vision needed to die, for I had become hard in my heart toward the brethren in my church. I was a spiritual leader in our fellowship and as such was in demand when folks needed help. But I had grown tired of them coming to me with the same problems over and over again. I had grown tired of people telling me that the Word of God didn’t work. I was just tired of people! My pat answer to everything was, “*Just do what the Word says,*” because I did not want to spend time counseling them. That was not healthy for anyone.

I needed to become assistant pastor to soften my heart and rebuild and rekindle the flame of compassion within me. If I had gone on the road full-time in the circus ministry with that kind of attitude, I never would have lasted. I would have hurt a lot of people.

When I finally told my pastor that the Lord had confirmed to me to be assistant pastor, he looked me right in the eye and said, *“I’m sorry, Bill, because I realize this means your vision must die.”* I had absolutely no idea what he meant and made it a point to disagree in my heart. Three long years passed before I understood what those words meant. In fact, it was only days before I resigned as assistant pastor and stepped full time into directing Circus Alleluia Ministries that I realized it. My vision did die during those years as I poured my time and efforts into the church.

Actually, the dream did not die completely. It just did not progress. It stayed in an almost dormant stage. We still performed, and many people were saved. There were still miracles, and we still produced our monthly newsletter. But there was no growth in the ministry. No increase in the vibrant life of God. Why? Because I did not understand the principle of the death of a vision, and so I tried everything to make things happen for the ministry. But all my efforts fell short because God was not in them.

Finally, those few days before my short career as assistant pastor ended, the Lord was able to share with me His reason for the circus’ “burial.” He explained, *“I*

had you put Circus on the shelf so that the seed of My compassion could take root and flow through you again. Your attitude that everyone should just get out of your way so you could get on with your vision had to be destroyed.” He was right and I knew it, though I didn’t like it. I didn’t like being wrong in God’s eyes. I wanted to be a good son.

Those years as assistant pastor were not pleasant for me because of the death that occurred within me. However, I praise God for every moment of that time because it caused His compassion, His real love and concern for people, to be birthed within me. Now my heart breaks to see people hurting, no matter how many times they have been through the same problem. Now I long to reach out to people and help them. I love to serve them.

You will not be able to avoid this tenth point - the apparent death of your vision. God will always test you for you own good and the good of those He wishes to use you to reach with His love. He will always search deep in your heart to determine if your vision is more important than His perfect will. I pray that you will allow the seed to fall into the ground and die. The

resurrection to life that God will give it is far more valuable than its short time in the ground.

I can't tell you how long your time of death may be. No one can and I doubt God will tell you. He wants to be sure you are looking to Him and not a calendar. Trust Him. Trust His love for you. Trust His will for you. Trust the vision He's put in your heart. It *will* resurrect.

Once the resurrection of your dream has taken place the Lord will continually add details to what He has given you to be sure you are never done. God's vision will keep expanding like a mighty oak tree so it may bring Him more glory and help more people. Once you begin to live the purpose God has for your life, He will see to it that your dreaming never ends. Nothing is more fulfilling or can compare with living out the vision God has for you for it will be the perfect will of God!

Addendum

A Vital Step

*Proverbs 16:3,9 Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established. The mind of man plans his way but the Lord **directs** his steps.*

Commitment is a tough word these days. Cultures have changed dramatically and the “what’s in it for me” attitude is overwhelming. But for the man, woman, or child who has made Jesus Christ the Lord and Master of their lives commitment is a way of life. It’s not an add-on or a maybe - it is our life itself. It is the realization that we cannot nor were we ever intended to “make it on our own.” It’s about living our destiny *with* God, not for or toward God. We know that the commitment of Jesus on the cross was our example. We cannot call ourselves believers and be soft on commitment.

But exactly what does God mean when he tells us to commit our works or ways to Him? How do we do

that. Let me give you some examples. When we began our circus in 1978 we had no money, no rigging, no performers, no costumes, and no ministry experience to speak of. Yes, we'd done some ministry and lots of one-on-one evangelism. But to lead a traveling ministry was completely outside of our experience. Yet the one thing we did have was unbridled commitment to the will of God. We were completely sold out to Jesus!

That meant, to us, that we didn't do anything outside of His will. It meant we had to hear from Him as to how to operate our ministry. So once we heard it was time to start we were not looking back.

We were living in Fort Collins, Colorado when the Father said it was time for us to start Circus Alleluia Ministries. But the Lord was clear that we needed to move to Tampa Florida to build our base of operations. So we loaded up our van with what little things we owned and moved. We were completely committed.

And, we fully expected God to fulfill His part of those verses above. We expected Him to direct our steps and establish the plans I'd been formulating over the previous 9 months. We did our part and we knew He would do His. That's one of the requirements of committing your plans to the Lord. You have to *expect*

Him to establish them. We didn't know how. We didn't know who. We didn't even know where. We just went.

Two of our close circus friends were working at Busch Gardens in Tampa as jugglers. We told them we were coming and they said we could stay with them a couple days as we were heading to Daytona Beach and Boca Raton to be with our families for Christmas. They suggested we apply for jobs at the Gardens. But I had made another commitment, that I would never work as a circus performer again unless it was for the Lord. Fortunately I didn't have to worry about that.

There were 2 prestigious job openings that were finishing up auditions while we were there and our friends got us spots to try out. Mine was for playing an illusionist and Meg's was with the beautiful Macaws in the bird show. These auditions had been going on for many weeks and for the illusionist this was the final one. There were 8 men left out of 800 applicants. They were going to pick 3 to rotate between being assistants and the illusionist. Yes, I was chosen as one of the 3 from that one 20 minute audition and Meg got the bird show job, all in one day. That is God directing your steps.

We were back in Tampa in January and began our new performing positions at Busch Gardens. While

working there we met a Christian young man who asked where we went to church. We hadn't had time to find one and he invited us to his. We loved it and knew it was where we were to be. On our third time there I stopped to speak to the Pastor, Dale Brooks, after the service and said this: "We are professional circus performers and the Lord told us to move to Tampa and start a Christian circus for Him. We believe your church is where we are supposed to do that. What do you think about that?"

Dale looked at me for a few seconds then said, "Sound's good to me. We don't have any money for you, but we have plenty of property. You can set up your rigging right out here in the open field next to the church building." That's exactly what we did.

We became a major part of the outreach of that church and led thousands to Christ over the next 11 years. Dale, his family, and his leaders took us in like family and raised Meg and me in ministry. Dale became our spiritual father in the faith. Over 65 people came through our ministry as performers, roustabouts, Ringmasters, sound and light techs, and administrators. It was one of the most amazing times of our lives. That is God establishing your plans.

Your Works

What are *your* works? They are the daily actions you take to fulfill the dream, the vision in your heart. God cannot establish what you don't put action to. As I said, when God said go, we went! **Commitment only exists in the arena of action.** You can't think your way into commitment. You can't speak your way into commitment. You have to prove it. You have to do something. You have to go to work.

I was a catcher on flying trapeze. It was my job to catch the flyer in mid air at the exact right time as they finished their trick. It was my decision to shout, "NO!," if the trick was not catchable so the flyer could react in time to land in the net correctly and not get hurt. But if the flyer never left the pedestal board, or never let go of the trapeze, or never did the trick – I would have no one to catch. It was my job to "establish" the flyer as a great trapeze artist by catching their trick. I couldn't do that without them doing their part. The same is true for each of us. If we never act on what the Lord tells us or if we never act on the vision in our hearts, He has nothing to establish and no steps to direct.

God wants to work *with* you. He longs to be a part of your daily life. Why? Because He wants to help you become all He created you to be. He wants to see you realize the dreams and visions He planted in your heart. He wants your plans to succeed. He wants to direct your steps. Not because He wants to control you, but because He loves you and wants you to live all of those dreams with Him.

When I would perform my slackwire act in Circus Alleluia I could feel, almost hear Jesus cheering me on. I could feel His presence out there on the wire with me. I loved that act. It was a thrill every time I did it. And I knew He was there, helping me, and enjoying every minute of the joy I was feeling. He wants that same thing for you. God wants to work with you and establish you and all the plans you make. Don't hesitate. Trust Him. He will be there. He will guide you. He will let you know He's with you.

You are such a unique person. You have such unlimited potential when you commit all to the Lord. He *will* give you the desires of your heart. He *will* fill you with all the strength you need to fulfill those desires. He *will* help you through every step in the amazing journey of your Kingdom Vision.

Father, I ask you to inspire my brother and sister with the visions and dreams you have for their lives. Show them how much You have for them to become and do and have and give. Fill them with hope that from this day on You will be leading and guiding them by your Holy Spirit into their Kingdom destiny. Fill them with wisdom and understanding. Let them feel Your presence with them as they live out the awesome path you have for them!

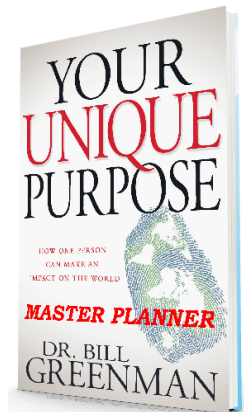
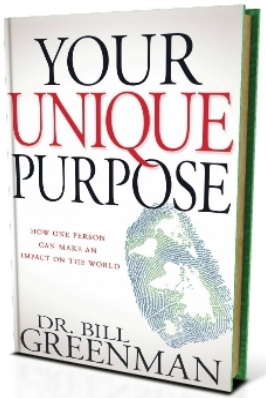
In the Matchless Name of Jesus!

Amens

Resources

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Our *Your Unique Purpose* and *Master Planner* go hand-in-hand to allow you to formulate the plans of the vision God has for you. Now you can discover and create the detail plans you need to fulfill your purpose and have them in on place to refer to day after day. Be sure to order you copy from our website today at: www.Purpose3.com



Destinies On Edge & My Edge Workbook

Destinies On Edge is perfect for youth groups and youth home groups to set firm foundations in their walk with God. They will begin to find and learn how to fulfill their personal purpose in simple and easy to understand terms.

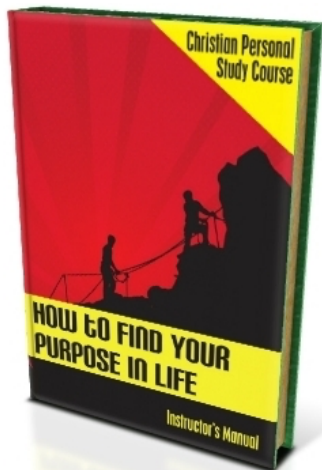
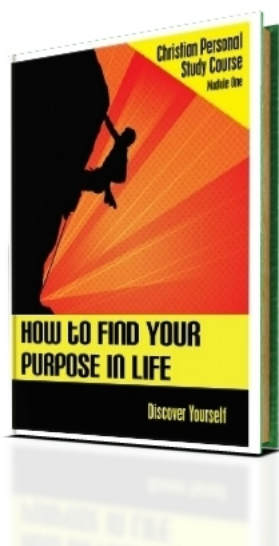
The *My Edge* planner is the companion personal workbook that goes directly with the *Destinies On Edge* book. It's filled with the multiple worksheets and thought provoking questions that are guaranteed to spark the attention and actions of any young person.



How To Find Your Purpose In Life

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About The Author



Dr. Bill Greenman has been a follower of Jesus since 1971 and involved in ministry since 1976. He has built a vast experience as an associate

pastor, as an evangelist, a teacher, and a personal and family counselor. He is also a successful businessman whose career has included several startup corporations, marketing, major event production, international book publishing, positions as a corporate executive, and corporate administrator.

Bill is the founder and president of Global Purpose Strategies, formerly known as Purpose International Ministries and its affiliates around the world. The mission of Purpose International is to teach and impart the message of finding and then fulfilling one's God-given personal purpose within the 7 mountains of societal influence, in order to continually release the

Kingdom and the will of God in the earth until He returns.

Bill has traveled internationally as a conference speaker, trainer, and coach in both Christian and business circles. He was a professional trapeze artist and acrobat who then created his own circus – Circus Alleluia – as an evangelistic outreach, which he led and performed in for 12 years. During their performances Bill and his teams continually saw thousands come to Christ and receive miracles of healing and deliverance - in prisons, juvenile homes, on the streets, in churches, Jesus festivals, and public arenas.

Bill was also a part of the Kansas City Fellowship (KCF) pastoral staff led by Mike Bickle in the early 1990's. During that time he worked closely with and was mentored in the prophetic lifestyle and gifts by fellow prophets such as James Goll and Bob Jones. Bill also assisted in stewarding KCF's part in the budding prophetic movement during his time there.

Bill has authored multiple books and training materials that have been used by churches and ministry schools in dozens of countries for over 3 decades, to teach people how to find their personal purpose and fulfill their destinies in God's Kingdom.

In 2007 Bill co-founded Purpose International Consultants Limited in Kenya, Africa - a ministry which works directly with the government, educational, business, media, and religious sectors of that nation by sharing the gospel of Christ through the message of personal purpose for national and Kingdom of God destiny.

Bill's present ministry is to bring the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Word of the Lord to Christian leaders and those under their charge in both church and market place settings. Dr. Greenman has been married to his lovely wife, Meg (who he actually met in the Florida State University Flying High Circus!), since 1975. They enjoy their 3 grown children and their 6 fast-growing grandchildren. Bill's family is his deepest earthly love.

For information on how to invite Dr. Greenman to minister at your church, conference, or other event please write to him at:

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