

Embrace Your Design – Part Two  
7/20/23 Daybreak Gathering

[Questions PDF](#)

In our last assignment for the Daybreak Gathering, we covered how crucial it is that we embrace our given-by-God, unique designs. We're not called to be and act and look like others around us. It's okay—more than okay—to be who the Potter designed us to be. Also, it's no accident that each of us is here for such a time as this. We have a role to play. We have believers to wake and unbelievers to warn. But how can we do that to the best of our abilities? Because it can be such a daunting task, it's easy to do nothing at all. That's what the enemy encourages, to just sit down and shut up and leave the warning to the professionals. The downside to that is that there are few "professionals" out there, pastors who see what's happening and are willing to speak up. If we don't speak into the lives of people around us, who will?

If you're anything like me, you are often too overwhelmed by how big it all is to say much at all. Or, again like me, maybe you've said too much at times. What if we can strike a good balance? What if God simply wants to use us in everyday situations to tell others what we see and Who we know is coming? Is it possible that God has already given us everything we need to answer the call He's placed before us? Could it really be as easy as being ourselves and doing what comes naturally?

For those who have never put much thought into it, it's time to look within to consider your own areas of giftedness and passions to determine how you best impact and interact with the body of Christ.

To get your mind going, I'll list a few examples below of how people are shaped uniquely and perfectly for their own role. None are wrong. In fact, they are all right when God uses the real and true us—the one He perfectly designed us to be—to serve in His kingdom. I was reminded this morning through song lyrics that what we call our or my design is more accurately to be called His design. He's the Designer and Crafter of who you are and who I am. When I stopped fighting and surrendered to His design for me, I became the truest version of myself, something I know has pleased Him over the years. On a more selfish note, I was given permission to do what I love, what brings me the most joy. Isn't that proof of His heart for me, that He would create me and gift me in a way that He would eventually call me to serve?

Maybe you love to host gatherings at your home. It's nothing for you to invite a dozen people over and make food. This is no exaggeration here: The idea of cooking a large or even small meal for a gathering is one of the most stressful thoughts for me. No kidding, I would rather talk in front of a thousand people than to figure out what to feed ten. What if, however, you use your gift and partner with someone like me, someone with a different skill set? You host the gathering and allow someone else to speak.

Maybe your spiritual gift is to play golf. (I know that's not really a thing.) On the golf course, you can build relationships with people, ones that will allow you to speak into their lives over time. On a good day, that'll give you eighteen holes to warn someone of what's coming, even if you only start with the basics like the failing economy and the breakdown in the supply chain.

If you enjoy getting together with friends over coffee, extend individual invitations and tell what you know. Unfurl it slowly and over time. We who do see the signs of our times need to draw others in and help to wake them slowly to our final series of daybreaks before that final Sunset of the rapture.

A word of encouragement here: Don't panic thinking He will call you to get up on a stage and shout about all these last-days happenings. Well, unless that's how he's using you now. Then you can panic just a little. Yes, if you have a sizeable platform where you can reach people, it is very likely He will call you to use that platform. He has blessed you with abundance for such a time as this. But if you're now a baby rocker, then God will more likely use you to whisper softly into the hearts of the families of your little ones by opening conversations.

Allow yourself, through prayer, to not only look at your current giftings but also at your history and circumstances. Look for common themes of how and where you've served, especially those areas that brought you joy rather than those areas where you've served out of need or obligation. Many of us twenty-percenters, those who serve the eighty percent, have had to step up into roles when someone else wouldn't. We have abilities to serve outside our area of giftedness, but just because we can doesn't mean we should. I've learned a lot about who I am and how God designed me by serving in areas where I'm not actually gifted. No one told me early in my walk with the Lord that I didn't have to say yes to every opportunity. So I did. Ugh! You probably have too.

Here's a personal example of the can versus the should. I didn't understand this about myself until the last few years, but I'm a major introvert. I just happen to have extrovert abilities that allow me to never meet a stranger and work a room when needed. What I've come to learn over the years is that I can hop on a stage and talk about Jesus until someone drags me off, but smaller interactions drain me. Oddly enough, I love people so much that I spend my days, even my waking hours in the middle of the night, doing all I can to pour into them and help lead them closer to Jesus. Just don't make me people in person. I'm my most energetic when left alone to study and write. The quarantine happened in 2020, and I kept telling people I had been training for this my whole life. While other people were climbing the walls and longing for human interactions, I never missed being out and about.

So what did God do? He designed me to love and need the solitude it takes for written words to pour onto a page. Otherwise, I would be out amidst the clamoring of the world and not hear what He has to say to me to say to you. It's more than okay to be me; it's expected. I don't know what your design is, but you can and must figure it out. Whatever it is, it will suit you and energize you when you do it. Can you even fathom a God who would love you enough to call you to serve in a way that might bring you joy? Can you imagine that your joy in embracing your design would bring Him joy and satisfaction? If the Potter creates a pot and that pot is used as He had planned, wouldn't it stand to reason that the Potter would rejoice in that? We must—absolutely must—get the notion out of our head that the least desirable area of service is where God must want us to serve. Do we all have mundane tasks that go along with our joyful gifts? Yes. But can we serve and find joy where we're gifted? We better.

No matter your size, no matter your station, you have a role to play, maybe more than one. David was a shepherd, who, through his shepherding years fed and protected his sheep. Once sent to the front line for what he thought was feeding his brothers, he ended up answering a call he likely never expected, using skills he had developed over time, a thought that leads to: Don't get stuck where you

think you belong or where you've always been. The Potter is well known for dousing the clay with water and reshaping it as needed for His new-season purpose. My own role has shifted in a way that still perfectly suits me. I'm the same me; I'm just using different skills He has led me to learn over the years up until now. Fishermen became fishers of men. They were still them; it was just that their mission shifted. They began to confidently tell of Who they had been with. Now, we need to confidently tell about Who we know is coming.

Before you begin your internal and external investigation, take the time to read Acts 4:13. With your own abilities in mind, remember that your proximity to Jesus makes all the difference in how you use your God-given gifts. Peter and John were able to speak with confidence, though they were uneducated and untrained men, because they had been with Him. If you're not one who has a quiet time each day, in prayer and in the Word, then you must start. If ever there was a time to get to know the One who knows you and your design, it's now. In order to answer your own unique calling, you have to meet with the Father who oversees this kingdom family business. He knows your role and longs to see you step into it.

Learn to ask in prayer and explore within and without questions like the ones below that we will use in our group-discussion.

- How am I wired, and what is my God-given, Spirit-driven personality?
- Am I an introvert or extrovert?
- Are my skills more geared toward written, online outreach or in-person communication?
- How has God used me in the past?
- What fuels my passions and stirs my heart?
- What experiences have I gained over the years that make me uniquely qualified for service?

When looking back, you may recall a long-ago-dreamed dream of what you had hoped to accomplish for the kingdom. In that season and since then, you may have faced nothing but closed doors. Is it possible that your dreams have been valid all along and God inspired? Maybe you happened to arrive at the door a minute or ten too early. I've been exactly there, in front of a door I was certain was supposed to be open. I'm only now learning to stand still at a closed door and not jiggle the handle. Implicit trust and years of walking with a faithful Savior have taught me it's wise to accept His no or no for now. Timing is everything. I also know that there are times when perseverance whispers and tells me to stand at that door and knock without giving up. What if this is your dream-come-true season? The point is, don't discount old dreams. They could possibly be a clue to your role in our final hours here on earth. They have been for me.

Now, use your past experiences and longings and your innate design to narrow in on how God has intentionally shaped you for your role. Who are you really and what can you offer? "Nothing" isn't ever an answer. We all have an offering to lay before the feet of the King, none any lesser than others', just different.

My closing prayer for you is taken from Colossians 1:9-12, quite possibly the longest one sentence in Scripture.

"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so

that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining for all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints.”

Note that final phrase: “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share...” You are qualified—I am qualified—because He is the one doing the qualifying. Let’s trust that and embrace our unique-to-us designs.

Final thoughts: Bear in mind that this investigation is a continuing process and will take time. Yet, you can’t wait for final conclusions before you get started. We do what we can when we can. Then we hone our skills and refine our roles along the way. When we know a little, we share a little. When we know more, we share more. Share what you can as you can.

In an upcoming Daybreak Gathering we will cover the topic of “Elevate Your Voice” to learn some practical ways to speak up and out. Until then, I’m honored to walk with you through these exciting topics, ones that give us permission to be the God-shaped us that we are.

Please try to work through your questions list prior to our next Gathering so that you’ll be prepared to discuss your answers. This will be an interesting week of introspection and a time to embrace your God-given design. Simply be who you are. The Potter doesn’t make mistakes.

See you back next week,  
Lisa