

Walking in Your Destiny

- I. **As we read the Scriptures, we become very aware that there are distinct destinies, assignments, and gifts uniquely assigned to each of us to give away to the world around us (I Peter 4:10, 11).**
 - A. Men and women of the Bible had unique callings in the redemptive plan of God accompanied by weaknesses and strengths, victories and defeats. This is the story of the patriarchs, prophets, king, and apostles. This is our story.
 - B. As we consider the examples of God's servants, their lives like ours are full of paradoxes and contradictions—lots of detours.
 - C. How we fulfill our destinies is not necessarily line upon line and orderly. In fact, our greatest failures and sorrows often become the key to our greatest successes.

- II. **Consider the Apostle Peter.**
 - A. Peter was one of the first apostles chosen by Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22).
 - B. He was one of three disciples chosen by Jesus to witness the transfiguration.
 - C. Jesus told Peter in a play on words, "On this rock I will build my Church," and, "I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven..." (Matthew 16:13-20).
 - D. Peter was used by God to open the Church to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
 - E. This same Peter, along with the other disciples, heard Jesus say, "And I confer on you a Kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30).
 - F. Immediately after this we read of the failure and desertion of the disciples. Peter denied the Lord three times, which he insisted he would never do (Luke 22:31-34). But in one little sentence Jesus tells Peter what He really has in mind for Peter (and for us): "And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32).

- III. **In Jesus' third appearance to Peter and the disciples after the resurrection, we find three keys to walking in the destinies and ministries God has for each of us (John 21:1-23).**
 - A. Key #1 is to respond to the free gift of forgiveness.
 1. First we can say that one source of walking in our destiny is receiving love and acceptance in the deepest failures and trials of our lives. Here we are permanently tenderized and given compassion to give away to the world (I John 4:19; Luke 22:32).
 2. Second, we can say that our weaknesses don't disqualify us. They qualify us to walk in our calling. We find ourselves permanently stamped by love and find that God's power is released in our weakness (II Corinthians 12:6-10).
 - B. Key #2 to fulfilling your destiny is, "Feed my lambs." All ministry and calling revolve around feeding others (John 21:15-17; Matthew 10:5-8; 28:18-20).
 1. Sheep are some of the most vulnerable animals on the planet.
 2. We are all simply sheep deeply in need of each other (The Body of Christ) and Jesus, The Great Shepherd.
 - C. Key #3 to fulfilling your destiny is to stop comparing yourself to others as Peter did with John (John 21:20-23). It distracts you from your unique destiny.