

## Embrace Your Design – Part One

Begin with this brief video prior to reading the assigned material below.

### [Embrace Your Design Video](#)

Our reading this week will come from one of my Rapture Ready articles, “My Design: How Do I Share What I Know?”. We will use the remaining portion for part two next week.

Questions PDF

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### Embrace Your Design: It's Okay to be You

Do you have what it takes to slay a giant?

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Even before David stepped up to take on Goliath’s challenge, he was anointed by Samuel at God’s behest to someday be king. We see from the verse above that David already had a God-sized heart. What a great reminder that our heart for Him is a determining factor for God’s use of us, even those of us who feel smallest in position and stature. I’m glad I went back and read this prequel to David’s encounter with the giant. A later verse in the story of David’s anointing stands out as an explanation for something I’ve been considering recently: What was so different about David that he would walk onto the scene, with no recorded-in-Scripture hesitation, and ask the bold question of what would be done for the man who would kill the Philistine. Clearly, I hadn’t read David’s anointing scene recently.

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.” (1 Samuel 16:13)

Question answered by the verses above: David had a heart for God and was walking in the Spirit. We, as believers, have the Spirit of the living God within us, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11). Because we do have the Spirit, we can step without hesitation into our assigned role and do massive harm to the giant of rising evil in our midst. Remember, for every person we wake and warn, damage to the dark kingdom is the outcome. All matter: the masses, the many, and the few. And all are reached by the different gifts given to different believers.

Yet there most stand, maybe even you, filled with more hesitation than bravery. It happens to us all. Once we learn what’s going on and how close we are to the rapture, we each ask ourselves the same

questions: What is my role and how can I help? Recently, I've had to narrow in on my own role. I wrote *Daybreak* during 2021 to help explain the rapture and warn of the rising darkness. That was certainly an assignment from God, but I wouldn't consider it as my one defining role. I know what my role isn't. There are knowledgeable, trustworthy truth-tellers out there, pastors and teachers who keep us apprised of what's going on in the world and how it can all be filtered through the lens of Scripture. I've shared many of their resources on my [Daybreak.Team](#) site for others to learn more, but I know I'm not to step over into their lane and begin mimicking them. That just isn't my role.

It's only been recently that the Lord has clarified my role and simplified my mission. It's not a surprising one since it's most always been my heart: I'm a discipler; I feed sheep. That's what I do even when my methods through fiction are different than the norm. It took me years to embrace my God-given design as His unique means of using me. Because I have learned to use the gifts God has given me, it wasn't a far stretch for me to use them here at the end, through fiction.

Now, alongside my fiction writing, the Lord is guiding my discipler's heart to help others define their roles based on their own unique designs. Since this has been a hard-fought-for battle in my own journey of life and ministry, I have to give it to Him, that He sure prepared me in advance to write about this topic. I've likely spent more time fighting my design than embracing it. Many of us do.

“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—an earthenware vessel among the vessel of the earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’...” (Isaiah 45:9)

It's time to stop fighting your design and instead work with the One who uniquely formed you to serve in a unique-to-you way. I feel like I'm handing you a piece of chocolate cake as I deliver my next news: It's okay—more than okay—to be who you are and do what you do, the increasingly sanctified version of you, of course. If you're anything like me, you've spent most of your church experience comparing yourself with others and, more often than not, coming up short. “They,” whoever they are, are more gifted or better qualified in the ways that matter.

I don't doubt that's one of the enemy's greatest tactics in keeping believers still and quiet. We don't serve or talk because we greatly underestimate our valuable place in the kingdom and our value to the King. As it was said of David, the man who would someday become ruler over Israel, hopefully you and I can be called a man or woman after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Will you take this next statement and intentionally draw it into your belief system? Whether you do or don't have a heart for Him now, believer, just because of who you are, Jesus has a heart for you and will help you grow your heart for Him.

Here's a personal example of me undervaluing my role in the kingdom: I'm a major talker, like, I almost literally can't be quiet. In my early years of learning and trying to walk steadily with Jesus, I would leave small groups or Sunday school classes berating myself each week, reminding talkative Lisa that she needed to learn to shut up and that no one wanted to hear what she had to say. That wasn't just my own voice trying to stifle my passion and enthusiasm; that was the whisper of the enemy, hellbent (Can I say that word?) on silencing me before I could ever get started discipling and building up believers. That's exactly how he operates. It took a pastor's wife inviting me to speak at a conference to help me see me differently. She said, “People listen to you.” I sure hadn't noticed that.

I'm sure you've experienced the same defeating voice. He tells you you're not smart enough or well-versed enough in the Bible to talk to people about Jesus. He belittles your area of service and your area of giftedness. Like for me, the idea of fiction writing seemed equal to me offering cotton candy to a soul in need of meat. What the Lord eventually showed me was that He made me "me" with purpose and has gifted me in such a way that I'm able to tuck even the deepest of concepts into the pages of a fiction story in a way that will sweeten the taste and create a yearning for more.

It's the same with you: He made you "you" with purpose. The Potter knew exactly what kind of pot you needed to be to carry Living Water to the thirsty in your community. Right now, in today's world, a thirsting-to-death people have no idea of what's coming. Since most pastors are silent, how will the lost and found know if we, the awakened sheep, don't sound the wake-up call? This role we're being thrust into is frightening, but don't panic just yet. The Creator has made you uniquely you for such a time as this. He will empower you to speak every word and shine light to expose the deception of our days (Ephesians 6:xx). You can trust His call to embrace your design and step out onto the battlefield.

Now that you realize just how vital it is that you embrace your design, your next step will involve you doing a little digging within. Next week's session will invite you to consider your personality, passions, and past endeavors in order to discover your role and how you might make a difference in the lives of those around you. There's such freedom in learning that it's more than okay to be you. Joy comes when we are who the Potter created us to be and when we walk in our area of giftedness.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey,  
Lisa