

Life, Love and Family Daily Fact Sheet
Dr. Tim Clinton

“God’s Purposes”

- **3 Steps for Discerning the Will of God** (Clinton & Hawkins, 2009):
 - **Believe that God will Show You His Will**—though God’s ways are not our own (Is. 55:8), we can trust and believe that He has a plan for our lives (Jer. 29:11). Pray for God to reveal His will for you (Ps. 32:8).
 - **Be Patient**—often, God’s will becomes evident after a period of time. Find contentment in your waiting. Continue to abide in Him (John 15) as you wait for His plans for your life to unfold.
 - **Seek Counsel**—by asking for others to pray for you and mentor you, the will of God for your life may become more evident. The Lord may use godly and mature Christians to speak His promises and blessings over you.
- **The Waiting Game: When God Doesn’t Operate on Our Time**
 - God often makes us wait to make us ready.
 - Use these times as training grounds. They test our character and God uses these things to get us ready for His purpose for us.
 - These waiting seasons may seem totally unrelated to the call or dream that God has placed on our hearts, but it is important that we find God in these places.
 - Training Grounds may include:
 - Financial hardship
 - Disillusionment with church
 - Betrayal
 - Rejection
 - Being overlooked
 - Instead of asking why these things are happening, evaluate what obedience may look like in this season of discouragement and waiting.
 - Trials reveal weaknesses in our character. God often allows this so that He can extract from our lives the very things that the enemy would use against us later.
- **Quotes:**
 - *“God looks past our past because He knows our future.”*—Liz Curtis Higgs
 - *“The Christian life is not merely a matter of getting from here to there... from point A to point B. Instead, God’s will for us in this life is more about the journey itself.”*—Charles Swindoll
 - *“Without God, life has no purpose. Without purpose, life has no meaning.”*—Rick Warren

- *"We must focus on prayer as the main thrust to accomplish God's will and purpose on earth. The forces against us have never been greater, and this is the only way we can release God's power to become victorious."*—John Maxwell
- *"What I pray for reflects what I feel about God."*—Craig Groeschel
- *"We aren't just thrown on this earth like dice tossed across a table. We are lovingly placed here for a purpose."*—Charles Swindoll

- **Key Thoughts:**

- It is easy to get lost and confused in the pain, pressure, and pace of modern day life.
- Two of the biggest ways that the enemy will work against us is through a sense of inferiority and insecurity. If he can get us living in reaction to these things instead of in response to God's love, our own choices will sabotage the best of what God has for us.
- Getting in the way of God's plan:
 - **Self-ambition** includes not wanting to wait for what God has, and running ahead to try to make something happen on our own.
 - **Self-preservation** involves feeling as though we don't have anything to offer. When an opportunity comes, the fear of failure and exposure is enough to derail us.
- God's plan and purpose for us is not all about natural gifting or ability. Rather, it has everything to do with who God is and what He will do through us.
- To get a vision that is bigger than we are always involves being used by God to further His purposes.
- So much of our call is often very connected to either the worst thing we've ever done or the worst thing that has ever happened to us.

- **Verses:**

- *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*—**Romans 8:28**
- *"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."*—**Philippians 1:6**
- *"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."*—**1 John 5:14**
- *"'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"*—**Jeremiah 29:11**
- *"The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."*—**Proverbs 16:9**

- *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”—John 10:10*
- *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”—2 Corinthians 5:17*
- *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”—Ephesians 3:20-21*
- *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 4:6-7*
- *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”—Psalm 32:8*

Endnotes

Clinton, T. & Hawkins, R. (2009). The quick-reference guide to biblical counseling. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.