

CouplesInBloom.com – Discipleship Determines Destiny

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The word **destiny** is not Biblical because it wreaks of laziness; it appeals to our selfish human nature which wants a predetermined path. We *intentionally* use the word **destiny** *here* to communicate God's answer to this human desire for direction. God shares the forming of our **destiny** with *us* through personal relationship; *not* through either extreme of us doing everything *or* Him doing everything (the countless varieties of false religion).

Relationship requires sowing *and* promises reaping! ⇒ Galatians 6:7, but the false notion of **destiny** just wants reaping. Destiny is often the root of divorce, where selfish people want a soul-mate (a lame excuse for finding a selfish clone for more selfishness). God frequently tells us how to be blessed, but gives us the option of believing it or not:

- It is actually, truly, and provably **more blessed** to give than to receive ⇒ Acts 20:35.
- **Lost blessings are restored** as we develop ownership of God's ways ⇒ Job 42:1-12.
- **New blessings come** as we live our life with a heart that follows God ⇒ Ruth 3:8-11.

In the Old Testament, Sarah **transitioned** from **destiny to discipleship**. She started out being a very problematic wife, blaming her husband for her own sin ⇒ Genesis 16:5 (which still harasses the world 4000 years later ⇒ Genesis 16:12). Through discipleship she became a woman of faith ⇒ Hebrews 11:11 and the Biblical role model wife for marriage ⇒ 1 Peter 3:1-6. **God changed her name** from Sarai (*literally* dominating) to Sarah (*literally* noble) ⇒ Genesis 17:15. Choosing God's discipleship gets God's power.

In the New Testament, Paul **transitioned** from **destiny to discipleship**. He started out being a very problematic man, adding both passion and intelligence to his wrong view of God ⇒ Acts 7:58 - 9:2. Through discipleship ⇒ Acts 9:3-27 he became the apostle whom God entrusted to pen most of the New Testament! **God changed his name** from Saul (*literally* demand) to Paul (*literally* small) ⇒ Acts 13:9, etc. Again, choosing God's discipleship gets God's power. **Why? Because discipleship requires relationship!**

Do we yet understand how **central relationship** is to God??? The evil stronghold of religiosity ⇒ Matthew 23:27-28; 2 Timothy 3:5 is promoted so intensely by doctrines of demons ⇒ 1 Timothy 4:1-2 because Satan knows, by experience, that relationship with God is EVERYTHING (he threw it all away, irreversibly damning himself to hell, soon).

Relationship is how everyone **transitions** from **destiny to discipleship**. You may be a Christian... just not discipled by the Bible yet. Studying the Bible, God's Word, is very important! ⇒ 2 Timothy 3:14-17. It brings us new life ⇒ 1 John 1:1 every day of our life!

Do you need a new name, like Saul, Sarai and others did? God has His *own* name for each of us (!) which we find out when we get to Heaven ⇒ Revelation 2:17; 3:12. When we become a Christian, our name gets written in God's Book of Life (that is Heaven's admission list) ⇒ Psalm 69:28; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5. This is "real" '**destiny**'!

No one knows when God will take us to Heaven ⇒ Matthew 24:36, so we always live carefully, but a better reason is that relationship with God is the sweetest blessing of all! With that being our '**destiny**' (starting now!), the work of **discipleship** is well worth it.

Marriage works the same way; the relationship of **discipleship** is the best **destiny**. ♥