

YOUR CHOICE: BLESSED OR STRESSED

Discover Your Destiny Rick Warren

"You will experience all these blessings if you obey the LORD your God: Your towns and your fields will be blessed. Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed. Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed. The LORD will conquer your enemies when they attack you. . . . The LORD will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain."

Deuteronomy 28:2-8 (NLT)

"The LORD blessed the last part of Job's life even more than he had blessed the first." Job 42:12 (GNT)

GOD PROMISES TO BLESS MY LIFE . . .

1.	IF
	•••

IF I"Blessed are those who <u>listen</u> to me, <u>watching daily</u> at my doors, <u>waiting</u> at my doorway." Proverbs 8:34 (NIV)

"How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world." Psalm 31:19 (NLT)

2. IF I"Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water. which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers." Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

"Whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do." James 1:25 (NIV)

3. IF I

IF I"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

4. IF I

IF I"God blesses those who are kind to the poor. He helps them out of their troubles." He protects them and keeps them alive; he publicly honors them and destroys the power of their enemies." Psalm 41:1-2 (TLB)

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

"Good people bless and build up their city." Proverbs 11:11 (NCV)

in Christ." Philemon 1:6 (NCV)

"The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor." 1 Corinthians 3:8 (NIV)

of us will be a blessing to the other." Romans 1:12 (TLB)

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:17 (NIV)

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GETTING WHERE YOU WANT TO BE

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Genesis 24:1-57

Ask

	"Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blesse Abraham in all things." Genesis 24:1 (ESV)		
2.	"Don't get a wife for my son from the Canaanite girls who live around here. Instead, go back to my country, to the land of my relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." Genesis 24:3-4 (NCV)		
	Ask WHAT DO I WANT TO WHAT DO I WANT TO WHAT DO I WANT TO WHY		
	"The servant asked [Abraham], 'What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land?" Genesis 24:5 (NIV)		
3.	Abraham: "The LORD who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my descendants. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son." Genesis 24:7 (NLT)		
4.	Eliazar: "'God of my master,' he prayed, 'show kindness to my master Abraham and help me to accomplish the purpose of my journey."" Genesis 24:12 (TLB)		
	"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)		

	Ask • WHY	
	vs. 21: Finding the right girl vs. 58: Getting her to say yes in faith vs. 49: Getting the parent consent	
6.		
	Ask • HOW	
	• HOW	
7.	"These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!" Habakkuk 2:3 (TLB)	
8.	"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)	
	Jesus: "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them. Matthew 18:20 (GNT	
9.	"Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to he mother." Genesis 24:53 (NIV) Ask WHAT WHAT	
	• WHAT	
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THE LIFE GOD BLESSES

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1.

2.

3.

4 PITFALLS ON YOUR JOURNEY

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•				
•				
•				
LESSONS FROM NOAH: GENESIS 6-9				
"God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt." Genesis 6:12 (NLT)				
"When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, and that the <u>trend and direction</u> of men's lives were only towards evil, he was sorry he had made them. It broke his heart." Genesis 6:5-6 (TLB)				
"But Noah was different. God liked what he saw in Noah." Genesis 6:8 (MSG)				
"Noah was a pleasure to the Lord." Genesis 6:8 (TLB)				
"[Noah] was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time." Genesis 6:9 (TLB)				
"It was by faith that <u>Noah heard</u> God's warnings <u>about things he could not yet see</u> ." Hebrews 11:7 (NCV)				
"Noah's <u>belief in God</u> was in <u>direct contrast</u> to the sin and disbelief of the rest of the world." Hebrews 11:7 (TLB)				
"[Noah] walked faithfully with God." Genesis 6:9 (NIV)				

Genesis 6:9 (TLB)

"[Noah] tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will."

"Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him." Genesis 6:22 (NLT)

"Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him." Genesis 7:5 (NLT)

"[Noah] obeyed God and built a large boat to save his family."

Hebrews 11:7 (NCV)

4.

"Noah . . . trusted God. When he heard God's warning about the future, Noah believed him even though there was then no sign of a flood." Hebrews 11:7 (TLB)

"By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong, and he became one of those who are made right with God through faith." Hebrews 11:7 (NCV)

"Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Genesis 6:8 (KJV)

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HOW CAN I KNOW MY DESTINY?

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BOOK OF ESTHER

1.

"[Esther] pleased [Hegai] and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem." Esther 2:8-9 (NIV)

"Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her." Esther 2:15 (NIV)

"[Esther] won [the King's] favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen." Esther 2:17 (NIV)

"Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use <u>for the good of others</u> the special gift he has received from God." 1 Peter 4:10 (GNT)

What has God given me to use for good?

2.

"When Esther's servant women . . . told her what Mordecai was doing, she was deeply disturbed." Esther 4:4 (GNT)

"Remove the chains of oppression and yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives. Then my favor will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you and my presence will protect you on every side. When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond. If you put an end to oppression, to every gesture of contempt, and to every evil word; if you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon. And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well." Isaiah 58:6-11 (GNT)

What needs do I see around me that disturb me?

3.

"[Mordecai] sent back this answer: 'Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4:13-14 (NIV)

"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and <u>fast for me</u>. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. <u>I and my attendants will fast as you do</u>. When this is done, I will go to the king."

Esther 4:15-16 (NIV)

4.

"'When this is done, <u>I will go</u> to the king, even though it is against the law. <u>And if I</u> perish, I perish." Esther 4:16 (NIV)

Jesus: "According to your faith let it be done to you." Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

What 3-year faith commitments will I make?

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GOD'S PLAN FOR FINANCIAL BLESSING

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TWO STATEMENTS FROM JESUS

Jesus: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life <u>does not consist</u> in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15 (NIV)

"I tell you, <u>use worldly wealth</u> to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Whoever <u>can be trusted</u> with <u>very little</u> can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you <u>have not been trustworthy</u> in handling <u>worldly wealth</u>, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with <u>someone else's property</u>, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. . . . You cannot serve both God and money." Luke 16:9-13 (NIV)

•	MONEY IS		
•	MANAGING MONEY IS A		
	HABITS FOR FINANCIAL BLESSING		
1.	"For everything comes from [the LORD] and exists by his power and is intended		
	for his glory." Romans 11:36 (NLT)		
	"Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth." Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)		
	"Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed." Proverbs 16:3 (TLB)		

2.
"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)

"Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth."

Proverbs 10:4 (NIV)

"The Lord <u>demands fairness</u> in every business deal. He establishes this principle." Proverbs 16:11 (TLB)

"A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies has no sense." Proverbs 12:11 (NLT)

"Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time." Proverbs 13:11 (NLT)

"Riches can disappear fast... so watch your business interests closely. <u>Know the</u> state of your flocks and your herds." Proverbs 27:23-24 (TLB)

"On every Lord's Day each of you should <u>put aside something</u> from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)

"Honor the Lord by giving him the <u>first part</u> of <u>all</u> your income, and he will fill your barns . . . and overflow." Proverbs 3:9-10 (TLB)

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives."

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

"Bring to the storehouse <u>a full tenth</u> of what you earn . . . <u>Test me</u> in this,' says the Lord All-Powerful. 'I will open the windows of heaven for you and <u>pour out all the</u> blessings you need." Malachi 3:10 (NCV)

"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."

Proverbs 21:20 (TLB)

"Money that comes easily disappears quickly, but money that is gathered little by little will grow." Proverbs 13:11 (NCV)

"Develop your business first before building your house." Proverbs 24:27 (TLB)

"Don't withhold repayment of your debts." Proverbs 3:27 (TLB)

"Let no debt remain outstanding." Romans 13:8 (NIV)

"Plan carefully and you will have plenty; if you act too quickly, you will never have enough." Proverbs 21:5 (GNT)

"The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin." Proverbs 10:16 (NLT)

"Stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it." Proverbs 21:20 (GNT)

"It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to always be wanting something else." Ecclesiastes 6:9 (GNT)

"Tell them to <u>use their money to do good</u>. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them." 1 Timothy 6:18 (TLB)

What most people do:

- 1. Spend it
- 2. Worry about it
- 3. Repay it
- 4. Save it
- 5. Give it

The order God blesses:

- 1. Dedicate it to God
- 2. Tithe it
- 3. Save & Invest it
- 4. Repay it
- 5. Enjoy it

"Don't worry . . . your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to." Matthew 6:31-33 (TLB)

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GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH

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WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT MY BODY

1	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	"You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed your laws." Psalm 119:73 (TLB)
٠.	"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is helpful. 'Everything is permissible for me," but <u>I will not be brought under the control of anything</u> . 'Food	"These instructions are not empty words—they are your life! <u>By obeying</u> them you will <u>enjoy a long life</u> in the land." Deuteronomy 32:47 (NLT)
	for the stomach and the stomach for food,' but God will do away with both of them." 1 Corinthians 6:12-13 (HCSB)	"Keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make
2.		your <u>paths straight</u> . Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
	"The body is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." 1 Corinthians 6:13 (NIV)	This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing." Proverbs 3:1-2, 5-10 (NIV)
3.	"By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also."	1. IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH
	"By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and <u>he will raise us also."</u> 1 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)	1IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH "I said to myself, 'Relax, because the LORD takes care of you."" Psalm 116:7 (NCV)
	MISTAKES WE MAKE	"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones."
	• WE RELY	Proverbs 14:30 (NIV)
	• WE HAVE	2. IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH
	• WE TRY	2. IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH "When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long My strength evaporated Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."
4.		Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)
	"Do you not know that <u>your bodies are members of Christ</u> himself? Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."	3IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
	1 Corinthians 6:15, 18 (NIV)	"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will <u>be refreshed."</u> Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)
5.		4 IS COOR FOR MY HEALTH
	"Do you not know that <u>your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit</u> , who is in you, whom you have received from God?" 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)	4IS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

6.

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH

your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

worship." Romans 12:1 (NIV)



CREATING A SPIRITUAL LEGACY

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"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

"Jesus said he 'did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NIV)

THE TWO WAYS TO CREATE A LEGACY

1.

"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."

Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

"Give vourselves completely to God—every part of you. . . . you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes." Romans 6:13 (TLB)

"My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." Acts 20:24 (NLT)

"Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live." Mark 8:35 (TLB)

2.

"Give freely and spontaneously, Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures." Deuteronomy 15:10 (MSG)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. . . . He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-12 (NIV)

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THE KIND OF WORK GOD BLESSES

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"Do you see someone <u>skilled in their work</u>? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank." Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)

S

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)

"Whoever can be trusted with very <u>little</u> can also be trusted with much. . . . if you have not been trustworthy with <u>someone else's</u> property, who will give you property of your own?" Luke 16:10, 12 (NIV)

"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."

Romans 12:11 (NLT)

П

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT)

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, <u>do it all</u> for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

C

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops <u>strength of character</u>, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation." Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

"Work hard, and you will be a leader; be lazy, and you will end up a slave."

Proverbs 12:24 (CEV)

C

"Do everything with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT)

"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2 (TLB)

E

"Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And <u>don't just do the minimum</u> that will get you by. <u>Do your best</u>." Colossians 3:22 (MSG)

"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." Matthew 5:41 (NIV)

Ε

"If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success." Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

"Do yourself a favor and <u>learn all you can</u>; then remember what you learn and you will prosper." Proverbs 19:8 (GNT)

D

"We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20 (TLB)

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world." Ephesians 1:3 (GNT)

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