

In Pursuit of Destiny!

KJV Judges 8:4 And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint (exhausted), yet pursuing them.

Recently we talked about what it means to be tired, exhausted and weak yet not giving up on what God promised!

We used a couple examples: The women with the issue of blood & Gideon.

Gideon and his untrained army of 300 men defeats 120,000 but 15K have escaped along with two (2) kings of Midian.

They have a choice, they're exhausted and have a reason to quit they can celebrate the victory or pursue and embrace their destiny!

By embracing his destiny Gideon realizes he can't quit—he has to keep going and completely defeat his enemies.

KJV Judges 6:16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

Gideon believes God and continues to **pursue his destiny!**

Destiny is that which is predetermined to happen in our lives.

Fate is that which is accepted as unavoidable in our lives.

At first Gideon thought it was his fate to be poor, weak and afraid of his enemies! **He accepted things the way they were!**

But when he heard The Word of The LORD and discovered it was his destiny was to defeat those who oppressed him—his life changed.

Gideon **embraced his destiny** **rejected fate** and followed The Word of The LORD for his life and gained the victory for himself and his people.

Destiny took him into a fight, destiny brought him to the place of exhaustion but destiny helped him gain the victory.

This brings us to the next level: **Not just seeing life as a struggle but seeing the struggle as Pursuing Destiny!**

David was one who **pursued his destiny!**

- Looked down upon by his family.

- Anointed to be king as a young boy.
- Fights a giant as a teenager.
- Hated by his king.

David is pursued for many years by his ruler king Saul.

He flees his own country and eventually is granted a piece of land by his enemies Achish king of the Philistines. (1 Sam 27:6)

The city is called **Ziklag!** Meaning **winding, bending and surrounded by grief!**

❖ God never anointed David to be king of Ziklag!

Some people have settled for Ziklag but it was never God's idea!

Ziklag is a safe place compared to where you came from, but it's not God!

Ziklag seems right because for the first time in a long time you can stop running!

The people accept you at Ziklag, they treat you well and shower you with praise at Ziklag.

But since Ziklag was never God's idea it won't last!

Since God didn't anoint you for Ziklag there is no success there, only pain and misery!

Ziklag is a trick of the enemy to stop you from reaching your destiny!

Ziklag was his enemy's idea—it was king Achish idea to give David this city and use him as an ally against Israel and king Saul.

Remember Ziklag means **winding**—it's designed to keep you going in circles without advancing!

It means **bending**—it's designed to bend and eventually break you!

Remember it means **surrounded by grief**, it's meant to break your heart

David and 600 men and their families live in Ziklag for over a year.

From there they carried out raids of neighboring territories until one day when returning home to Ziklag they find they have been raided.

*NIV 1 Samuel 30:1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,
2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.
3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.
4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.*

This is some deep pain and agony my brothers and sisters!

They cried out loud until they were too weak to do anything!

These were the same men who had been hiding with David in the cave of Adullam.

NIV 1 Samuel 22:2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

At that time these men thought it was their fate to be broke, angry and bitter.

It wasn't until they join up with a man anointed by God that things begin turning around in their lives—they become leaders, gained self-respect got out of poverty, got married raised a family moved from a cave to their own city.

Now they're somebody! But they're **not** who God said they would be, so they had to lose what **fate** brought into their lives in order to **embrace destiny!**

NIV 1 Samuel 30:6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

It seems these men reverted back to their former state because of **fate!**

Every one of them was bitter, distressed and broke again!

When everyone else was accepting their fate—David found strength in the LORD his God!

- Because he was **destined** to be king of Israel, he couldn't settle for defeating giants!

- Because he was **destined** to be king he couldn't settle for defeat at Ziklag.

David remembered it was God who did all these things in his life—so David looks to God!

NIV 1 Samuel 30:7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him,

The ephod represents David's life of prayer and praise!

NIV 2 Samuel 6:14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might,

KJV 1 Samuel 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

David more than likely **praised God** for all He had already done for him—remembering how his struggles led him to his destiny.

No doubt David remembered he was anointed for such a time as this and that his destiny was to be king, not to be some broken down has been in the city of his enemies.

When he **finishes praising he prays** asking God should he **pursue** (destiny)? **Because it's not over, it's just a setback for your comeback!**

He asks God will he **overtake** them and God says this:

Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

David like Gideon and the women with the issue of blood—had to pursue and embrace destiny—tired, wounded and weak!

KJV 1 Samuel 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

David **embraced his destiny** and continued his struggle to become **all** God called him to be.

The 600 men follow David to the brook **Besor** (which) **means cheerful!**

As soon as they make up their minds not to accept **fate** they go from being grief stricken and emotionally scarred to a **cheerful place**.

They only come to the place where they can laugh again when they decide to **pursue destiny!**

Before they could get anything back they had to cheer up!

ESV 1 Samuel 30:10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

I wouldn't be surprised if they were the same 400 who were in the cave of Adullam with David.

1/3 of the people don't pursue destiny with him, they wanted to stay at the happy place—they are too exhausted and can't handle the struggle anymore.

NIV 1 Samuel 30:17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day.

❖ As exhausted as David and his 400 men were they fought for an entire day non-stop until they got the victory!

When you truly believe God and make up your mind to embrace destiny you don't stop fighting until you win!

KJV 1 Samuel 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David recovered all.

20 David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."

Fate would have us believe we were born to be poor, angry and oppressed!

But God says we are destined to be kings and priests!

The Bible teaches us if we **pursue our destiny** we will eventually get the spoils of victory!