

# BRINGING CHRIST INTO CAREER DECISIONS

Nancy Branton, Christian Career & Leadership Consultant

Phone: 651/459-0528; Email: [hrpbranton@juno.com](mailto:hrpbranton@juno.com)

## ***GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU***

In advance, God prepared for your good works.

- “For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)
- “In Him, we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

God has a vision and a plan for you.

- “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you know the hope to which He has called you.” (Ephesians 1:18)
- “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.” (Romans 8:28)
- “It is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” (Philippians: 2:13)
- “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)
- “Yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)
- “...Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6)

### ***USE YOUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE***

- “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)
- “You are the light of world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14)
- “Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. (1Tim. 4:14)
- “Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)
- “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...” (Romans 12:6)
- “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col. 3:17)
- “I will be most fulfilled in my life when I reflect the attributes of God.” (Col. 3:10)
- Refer to The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-28
- For a listing of Spiritual Gifts, see Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12, Eph.4 and 1 Peter 4:10-11

### ***HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD***

#### Develop a Loving Relationship with God

- “Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:5)
- “...And I pray that you being rooted and established in love together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of all the fullness of God.

- “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” (1 John 3:16)
- “I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

#### God Teaches and Guides You

- “It is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”(Philippians 2:13)
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Prov. 3:5-6)
- “In his heart a man plans his course but the Lord determines his steps.” (Prov. 16:9)
- “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.” (Psalm 32:8)
- “This is what the Lord says --your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go” (Isaiah 48:17)
- “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men.”(Col. 3:23)
- “Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep My ways. Listen to My instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to Me, watching daily at My doors, waiting at my door way. For whoever finds Me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. (Prov. 8:32-35)
- “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.” (Psalm 25:9)
- “He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.” (Isaiah 49:10b)

### Read God's Word

- "All scripture is "God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God can be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105)
- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." (Col. 3:16)
- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:66)

### Praise and Worship God

- "After consulting the people, Jehosaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness..." (2 Chron.:20-21)
- "Then a voice came from the throne, saying: 'praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him both small and great!' " (Rev. 19:5)

### Pray and Listen to God

- "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:4)
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."(James 1:5)
- "And this is My prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ." (Phil 1:9-11)
- "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying "this is the way; walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21)

### Give Thanks to God

- "...give thanks always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes. 5:18)
- "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Col. 3:15)

### ***FOLLOW GOD'S COMMANDS***

#### Learn and Obey God's Command

- "Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn Your commands." (Psalm 119:73)
- "Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by the Father, and I too will love Him and show Myself to Him." (John 14:2)
- "Then you will remember to obey all of my commands and will be consecrated to your God." (Numbers 15:40)
- "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession." (Exodus 19:5)
- "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, 'I know Him, but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in Him. This is how we know we are in Him. Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.'" (1 John 2:3-6)

#### Confess Your Sins

- "Search me, O God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24)
- "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is not deceit." (Psalm 32:1-2)

#### Be Forgiving

- "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matt. 6:18)

- “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matt. 5:44)

#### Seek fellowship with Other Christians

- “ A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another . By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”(John 13:34-35)

#### ***PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD AND TRUST WISE COUNSELORS***

##### Trust in God

- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” (Prov. 3:5)
- “This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.” (1 John 5:7)
- “For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.” (1 Cor. 14:33)
- “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” (Psalm 91: 2)
- “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.” ( Psalm 37:3)

##### Lean on God and Be Not Afraid

- “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)
- “And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19)
- “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:5-7)
- “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power of love and self discipline.” (2 Tim. 1:7)

- "...If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)
- "Be still, and know I am God..." (Psalm 46:10)
- "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:16-18)
- "Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)
- "The Lord is my light and my salvation –whom shall I fear? The Lord is a stronghold of my life –of whom shall I be afraid." (Psalm 27:1)
- "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave, never will I forsake you.'" (Heb. 13:5)
- "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:34)

#### Be Discerning

- "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)
- "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love." (2 Peter 1:5-8)

#### Wait for God's Perfect Timing

- "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:14)
- "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him: do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes." (Psalm 37:7)

- “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.” (Psalm 130:5)

#### Seek Wise Counsel

- “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Prov. 15:22)
- “The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.” (Prov. 20:5)

#### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER RESOURCES**

- Discovering God’s Will, by Charles R. Swindoll
- Be Your Own Creative Coach: Unlocking the Power of Your Imagination to Revolutionize Your Relationships, Career and Future, by Walt Kallestad.
- Finding the Will of God In a Crazy, Mixed Up World, by Tim La Haye
- Help Me I’m Anxious, by Joyce Meyer.
- How to Find Your Mission in Life, Gift Edition, by Richard Nelson Bolles.
- Knowing and Doing the Will of God, by H. T. Blackaby and C. V. King.  
Life in the Spirit, by Robertson McQuilkin.
- Life Directions: Experiencing the Gift of God’s Guidance, by J. Kise and D. Stark.
- Life Keys: Discovering Who You are, Why You’re Here and What Your Do Best, by J. A. G. Kise, D. Stark, and S. K. Hirsh
- Listening Prayer, by Leanne Payne.
- Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God’s Will, by Gordon T. Smith.
- The Art of Forgiving: When You Need to Forgive and Don’t Know How, by Lewis B. Smedes.
- The Art of Love, The Depth of Faith, by Sue Sievers.



- The NIV Study Bible-all scripture quotes were from this Bible.
- The Path: Creating Your Mission Statement for Work and for Life, by L. B. Jones.
- What You Do Best in the Body of Christ: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God - Given Passion, by Bruce Bugbee.
- When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense, by Robert Jeffress.
- Your Place in this World: Discovering God's Will for the Life in Front of You, by Michael W. Smith

All Rights Reserved, Nancy Branton, 2002.