

# God's Blueprint: from Slavery to Significance

*"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal." - Philippians 3:13-14*

## The Defined Goal Line

Paul knew exactly what he was pressing toward—and so should we. Too many Christians, churches, and church leaders live without a clear, measurable goal line. When asked, "What's the finish line? What does winning look like?" many respond vaguely about "loving God more." While that's good, it's not the specific, defined goal God has revealed.

The truth is, God's plan for our lives has been in His heart for thousands of years and has never changed. It first appears clearly in the story of Moses and the Exodus, where four million Hebrew slaves discovered God's blueprint for transformation—a blueprint that remains His heart's desire for every believer today.

## The Ancient Blueprint Revealed

When God called Moses to deliver His people from Egyptian slavery, He didn't just promise freedom—He outlined a comprehensive four-stage plan found in Exodus 6:6-7. Each stage, when lived out in the life of a believer, becomes the longest-running spiritual development program in history.

## The Steps to Transformation

**stepONE: SALVATION** - *"I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians"*

This first stage is salvation: being rescued from slavery (Justification), being chosen as God's child (Adoption), and set apart for God's purposes (Regeneration). It's not merely joining a church; it's experiencing genuine freedom with a new God, new home, new life, and new master.

As Titus describes it: *"It wasn't so long ago that we were stupid and stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands... But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that and gave us back our lives."*

## **stepTWO: SANCTIFICATION** - *"I will free you from being slaves to them"*

Getting people out of Egypt is one thing; getting Egypt out of people is entirely different. This stage addresses the deep work of healing—confronting addictions, wounds, past experiences, and slave mentalities that keep us bound even after salvation.

Why did God give so many detailed commands in Leviticus? Because former slaves didn't know how to live as free people. They needed practical instruction on everything from personal hygiene to healthy relationships. Today's believers need the same intentional community where they can be transparent about their struggles and find healing through authentic relationships.

James 5 reveals God's method: *"Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."* This isn't just about information—it's about transformation through accountable relationships where people can get honest and find freedom.

## **stepTHREE: Redemption** - *"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm"*

The word "redeem" means "to put something back"—to restore to original purpose. Only when people are truly free can they discover what they're supposed to be doing. This stage is about finding your spiritual gifts and calling.

As 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3 promises: *"Our lives gradually become brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him."* This happens through personal spiritual growth and through the church's role in helping believers discover their unique grace gifts—their spiritual DNA that reveals their kingdom assignment.

God has given each person specific spiritual enablement, a special gift for kingdom service. The church's role is to be a tour guide, helping people identify their personality design and spiritual gifts, then pointing them toward their purpose. When we understand how God made us, we discover what He made us to do.

## **stepFOUR: Fulfillment** - *"I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God"*

This is the ultimate destination—living as God's people, making a difference in the world as part of His family. It's what the Jewish people call "Hallel" (where we get "Hallelujah")—celebration and praise because you're part of something significant.

This stage represents fulfilled living: serving in your gifts, connected to God's people, contributing to His mission. It's the place where, even if you're not the one on stage or in the spotlight, you feel deeply connected to every life changed, every person baptized, every kingdom victory because you know you are part of it.

# The Great Commission Connection

Jesus didn't introduce a revolutionary new plan—He activated the ancient one. The Great Commission perfectly mirrors this four-thousand-year-old blueprint:

- **"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel"** (SALVATION)
- **"Baptize them"** (SANCTIFICATION)
- **"Disciple them"** (REDEMPTION)
- **"Send them out as my people"** (FULFILLMENT)

As Ephesians beautifully states: *"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we're living for.... Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on you ... for glorious living."*

## The Leadership Challenge

Here's the sobering reality: too many Christians—and churches—stop at the first step. They're saved but never experience the fullness of God's plan. They remain "first step Christians" their entire lives—going to heaven but living miserably, still thinking and acting like slaves, never getting to the best part of the journey.

As ministry leaders, we must resist the temptation to measure success by salvation decisions alone. Our calling is to be tour guides, leading people through all four steps of spiritual development. We must help them move from spiritual infancy to mature kingdom contributors who are living in their gifts and making an eternal difference.

The view from the top is absolutely incredible, but it requires intentional journey-taking. People need guidance, community, practical steps, and patient shepherding through each stage. They need leaders who won't let them settle for less than God's complete plan for their lives.

## A Personal Invitation

This isn't just ancient history or theological theory—it's God's active plan for every person in your congregation. The same God who had His eye on Hebrew slaves in Egyptian mud pits has His eye on your people today. He sees where they are, He knows their potential, and He has designed them for glorious living.

The question isn't whether God has a plan—He does. The question is whether we as leaders will commit to guiding our people through the complete journey, helping them drink from all four steps and experience the breathtaking view from the mountaintop.

*Are you ready to help your people move beyond the first cup and into the fullness of God's transformational plan?*

If you are interested in knowing more about creating a simple, systematic approach toward leading your people and church in fulfilling God's 4,000-year-old plan, register for the upcoming RESURGENCE CONFERENCE [here](#).

Blessings,

*Pastor Steve*

