



Threading the Needle

Ever try to thread a needle? When I was a kid, my mom would always have me thread the needle for her. Young eyes, steady hands...was easy for me and I loved the challenge. My mom's confidence in me felt good. If my mom were here today and asked me to thread her needle, I'd say "Sure will!" A bit arrogant given over 50 years of aging; my mind willing but my body, perhaps not so much. **Success would be dependent on both my mind and body working together.**

God asking you to pursue your [Life Mission](#) is much like my mom asking me to thread her needle. "Sure will!" you tell God. You make plans. You set goals and march ahead, full of passion and intention. "This will be good. I will help many people and much kingdom fruit will be produced!" You are willing. Yet successfully fulfilling your [Life Mission](#) is not simply a matter of you making good plans and being willing. James writes:

"Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." ¹⁴ How do you

know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." James 4:13-17 (NLT)

Crazy as this sounds, even though we get our Life Mission from God, we can easily venture forth alone with the illusion that we are walking with God. Frankly, it's easy to lay a false covering over everything by asking God to bless our plans. I find myself doing this all of the time but it does not work.

"You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail." Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

The apostle John quotes Jesus, adding another perspective:

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NLT)

In other words, we are to join in on God's plans; success is dependent on **both** us and God working together. **But who can really know what the Lord's plans are? How can we get in sync?** Are we to sit and wait for him to reveal his plans? James throws in verse 17 saying it is a sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it (James' points are all about action ? The proof is in the pudding). God does not want us to wait, at least not for long.

I don't know about you, but this gets me really confused! Make plans, don't make plans, wait, get going....What are we supposed to do? And how are we to distinguish our plans from God's?! When trying to move ahead on your **Life Mission**, anxious to serve others with the hope of fruitfulness, making sure you are following God's plan is like threading a needle.

I remember the most common problem I had when threading needles for my mom – a very thin, almost invisible, hair like strand would get in the way. If I failed to notice it, I would try and try threading with no success. But once I saw it, I could figure out what to do.

One of the most powerful activities to employ when pursuing your Life Mission is to notice. Stand back and look around. What do you see happening? What is not happening? Do you see any fruit? Is there a strange resistance? What

words do you hear repeatedly? Are there peculiar events happening? Do you see common themes appearing through different channels? Once noticed, you can figure out what to do. Tell God what you see and ask him how he sees it and what to do about it. We have to work at walking hand in hand with God, but when we do, oh... it is good!

Practice noticing. Develop a trained eye. Dialog throughout the day with God asking him to help you see things. Success only comes when we work together with him.

Engage with God align with your Life Mission. It will change your life.

I guarantee it.

Follow the link below to schedule a free consultation on how to discover your Life Mission.

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Spirit Talk

(Post this where you can see it regularly)

"I can only be successful if I pursue my Life Mission together with God."

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." Jesus Christ in John 15:5 (NLT)

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