



**YOUNIQUE**



# **THE DESTINY CHAPTERS**

**Younique Book [Part 6]  
by Will Mancini**

# YOU HAVE A DESTINY

**Chapter 25: Bucket List**

**Chapter 26: Ultimate Contribution**

**Chapter 27: Death**

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with Dave Rhodes and Cory Hartman



**YOUNIQUE**

Designing the Life  
that God Dreamed for You

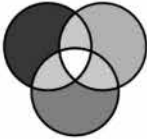
# THE VISION JOURNEY

## Clarity Spiral



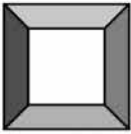
Start the Journey and Never Stop  
(Part 1)

## Sweet Spot



Name Your One Thing  
(Part 2)

## Vision Frame



Declare Who You Are Today  
(Part 3)

## Horizon Storyline



Develop a Simple Plan for Tomorrow  
(Part 4)

## Life-Making Cycle



Live with Clarity Every Day  
(Part 5)

PART SIX

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YOUR DESTINY  
How to Fulfill God's Dream of You and for You

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THE YOUNIQUE  
VISION JOURNEY

In Moses' only prayer recorded in the book of Psalms, he wrote, "Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts" (90:12).

I once owned Moses' plea so personally that I endeavored to practice it literally. I calculated the number of days of a projected average lifespan and subtracted the number of days I had already lived. Then I wrote the difference on a page of my journal.

Every day for ten years, when I started a fresh journal entry, I wrote a new number at the top of the page: the number from the day before, minus one. The series of numbers that ran across the pages was like a reverse odometer; every day it gave me an estimate of how many days I had left to make this life count.

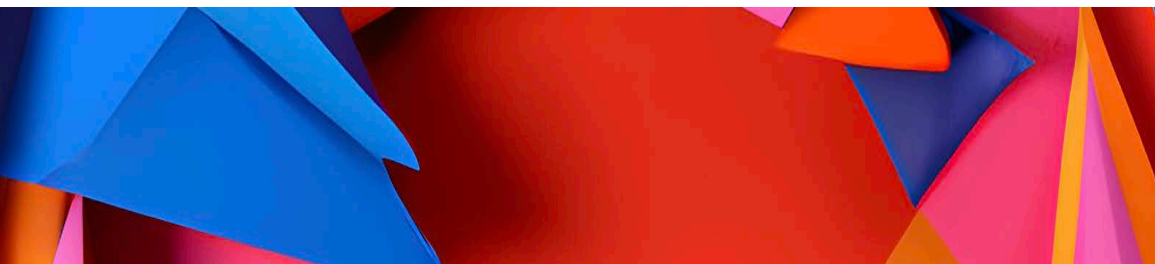
That practice gave me break-thru appreciation of the priceless value of a single day. It's like a whole life in miniature. Each day I'm born afresh, yet I carry the heritage of all the days that have come before. When I go to sleep at the end of the day, that mini-life passes away to bequeath its legacy to tomorrow.

For those with eyes to see it, every day is a reminder of the mystery and majesty of life. Every day is an opportunity; we can shape it with our intentions, yet it is always full of surprises. And it always makes an impact on the days that follow.

So also is the one life we live on this earth. It is an opportunity to do and experience things that we both strive for and cannot conceive. It surprises us again and again. It is an inheritance we leave to all who come after. And it is fleeting—we must seize it while we can.

This last part of *Younique* contains some of my most treasured thoughts on what God teaches us about a life well-lived. It is about raising our eyes far past what we can see—by faith "looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Heb. 11:10). It is about casting our vision beyond the "beyond-the-horizon" to the rest of our lives.

We will begin by redeeming the "bucket list"—all the things you yearn to have happen for yourself and those around you between now and the day you die. Then I want to open your mind to imagine what might be your ultimate contribution—the single big thing God put you on earth to accomplish. And finally, I want to leave you with the maximum motivation to make the most of every day—every miniature lifetime—of your life.







**BUCKET LIST:  
The Essential  
Miniguide to  
Fulfilling Your  
Wildest Dreams**

**“Remember that life is not measured  
by the number of breaths we take,  
but by the moments that take our breath away!”**

Chapter 25

## BUCKET LIST

*The Essential Miniguide to Fulfilling  
Your Wildest Dreams*

*“Remember that life is not measured by the number of breaths  
we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!”*

—Vicki Corona

Several years ago I checked a big item off my bucket list: a great escape to the island of Santorini, Greece—undeniably one of the most beautiful places on Earth.<sup>1</sup>

I’m not sure what first sparked my interest in visiting the Greek isles. Was it pictures in fifth-grade world geography, or was it one of those jet-way wall murals that haunts you forever? Maybe it was the setting of a movie I can’t remember, or maybe a picture in my Greek textbook at seminary. (Wait, that book didn’t have pictures!)

I guess it doesn’t matter, because for as long as I can remember, I have had an Eden-echo in my soul, calling me there.

The idea of a “bucket list” was popularized by the 2007 movie *The Bucket List*. In the picture, two terminally ill men escape a cancer ward with a to-do list to accomplish before they “kick the bucket.”

Do you have a bucket list? Have you recorded a set of life dreams to fulfill before you die? If not, why not start one? If so, when was the last time you checked something off?

## How to Redeem Your Life Dreams

While basking in the sunset of my Aegean paradise, I reflected on what is required to propel us toward our dreams and the steps I took to get there. But before I share with you my strategy for bucket-list living, I want to address a major objection up front. Many believers have a frowning, austere inner warden. He clears his throat and glares down his nose whenever they think of doing something lavish for their own enjoyment. The warden is made up of the shadows of believers we've known, dead-and-gone spiritual giants we've read about, and infallible biblical admonitions such as "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

So, guided by this inner warden, they understandably wonder: *Is it selfish for me to dream big and set goals for self-fulfillment?* At first blush, I would say, "It absolutely can be!" For that matter, anything we do—including, by the way, even the most "spiritual" things—may be driven by hidden motives that are flesh-driven rather than God-inspired (see 1 Cor. 13:1–3, for example). So the better question is: *How do we discern whether a life dream is an act of pure self-indulgence or a way to glorify God, who "provides us with all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17)?*

I recommend you redeem your dreams by running every item on your bucket list through a four-question filter. I confess that I've seen my selfishness when I couldn't give a credible answer to any of these questions for one of my aspirations. This diagnostic keeps me grounded in God and reminds me where true happiness comes from: the love of Christ, who "died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised" (2 Cor. 5:14–15).

*Filter #1: How is the life dream facilitating deeper intimacy or special bonding with people?* The simplest way to build a bucket list for God's purposes is to fill it with unique opportunities to build the most important of life's relationships. How might this work with your spouse or children? How about stressed or estranged relationships? With whom is God leading you to grow closer?

*Filter #2: How is the life dream enabling personal re-creation or particular inspiration?* God designed humans with rechargeable batteries. He commands special seasons and rhythms of Sabbath. How can a life goal renew your mind, heart, body, or emotions? Maybe in the course of your calling you need some special inspiration. How can your everyday work be forever enriched? How might an extended and even extravagant period of rest bring new vitality to your current life stage?

*Filter #3: How is the life dream providing a general blessing or unique investment?* God always blesses us to be a blessing. How can your giving be multiplied by your gaining? How can generosity be expressed through your experiences? What kind of



investment into someone else does your goal make possible? If you travel, why not become an extravagant tipper? If you own a four-wheeler, who else can ride? If you are learning to kiteboard, who else can tag along?

*Filter #4: How is the life dream promoting increased faith or gospel advancement?* Achieving a goal can expand your capability and enlarge your perspective. Does your bucket-list item require a step of faith that will change how you live the rest of your days? Does it put you in contact with others whose faith inspires yours? Or will it bring you into proximity to people who need to hear the gospel and see it in your joy? A friend and pastor named Neil Tomba just rode his bike from coast to coast in thirty days, from Santa Monica to Annapolis. He used the experience to engage people in a dozen states and the District of Columbia with specific spiritual questions when they asked him about the trek. What looked like a novel bike ride was a noble missionary enterprise.

## Five Kinds of Life Dreams

As you start writing your list—yes, literally write it; don't let it languish in the back of your skull—don't miss one crucial principle: the *No Perfect List Principle*. Don't try to get the list right; just get it started. Don't worry about dreaming too big or too small. Don't worry about what others will think. Don't worry about how many things you have written down. Just write, right now.

You can tap into a gush of inspiration at the intersection of the four storylines in your LifeScore and five kinds of aspirations. Instead of writing a single bucket list, write one for each of your storylines. We challenge participants in *The Journey* to come up with at least five “life wins” for each storyline in their first twenty minutes of reflection. You won't believe how well-rounded this makes your total collection of life goals.

Populate your lists with aspirations of five types—let the following aspirations be your inspiration.

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Don't try to get  
the list right; just  
get it started.  
Just write,  
right now.

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### **Life Dream Type #1**

*A thing to do*

- Attend the World Series
- Climb a fourteener in Colorado
- Go to a reunion concert with college friends
- Watch the entire *Star Wars* saga in one sitting
- Go sky-diving

**Life Dream Type #2***A place to go*

- See the Pyramids
- Check out every point of interest in your city that tourists visit and locals take for granted
- Visit ten Major League Baseball stadiums
- Hike the Grand Canyon
- Take a mission trip to Kenya

**Life Dream Type #3***A skill to learn*

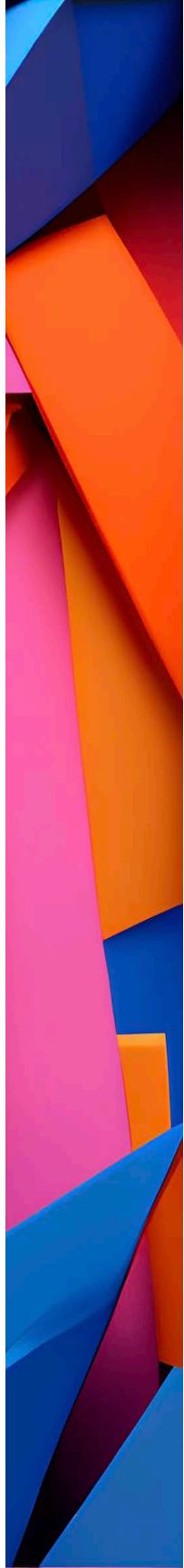
- Take a photography class
- Impress people with ballroom dance proficiency
- Start taking piano or violin lessons
- Learn to speak Swahili
- Grow a bonsai garden

**Life Dream Type #4***An objective to achieve*

- Run a marathon in Vibram 5-finger shoes
- Do a cycling tour from Seattle to San Diego
- Save \$100,000 in ten years
- Start an at-home business
- Spend three months a year donating time overseas

**Life Dream Type #5***A possession to obtain*

- Collect one of every Lincoln penny
- Buy a really powerful telescope
- Drive a 1969 Jaguar XKE for a weekend
- Have a home with a pool
- Own a kayak



## The Major Obstacles to Bucket-List Living

It is crucial to examine your life for the five most common obstacles that keep you from setting life goals and going after them.

### **Obstacle #1: Busyness**

Busy people are the most inclined to set goals toward a meaningful life, but ironically, busyness is deadly to actually achieving a meaningful life. An adrenalin addiction may keep us frantically living in the wrong direction. John Ortberg tells the story of a sage who changed his life by focusing on one piece of advice: “Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Obstacle #2: Imitation**

Many people don't take the time to discern their dreams and instead strive after others' dreams by default. They hear an inspiring story; they follow family tradition; they go on a trip with a friend; they get a pool because the neighbors got one. While these situations certainly aren't bad, they can prevent a person from beautiful self-discovery in attaining something that God uniquely designed them to yearn for.

### **Obstacle #3: Fear**

It can be scary to dream big, because any aspiration one might hope for illumines a gap between current reality and future possibility. For many people, this gap presents a problem: *Do I live with a gap—a hope, a goal, a desire unfulfilled—or do I try to close it knowing I might fail?* For many, the feeling of certain security is more attractive than possible failure. Dreamless living sets in.

### **Obstacle #4: Distraction**

Everybody has small-bore fun things they like to do; one of mine is video games. These things are not a problem in themselves, but we can easily devote more time to them than we mean to. Recently my daughter and I were playing a game that records and publicly displays the amount of time that an individual plays. One of our opponents had logged *31 24-hour days*—the equivalent of a solid, sleepless month of gameplay. Every hour of low-investment-low-return fun sucks investment away from far more satisfying goals in our lives.

### ***Obstacle #5: Expectation***

The fifth obstacle is the expectations of others. They start with the deep-rooted expectations placed upon us by our family of origin—maybe your family didn't take certain kinds of vacations, for example. Another would be an expectation of workplace culture or a boss—maybe it's not customary to take more than one week off at a time. Layered on those are the expectations of your current family and other important relationships—maybe there's something you would love to do, but your spouse thinks it's crazy, or your friends would try to talk you out of your idealism. Unfortunately, others' expectations become the inhibitions that disconnect us from our aspirations. What *they* would say becomes what you say to hold yourself in place.

What goes unrecognized is the most powerful influence in your life, and what is not named cannot be overcome. Which of these obstacles casts a shadow over your heart? When you call it what it is and address it head-on, it is much more likely to shrink so you can climb over it on the way to your dreams.

## **Essentials to Living Your Life Dreams**

So how do you press on in the tenacious chase of your dreams? How can you stay focused on the longer horizon but take small but real steps toward it each day?

When I approached these questions, I found four immovable factors. In summary:

DREAMS + TIME + MONEY + COURAGE = Your Life Goals Achieved

Let's walk through this simple equation.

### ***Essential #1: "Dreams" are about having focused reflection to inspire.***

Since most people don't have clear goals to begin with, the starting point for achievement is the ongoing journey of reflection. I'm not talking about something casual or soft but an intense, energetic, everything's-at-stake kind of reflection. Figure out the ideal time, place, and tools that you need to uncover the patterns that God has woven in your life and the desires he's placed in your heart. Where does he want you to go next? Write it down and revisit the list often.

***Essential #2: “Time” is about long-term scheduling to accommodate.***

What is the farthest in advance that you have ever scheduled anything? What kind of horizon are you living with every day? A few weeks, months, or years? How do you break the tyranny of today? Your willingness and ability to organize your time in the future will play a crucial role in personal vision planning. (The Horizon Storyline described in part 4 and the Life-Making Cycle of part 5 are transformative tools for this.) You need to schedule your time for focused reflection (Essential #1), preparation time for some of your bucket-list items, and time to do the items themselves.

***Essential #3: “Money” is about prioritizing values to resource.***

Your life dreams will require resources. Surely some goals do not necessarily have a direct connection to money (such as spending special one-on-one time with your kids), but most of your goals will have a financial factor. Your enemy, then, consists of the unintended leaks and sloshy handling of your money bucket. Obviously, different people have different amounts of cash to work with, but everyone has *some* opportunity to align the allocation of their funds with their personal values in order to fulfill their goals.

For example, I live in the Clear Lake area of Houston, which attracts a myriad of recreational boaters. I am not a boat guy myself, but what I have realized over the years is that a passion for boating can be expressed at all different income levels. Within minutes of my house I can drive by million-dollar properties with gorgeous yachts and mobile homes with boats that cost as much as the home. I can even find people whose boat is their home! Not everyone has the opportunity to have the biggest boat, but everyone has an opportunity to align their resources with their goals.

***Essential #4: “Courage” is about repetitive risk-taking to commit.***

The fourth essential swings away from the concrete aspect of cash to an intangible quality of the spirit. The greatest limiting factor in the end is not time and money, but courage. It is downright uncomfortable to do things you have never done before. The path of predictability is more attractive than we realize. That’s why it’s important to take risks step by step—small ones at first will develop your appetite for bigger ones. It’s amazing to feel your risk tolerance grow over the years.

A simple example is the bucket-list trip to Santorini that I told you about. Several factors added to the risk of this trip, including the financial instability of Greece at the time. Part of me kept saying, “Do this later.” Several people discouraged me from going. But I had carved out the time and I knew that delaying the trip would be an

opportunity cost for other bucket-list items. So I took the leap, and I'm super-glad that I did! Seven years later I planned an even riskier trip: to leave Houston to live in the mountains for fourteen weeks one winter—steps away from snowboarding—without taking time off work.

So what's keeping you from checking off that next item on your bucket list? What routine are afraid to break? Whose opinion is weighing heavy on your decision? What area of your life paralyzes you like a six-year-old on the edge of the high-dive?

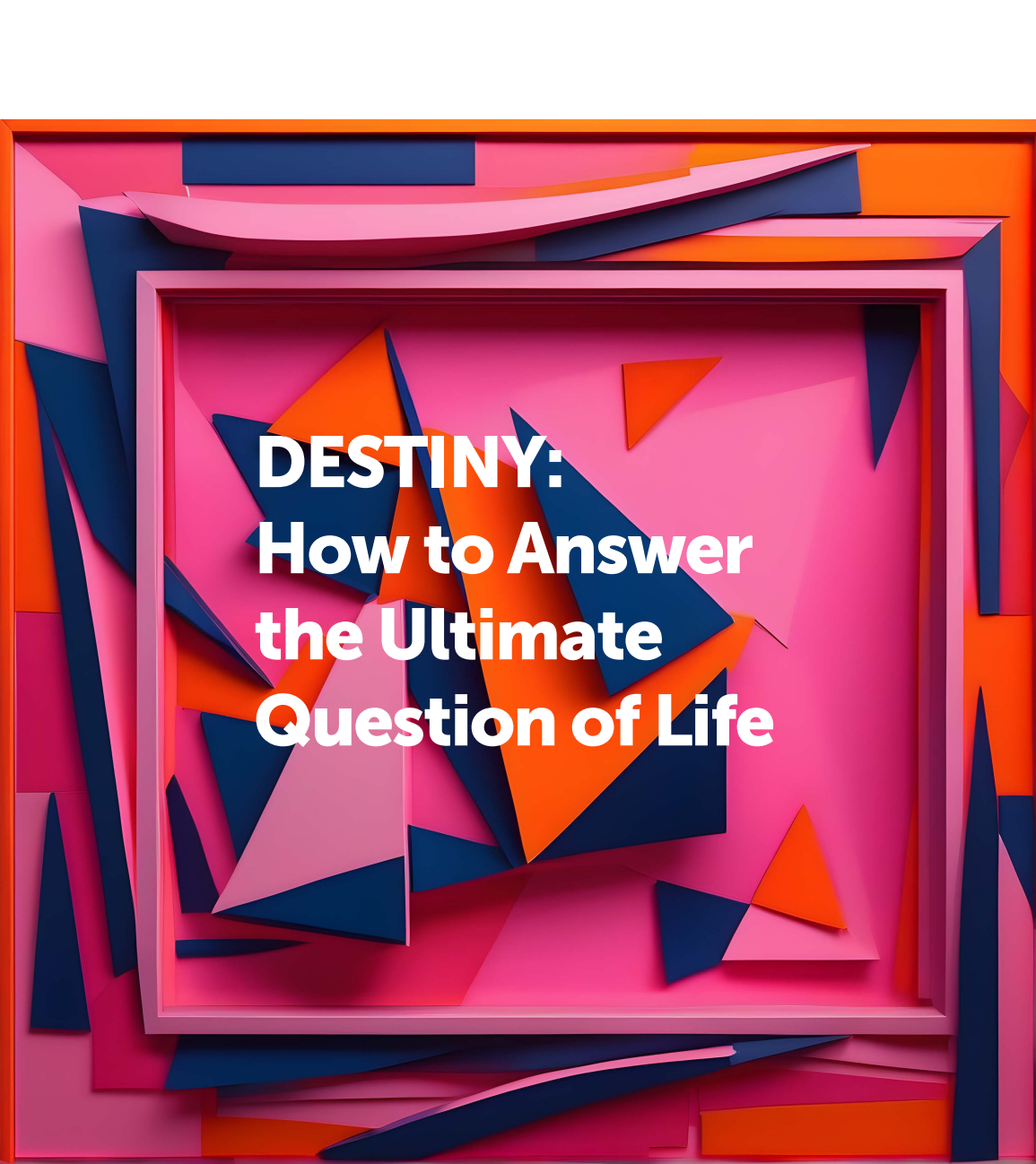
Maybe what you most need to overcome your obstacles is to consider again the mind-blowing invitation of Jesus: "Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him" (Matt. 7:9–11).



(If you would like additional help designing and fulfilling your own list of 100 Life Dreams, join me for an online course entitled *Achieving Life Dreams*. Check it out at [LifeYounique.com/courses](http://LifeYounique.com/courses).)







# **DESTINY: How to Answer the Ultimate Question of Life**

“Do not be afraid to trust [God] utterly. As you go down the long corridor you will find that He has preceded you, and locked many doors which you would fain have entered; but be sure that beyond these there is one which He has left unlocked. Open it and enter, and you will find yourself face to face with a bend of the river of opportunity, broader and deeper than anything you had dared to imagine in your sunniest dreams. Launch forth on it; it conducts to the open sea.”

## Chapter 26

# DESTINY

### *How to Answer the Ultimate Question of Life*

*“Do not be afraid to trust [God] utterly. As you go down the long corridor you will find that He has preceded you, and locked many doors which you would fain have entered; but be sure that beyond these there is one which He has left unlocked. Open it and enter, and you will find yourself face to face with a bend of the river of opportunity, broader and deeper than anything you had dared to imagine in your sunniest dreams. Launch forth on it; it conducts to the open sea.”*

—F. B. Meyer

One of my very favorite parables that *wasn't* told by Jesus is the story of the three brick-makers.

A visitor walking down a road on the outskirts of town encountered three workmen engaged side by side in the same activity. “What are you doing?” he asked the first workman.

The workman looked up with an annoyed look on his face. “I’m making bricks,” he replied curtly.

The visitor asked the next worker, “And what are you doing?”

The workman looked up with a determined look on his face. “I’m building a wall,” he replied decisively.

Finally the visitor asked the third workman, “What are you doing?”

The third workman looked up with a rapturous look on his face. “I’m building a cathedral,” he replied earnestly, “and it’s going to be the most beautiful cathedral in the world.”

In my work as a consultant with churches, I tell this story a lot. I love it because it illustrates how a compelling vision, the faith that it’s coming true, and the knowledge of how we are contributing to it together transform the quality of our work and the joy with which we do it.

But when we talk about our Life Younique, the story leaves an important question unanswered: How did the third workman know the building was a cathedral? Why not a school or a factory or a homeless shelter or a bridge?

The only way any worker could know what he was making the bricks for is if the architect gave him a look at the blueprints.

Remember, this book is about “*designing* the life God dreamed for you.” God doesn’t treat you as a slave whose only responsibility is to follow orders not knowing why they’re given. Admittedly, for a long season of your life, especially early on, it may go something like this. But over time, as your obedience grows, your intimacy with God grows, and your understanding and active involvement in the design of your life-project grows. After three-plus years of role-modeling and mentorship and living together, Jesus told his apostles, “I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father” (John 15:15).

I may not know what the building of my life ultimately looks like while I’m making the next brick. But the longer I go making bricks, the more likely the Architect comes over and I get to glance at the blueprints. Most workers never take their eyes off what they’re doing, but if I’m willing to take a step back and talk with the Architect, he might show me. Sometimes he’s waiting for me when I step back, sometimes not, and sometimes he interrupts me by surprise while I’m working. But—most important—to the extent I know the plan, he expects me to shape my work deliberately toward its completion.

## Ultimate Contribution

The holy grail of the quest to know your Life Younique is to grasp and deliver your *ultimate contribution*. I picked up this term from the late leadership thinker J. Robert Clinton, who studied the lifelong journeys of consequential Christian leaders in his classic book, *The Making of a Leader*.<sup>1</sup> Clinton taught that in the later stages of a leader’s life, he or she may be able to identify their most significant contribution and intentionally shape their activity to produce it.

Think of ultimate contribution as the cumulative output of your entire life, climaxing in your last and greatest achievement, expressed in a single idea. It is the ultimate reason you were put on earth. If your LifeCall is the trajectory of the arrow of your life soaring through the air, your ultimate contribution is dead-center of the target.

### ***Five Biblical Examples***

- For **Moses** it was leading God's people out of Egypt and becoming the personal conduit of the law of God.
- For **Joshua** it was leading the Israelites into the Promised Land by defeating the Canaanites in battle.
- For **Caleb** it was modeling whole-hearted faith and courage as a leader in Israel over forty-five years.
- For **Esther** it was using her privileged status to rescue the Jewish people from genocide.
- For the **apostle Paul** it was launching a worldwide missionary movement that included reaching Rome, the hub of the Roman Empire.

### ***Five Historic Examples***

- For **Joan of Arc** it was catalyzing an astounding comeback of the French monarchy against the English and Burgundians in the fifteenth century.
- For **Martin Luther** it was reforming the church from abuses of organized religion and awakening people to salvation by grace alone through faith alone in the sixteenth century.
- For **William Wilberforce** it was leading the British Empire to abolish slavery in the nineteenth century.
- For **Hudson Taylor** it was innovating missionary methods to reach inland China in the nineteenth century.
- For **Martin Luther King Jr.** it was serving as the prophetic mouthpiece of the civil rights movement in the twentieth century.

### ***Five Contemporary Examples***

- For **Max Lucado** it's bringing God's story to life as an author with a flare for poetic prose.
- For **John Piper** it's capturing people with the idea that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.
- For **Kay Arthur** it's teaching the techniques of inductive Bible study to millions so they can mine the riches of God's Word for themselves.

- For **Alan Hirsch** it's helping the church in the West to reimagine its identity and practice the forgotten ways of the early church as a movement.
- For **Lee Mancini** (my mom) it's lifting the lives of others through mentoring that champions biblical womanhood.

I hope these fifteen examples help you catch the idea of ultimate contribution. My ultimate contribution, as far as I can discern it today, is to create transferable training and tools that keep the people of God emotionally connected to the mission of God. When I look back on my life on my deathbed or with the Lord on the day of judgment, I want to know that God used me to enable the church to experience redemptive movement as it navigated the transitioning culture of the early twenty-first century. Do you think that fixing my eyes on my ultimate contribution affects my priorities, choices, and actions in the present? You bet it does!

So what would you say your ultimate contribution is likely to be? If you are a little stuck, don't worry. This one takes time and "experience to grow."

Pay particularly close attention to Caleb's and my mom's statements above. What sometimes keeps us from recognizing our own ultimate contribution is the huge scale of the illustrations we know the best. The famous examples reach people nationally or globally and make an evident impact beyond their lifetime. By contrast, most people's ultimate contribution is found within a local scope—being a model saint, raising a godly family, leading a Bible study that influences many in one community. But that makes it no less grand in God's eyes if that's what he designed you to accomplish.

### ***Four Ways to Discern Your Ultimate Contribution***

Another difficulty that discourages us from thinking about our ultimate contribution is that we don't know how to start. We might assume that in every case it comes about by accident or miracle if it comes at all. Moses got his assignment at a burning bush. If you don't encounter a burning bush, how do you know what your ultimate contribution is and whether you will make one?

I am convinced that everyone has an ultimate contribution to make, but I'm equally convinced that not everyone discerns their ultimate contribution in the same way. In fact, I see four patterns of discernment that God employs to show people what their ultimate purpose is if they're willing to look and listen for it (table 26.1, also inspired by the work of J. Robert Clinton<sup>2</sup>). Two of these patterns primarily communicate God's will by looking inward at oneself and two by looking outward at the world around oneself—in both cases with God opening one's eyes.

Four Ways to Discern Your Ultimate Contribution			
		Revelation	
		One Big	Many Small
Focus	Inward	<b>Directed</b> (Mary the Mother of Jesus)	<b>Developed</b> (Peter)
	Outward	<b>Discovered</b> (Paul)	<b>Discrete</b> (Nehemiah)

Table 26.1

With the **inward** patterns, a person discerns their ultimate contribution by looking inward, understanding their identity with increasing depth, and considering the “names” bestowed on them by God through others. **Directed discernment** comes when God dramatically, directly, supernaturally reveals your ultimate contribution in a single burst. I can’t think of a better example from the Bible than Mary, the mother of Jesus. God sent Gabriel the angel to tell Mary that her role in God’s plan of redemption was to conceive the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. It doesn’t get more dramatic or “inward” than that!

Face-to-face conversations with angels are rare (even in the Bible), but a few people still receive directed discernment from God today in various forms. Directed discernment may allow for subsequent revelations that increase clarity as to ultimate contribution, as Abram/Abraham received (Gen. 12:1–3; 15; 17; 22:15–18).

**Developed discernment** is also about seeing yourself as God sees you, but unlike the directed variety, it is marked by an awareness that grows over time. Developed discernment involves deliberate, analytical meditation on your experience, frequently with the assistance of insightful companions and tools for reflection such as those of the Younique Life Plan Journey.

Jesus gave his disciple Simon a nickname, “Peter” (“bedrock”), because his ultimate contribution was to set the church on a sound footing (Matt. 16:17–19). But how that would play out practically wasn’t obvious from the beginning. Peter’s understanding of his Master’s meaning developed gradually as he stepped—or fell!—into



obeying the micro-calls the Lord gave him over time. The journey started with Jesus' multiple summons to follow in the early chapters of the Gospels, and it extended into Jesus' many instructions and challenges to Peter during his earthly ministry; the opportunities and threats facing the church in Jerusalem in the early chapters of Acts, including the integration of the Gentiles; and Peter's final post overseeing the church at Rome, which became the dominant city church of Western Christianity. One can almost imagine Peter at each of these thresholds saying to himself, "Oh, *that's* what he meant!"

While inward patterns involve looking inward at who you are, **outward** patterns involve looking outward at what you are to do—your consummate activity. ***Discovered discernment*** comes when God reveals a mission or a need that consumes someone with the compulsion to do something about it—in fact, to devote their entire lives to it. A great example is when the risen Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus, persecutor of Christians, commanding him to become the apostle to the Gentiles better known as Paul (Acts 9:1–16; 22:1–16; 26:12–18). From the perspective of ultimate contribution, the most important detail of Paul's calling is not that he had a vision of the risen Jesus, which most people don't receive (though that was extremely important to Paul for other reasons!). The important detail is that the former Pharisee saw Gentiles with new eyes and embraced a mission to make beachheads of the gospel among them for the rest of his life.

The second pattern of outward-facing discernment is ***discrete discernment***, so called because it is a race run by many segmented laps of short-distance obedience over a long time. The person engaged in discrete discernment is, paradoxically, quite likely never fully to discern his or her ultimate contribution at all; it often becomes evident only at the very end of life or after death.

A great example of discrete discernment is Nehemiah. This senior official in the Persian emperor's court was overcome when he learned that the Jewish exiles who had returned home almost a century before were in awful shape and that the city of Jerusalem was still a disgraceful ruin. The ruined wall was the first need that he was called to meet. But its fifty-two-day reconstruction was just the beginning. He also found that local Gentile big shots exercised improper influence over the Jews, that rich Jews kept poorer ones saddled with oppressive debt, that the Sabbath was not being observed, that the temple was not adequately supplied with tithes and offerings, and that Jews were marrying Gentiles and raising children outside the faith. Nehemiah gave the rest of his life to correcting these problems one at a time (often more than once). At the end of his life, Nehemiah prayed that God would remember him for everything *but* building the wall (Neh. 5:19; 13:14, 22, 31). It wasn't until the end that

Nehemiah's ultimate contribution became evident: he restored the integrity of the Jews as the holy people of God amid their neighbors.

A person might discern their ultimate contribution by more than one pattern over the course of their life. (Indeed, a number of the individuals I mentioned could be classified in more than one way.) You might be *directed* by a dramatic revelation to a particular vocational focus in early or mid-career, but your grasp of the specific contours of that focus may be *developed* over time. Or you might proceed by *discrete* directions from God every few years until you encounter the *discovered* need that it is your destiny to address in a big way. Which pattern or patterns do you see in your life so far?

### ***Types of Ultimate Contribution***

Another obstacle that keeps people from thinking about their ultimate contribution is a kind of pseudo-humility, where we quickly recognize the kinds of major accomplishments that we would never make, but we downplay the kinds we can. The truth is, the nature of an ultimate contribution can vary widely. Some are tangible, like the founding of an organization, while others are less tangible, like the model of a holy life. None of these is more significant or essential to God's plans than another; if he is calling you to an ultimate contribution—and he is—it is important. And he will supply all that is needed in the process.

Table 26.2 outlines twenty-five ultimate contribution types—five each in five categories. They span the gamut from ideas to people to things. Consider which type most clearly corresponds either to your current vocational trajectory or to a hunch you have about your future.



Ultimate Contribution Types		
Category	Type	Definition
A Community to Grow	<b>Parent</b>	Builds a family whose successive generations and multiple branches model goodness with unusual effectiveness and reach. (Lyman Beecher)
	<b>Mentor</b>	Coaches, counsels, or shepherds individuals in a way that has ongoing influence and impact in their lives, which in turn impacts others. (John Newton)
	<b>Facilitator</b>	Generates community and shapes outcomes among a group of people in a transformative way through team-building, peacemaking, and collaboration. (Nelson Mandela)
	<b>Philanthropist</b>	Distributes a cache of wealth to supply a benefit to people over a long term. (Warren Buffett)
	<b>Developer</b>	Plans, funds, builds, or furnishes a large structure or a collection or complex of structures for human use. (Andrew Carnegie)
A Culture to Enrich	<b>Inventor</b>	Creates a new device or tool that improves people's lives. (Thomas Edison)
	<b>Artist</b>	Creates a great work of art, music, literature, or film or a body of such work. (Jane Austen)
	<b>Artisan</b>	Makes an artifact that is exceptionally pleasing and useful, or a body of such work, that requires highly developed skill. (Stradivarius)
	<b>Entertainer</b>	Brings pleasure or meaning to a large audience in a memorable way through the performing arts as a performer, producer, or part of a team. (Ella Fitzgerald)
	<b>Conservator</b>	Saves a natural or cultural treasure or resource from destruction, often rehabilitating it for future enjoyment or use. (John Muir)

Table 26.2a



Ultimate Contribution Types		
Category	Type	Definition
An Organization to Lead	<b>Founder</b>	Starts a new organization to meet a need or capture the essence of a movement. (John Wesley)
	<b>Stabilizer</b>	Helps a fledgling organization mature in stability, efficiency, and effectiveness. (Alexander Hamilton)
	<b>Multiplier</b>	Expands an organization or establishes an offshoot of it in a new territory or among a previously unreached group of people. (St. Patrick)
	<b>Preserver</b>	Defends an organization against forces that would unmake it and adapts it to survive to the next generation. (Abraham Lincoln)
	<b>Renovator</b>	Turns around a failing or almost dead organization. (Lee Iacocca)
An Idea to Conceive	<b>Discoverer</b>	Makes a major discovery that permanently expands human knowledge. (Marie Curie)
	<b>Compiler</b>	Gathers and organizes a large, even comprehensive collection of data or artifacts for others to study or reference. (Francis Collins)
	<b>Thinker</b>	Conceptualizes and describes reality in a way that revolutionizes how people view and understand the world or an aspect of it. (Isaac Newton)
	<b>Presenter</b>	Communicates knowledge, often conceived or discovered by others, as a writer or documentarian in a way that shapes how many people understand it. (Ken Burns)
	<b>Communicator</b>	Speaks to large groups of people in a way that informs, persuades, and inspires to an exceptional degree. (Billy Graham)
A Change to Activate	<b>Role Model</b>	Lives a model life, not a perfect one, that others want to emulate, often displaying an unusual zealotry for God. (Mother Theresa)
	<b>Innovator</b>	Creates a way of doing things in a particular field that sets a new standard of practice or technique for that field. (Henry Ford)
	<b>Catalyst</b>	Opens eyes in an organization, community, or society to a better way to live and function and inspires change in that direction. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
	<b>Promoter</b>	Effectively distributes new ideas or artworks such that a large number of people engage and appreciate them. (Walt Disney)
	<b>Victor</b>	Leads people to defeat a formidable human, institutional, or national opponent, a social ill, or a disease in a contest with major consequences. (Dwight D. Eisenhower)

Table 26.2b

If you find yourself drawn strongly to two types, it is possible that they both pertain to your ultimate contribution. Maybe accomplishing one will result in the other. Or maybe you'll accomplish one earlier as a foundation for accomplishing the other later. Or maybe the two will reinforce each other over time.

## An Encouragement to Pastors

I want to conclude this chapter with an encouragement to pastors who are reading this book. Pastor, may I invite you to see yourself as an Ultimate Contribution Coach? Would you encourage every believer you influence to uncover the big achievement for which God put them on earth?

Think about the potential of your platform: you have people's ears and eyes week after week, and God has given you that influence to leverage as you guide them toward the most important thing they'll do in their entire life.

A practical obstacle for many pastors is that they don't know their own ultimate contribution. Many settle for the general assignment of pastoring as the pinnacle of calling-clarity, but it isn't. If there are 250,000 pastors out there, there are 250,000 ways the unique gifts and ultimate contribution of each pastor are meant to play out.

Sadly, many pastors may not even believe they have an ultimate contribution to make, let alone have hope that they'll arrive at it. But you do and you can. And I want to give you an energy-jolt of encouragement and a new horizon to view. Every pastor—especially those approaching late career—faces a critical test that's also a golden opportunity.

The first love of my adventure-sport life is mountain biking. There is nothing like a technical downhill ride with smooth sections where I get to pedal fast. There are two very different reasons that my cadence gets really high. The first is when I know where I'm going and I'm eager to get there—that's when I *pedal with passion*. The second is when I don't know where I'm going, night is closing in, and I'm afraid I could get caught on the trail in the dark without making it to my destination—in that moment, I *pedal with panic*.

In the same way, I've noticed that pastors who haven't given any thought to making an ultimate contribution or who have talked themselves out of it with misguided humility are at risk of "ministering with panic" late in their career. I've seen them work to exhaustion, just barely hanging on with anxiety they cannot adequately name and no one rallying to assist them.

On the other hand, I am seeing more and more pastors go through The Journey and gain increasing clarity about their ultimate contribution and the confidence that comes with it. Even in the "fourth quarter" of their careers, these pastors "minister with

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The best part of watching pastors go through The Journey is the new freedom I see in them to imagine the greatness in others.

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passion.” The best part is the new freedom I see in them to imagine the greatness in others. It’s a conviction that every sermon and every small group must call out and nurture the dreams of God for every man, woman, and child.

My heart’s desire is that every pastor at whatever stage of their ministry career might lead with an eye on their ultimate contribution. I want it for the health of the pastor and for the strength of the church. Most of all I want it for the destinies of the unique people the pastor serves who are eager to make their mark for now and eternity. Church must bring a kingdom vision that dramatically raises our sight to the wonder of calling and contribution beyond a few volun-

teer activities that keep ministry programs running. And pastors can be used in amazing ways as God accomplishes this.



(The topic of ultimate contribution is one where a coach can provide significant value. If you are ready to apply this chapter even more, check out the online course entitled *Your Ultimate Contribution Deep Dive* at [LifeYounique.com/courses](http://LifeYounique.com/courses).)







**DEATH: The Five-  
Minute Practice  
That Turns  
Everyone's Greatest  
Fear into Your Life's  
Greatest Fuel**

**“We must do the works of him who sent me  
while it is day. Night is coming  
when no one can work.”**

## Chapter 27

# DEATH

### *The Five-Minute Practice That Turns Everyone's Greatest Fear into Your Life's Greatest Fuel*

*"We must do the works of him who sent me while it is  
day. Night is coming when no one can work."*

—Jesus

"Why do you write like you're running out of time?" So the cast of the Broadway blockbuster *Hamilton: An American Musical* asks of the title character, Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. On Twitter, a fan asked the show's creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda, why *he* writes like he's running out of time. Miranda's reply was blunt: "Because we all are."

That kind of candor about death screeches like grinding gears in our place and day. Consider:

- Infant mortality is vastly lower in our society than the norm. In all other eras and in many places today, losing at least one child to disease was practically a given.
- Routine conditions that kill adults prematurely and unexpectedly—from diarrhea to childbirth—are almost unknown as causes of death in the West.
- At the onset of Social Security in the United States, when the retirement age was set at age sixty-five, the average life expectancy was sixty-one years.<sup>1</sup> Since then, life-prolonging medicine made a decades-long period between working and death into a birthright—even the goal of life.

- Due to the pervasive presence of hospitals and residences for the elderly, many deaths happen out of sight, only in the presence of other elderly people and medical professionals.

Meanwhile, through digital media, the consuming public is fed a steady diet of made-up, well-lit, surgically manicured, Photoshopped, forever-young, high-energy faces as our daily companions. No one dies of cancer on a reality show.

As a consequence, very few live like they're running out of time. And it's not as though we needed the help of modern technology to avoid thinking about the inevitable. Humans have been doing it forever.

Long ago, Jesus shredded the folly of the person who stored up treasure for himself but was not rich toward God, oblivious to how his life would be demanded of him before his golden years (Luke 12:16–21). James echoed, “You do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes” (James 4:14).

People hate death and, therefore, fear it and avoid facing it. That's one reason why the heap of life planning books is consistently inadequate. They fail on two counts:

1. *Their summons lacks urgency.* What's another year of aimlessness if you have no terminus? If you're pretending you're going to live forever, there's no need to push the pedal on finding and living your Life Younique.
2. *Their summons lacks eternity.* If there *is* a sense of urgency in most of these books, it's to urge people to enjoy life in the near term, not to live a life of substance whose impact ripples beyond the end of your life and the end of the world.

## A Serious Discipline for a Serious Call

I hate to say it, but Christ-followers today seem to avoid the Bible's urging to consider our impending deaths just as much as the world does. Think: When was the last time in group prayer that you heard someone ask, “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts” (Ps. 90:12)?

Many people who read my writings about church vision and strategy—or who encounter my high-octane “fiery red” and “sunshine yellow” energies in person—don't know that I harbor an inner mystic. I've been blessed beyond calculation by modern spiritual writers like Dallas Willard, Richard Foster, and others. Yet among these giants, I have rarely, if ever, found teaching on a haunting call that gripped me for many years as a young adult.

Picture this: when I was twenty-one years old, a semi-cocky Penn State senior eager to make bank in the Texas oil fields, something drew me to pace alone up and down the tombstones of a cemetery, feet damp with dew, praying. Not on one rare occasion, but many times.

I don't entirely know what I was doing there. But God mysteriously used those lonely trips to the graveyard to press into the wax of my soul a truth that I couldn't shake. It was evident to me that in light of my mortality, so much that sparkles in life is "meaningless, a chasing after the wind" (Eccl. 1:14 NIV). I knew that I would return to dust, and I didn't want the fruit of my life to endure the same fate.

Over the next fifteen years, through exhilarating successes and crushing failures, the Holy Spirit kept leading me to this lesson again and again, but I had trouble remembering it and living it out. Yet I found help along the way in a series of old spiritual writers who taught a spiritual discipline I never learned anywhere else: *the discipline of meditating on one's death*.

I found an especially hair-raising version in William Law's *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (1728). Law taught that when climbing into bed, you ought to pretend that you are climbing into your grave, and your last prayer of the day ought to commit your soul to God as if you're not going to wake up on earth the next morning.<sup>2</sup>

This morbid picture slapped me sober; I couldn't get it out of my mind. *A makeshift coffin was sitting in my bedroom*. What if tonight really *was* the last night of my life? Did I spend my last day on earth doing what I was put on earth to do?

I'm now convinced that the proverb, "Begin with the end in mind," is more than a slogan, and it applies to more than short-run projects. *If you don't begin your life with its end in mind, you can't plan anything*.

I advise participants in the Younique Life Plan Journey to write what I call their "Tombstone Tweet." You can do it too: take time in silence to imagine the end of your life, your obituary, your funeral (in cinematic detail—for example, who is attending?) and the epitaph engraved on your tombstone. Jot down notes. Then sum up your life in 280 characters or less.

What does your Tombstone Tweet call you toward? What yearning does it evoke in you? Does it fill you with a sense of urgency to live out your One Thing every day and make a lasting ultimate contribution before you run out of time?

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What if tonight  
really was the  
last night of my  
life? Did I spend  
my last day  
on earth doing  
what I was put  
on earth to do?

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### Top Ten Panel: How Meditating on Your Death Gives You Clarity

1. *You stop mistaking activity for productivity.* The teacher in Ecclesiastes worked himself to exhaustion, and it profited him nothing because he had no transcendent purpose. Pondering his demise got him off the treadmill (Eccl. 2:17–26).

2. *You aggressively pursue the happiness that lasts for eternity over everything less.* Jonathan Edwards resolved “to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness in the other world as I possibly can, with all the power, might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence I am capable of or can bring myself to exert in any way that can be thought of.”<sup>3</sup>

3. *You squeeze every drop of usefulness out of the time you have before it’s too late.* “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15–16 NKJV).

4. *You realize the limited number of your words and deeds in one lifetime* . . . and you concentrate them on what God would say and do (1 Pet. 4:7–11).

5. *You gain a discriminator when facing a big decision.* Ignatius of Loyola designed a prayer process for discerning God’s will in an A-or-B choice. Steps include “making the present choice if I were at the moment of death” and to “picture and consider myself as standing in the presence of my judge on the last day, and reflect what decision in the present matter I would then wish to have made.”<sup>4</sup>

6. *You refrain from doing things now that will embarrass you later.* Edwards resolved “to think much on all occasions of my own dying” and “never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.”<sup>5</sup>

7. *You prevent regrets.* Thomas à Kempis predicted, “When that last moment arrives you will begin to have a quite different opinion of the life that is now entirely past. . . . How happy and prudent is he who tries now in life to be what he wants to be found in death.”<sup>6</sup>

8. *You get back on course more quickly.* Thomas à Kempis also counseled, “I do not doubt that you would correct yourself more earnestly if you would think more of an early death than of a long life.”<sup>7</sup>

9. *You become less discouraged and distracted by relationship hurts.* When Paul knew untimely death might be right around the corner, he put competition from rivals in perspective. Rather than get worked up about it, he enjoyed that they were preaching Christ, thereby fulfilling his personal mission beyond what he could do while imprisoned (Phil. 1:12–26).

10. *You humbly go for help to the only One who can make your plans a reality.* The watchword of your Horizon Storyline must be this prayer: “May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands” (Ps. 90:17 NIV).

## Why You Can Face What They Can't

As I said at the beginning of this book, I'm assuming that you are a follower of Christ who has been reconciled to the Father through faith in him. If that's so, you have a staggering advantage in life planning that others don't have: *you can lean into your death, while they must run away from theirs.*

Life design that isn't gospel-centered runs headlong into the black hole facing all humanity. Even if you were to shape your life absolutely perfectly, then at the very moment you put the cherry on top you would depart the edifice you spent your whole life building. You would not spend a single nanosecond enjoying the finished product of all your effort. You'd have no idea years afterward whether it was all worth it. The notion that “it's all about the journey” is no comfort when the journey's over.

To most of the world, death is the ultimate demotivator—something at best to be explained away or, more often, simply ignored. To some, like in Miranda's *Hamilton*, it's a frantic motivator—it causes them to work feverishly as if building a sandcastle on the shore while the tide is rushing in. But for the person in Christ, death is the great motivator, because “if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him” (Rom. 6:8). The resurrection of Jesus from the dead makes death, our last enemy, into our fierce friend.

Death gives our lives urgency, because the time is short. But the resurrection gives our lives eternity, because the fruit Jesus bears through us will last forever (John 15:16).

My last exhortation to you is this. In light of the vanishing brevity of life and the yawning immensity of eternity, keep climbing the Clarity Spiral. Keep practicing the Life-Making Cycle. Keep leaning into your ultimate contribution. Make embodying your One Thing your supreme pursuit. Live like you're running out of time. Because your life will live forever.



# NOTES

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2. Mark Batterson, *Soulprint: Discovering Your Divine Destiny* (Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2011).
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## **Chapter 1**

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## **Chapter 2**

1. Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* (New York: HarperCollins, 1998), 283.
2. Eugene Peterson, *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*, 2nd ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 15–16.
3. Philip Yancey, *Reaching for the Invisible God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), 163.

## **Chapter 3**

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3. Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard Improved: Being an Almanack and Ephemeris of the Motions of the Sun and Moon for the Year of Our Lord 1750* (Philadelphia: n.p.), January, Rosenbach Museum and Library, Philadelphia, <http://www.rarebookroom.org/Control/frappg/index.html> (accessed June 6, 2019).

4. Richard P. Feynman, “Cargo Cult Science,” commencement address, California Institute of Technology, 1974, <http://calteches.library.caltech.edu/5112/CargoCult.htm> (accessed June 6, 2019).

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## Part 2

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## Chapter 5

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2. Creating Your Life Plan with Donald Miller, [www.creatingyourlifeplan.com](http://www.creatingyourlifeplan.com) (accessed October 29, 2018).

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## Chapter 6

1. Tom Paterson, *Deeper, Richer, Fuller: Discover the Spiritual Life You Long For* (New York: Howard Books, 2010), 194.

2. Alan Hirsch, *5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ* (self-published, 100 Movements, 2017), 22. The tables that follow are adapted from those on pages 50–54, 99–116.

3. *Ibid.*

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## Chapter 7

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3. *Ibid.*, 170.
4. J. Robert Clinton, “Getting Perspective—Using Your Unique Timeline,” BobbyClinton.com, 9–13.
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## Chapter 8

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2. Edward Teller, Wendy Teller, and Wilson Talley, *Conversations on the Dark Secrets of Physics* (New York: Basic Books, 1991), 2.
3. The original quotation runs, “The only simplicity for which I would give a straw is that which is on the other side of the complex—not that which never has divined it.” Mark DeWolfe Howe, ed., *Holmes-Pollock Letters: The Correspondence of Mr. Justice Holmes and Sir Frederick Pollock, 1874–1932*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1961), 109.
4. Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), 95.
5. Kevin McCarthy, *The On-Purpose Person: Making Your Life Make Sense* (Winter Park, FL: On-Purpose Publishing, 2013).

## Chapter 9

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2. The idea that, on average, ten thousand hours of practice is necessary to achieve elite mastery in a field is popularized by Malcolm Gladwell in *Outliers: The Story of Success* (New York: Back Bay Books, 2008), chap. 2, NOOK.

## Chapter 11

1. I heard this phrase for the first time from my good friend Jeff Harris. He is a pastor in San Antonio, and does a phenomenal job at leading from his values.

## Chapter 12

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2. Walter Brueggemann, *Spirituality of the Psalms* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002).
3. C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle* (New York: HarperCollins, 1956), 196.
4. John Calvin, Preface to the *Commentary on the Psalms in Reformation Reader* by Denis Janz and Shirley E. Jordan (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1999), 205.
5. Wikipedia, s.v. “Imprecatory Psalms,” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imprecatory\\_Psalms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imprecatory_Psalms) (accessed September 21, 2018).

## Part 4

1. For the purposes of this book, it was desirable to end with the teaching and tools on destiny. However, in *The Journey* we use destiny tools throughout the process. Specifically, we examine ultimate contribution as a Context Circle tool in the Sweet Spot, bucket list when working on LifeScore, and Tombstone Tweet before developing a three-year dream.

## Chapter 14

1. I am especially indebted to my partner in founding Younique and creating the Younique Life Plan Journey, Dave Rhodes, for much of the material in this section.

## Chapter 15

1. Aristotle, *On the Soul*, 3.7.

## Chapter 16

1. Tom Paterson, *Living the Life You Were Meant to Live* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

## Chapter 17

1. Tim Ferriss, *Tools of Titans: The Tactics, Routines, and Habits of Billionaires, Icons, and World-Class Performers* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), 389.
2. Maneesh Sethi, “How I Learned a Language in 90 Days,” *Lifehacker*, July 9, 2012, <https://lifehacker.com/5923910/how-i-learned-a-language-in-90-days> (accessed June 8, 2018).
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5. Peter Drucker, *Management: Tasks, Responsibilities, Practices* (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), 119.

## **Chapter 18**

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## **Chapter 20**

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## **Chapter 21**

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2. Gina Trapani, “Work Smart: Do Your Worst Task First (Or, Eat a Live Frog Every Morning),” *Fast Company*, March 22, 2010, <https://www.fastcompany.com/1592454/work-smart-do-your-worst-task-first-or-eat-live-frog-every-morning> (accessed November 1, 2018).

3. Senior pastor and seminary professor Tommy Kiedis has written a three-hour retreat series where he uses the photography metaphor of the magic hour or golden window in relationship to finding the most productive use of your day. For more information, go to <https://www.leaderslifeandwork.com/books/the-leaders-magic-hour>.

4. Áine Cain, “A Day in the Life of the Richest Person in the World, Jeff Bezos—Whose Company Is Worth \$1 Trillion and Who Still Washes the Dishes after Dinner,” *Business Insider*, <https://www.businessinsider.com/jeff-bezos-daily-routine-2017-7> (accessed November 1, 2018).

## **Chapter 22**

1. Jesus did tell Jairus to “only believe” when the mourners outside Jairus’s house laughed at Jesus for announcing that Jairus’s daughter wasn’t dead (Mark 5:36; Luke 8:50). But Jesus’ point was that the man would get his daughter back if he simply persevered in believing that Jesus had the authority and willingness to solve the problem. “Only believe” in this context can’t be generalized into the notion that expressing agreement with Jesus’ gospel of eternal salvation is enough to inherit what it promises all by itself. See Matthew 7:21–27 and James 2:14–26 for classic statements of this principle.

2. “Eisenhower’s Urgent/Important Principle,” Mind Tools, [https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newHTE\\_91.htm](https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newHTE_91.htm) (accessed June 29, 2018). You may be familiar with this principle attributed to Dwight D. Eisenhower, which he derived from former Northwestern University president J. Roscoe Miller.

3. Percy C. Buck, *Psychology for Musicians* (London: Oxford University Press, 1944), 102.

## Chapter 24

1. Ruth Haley Barton, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God’s Transforming Presence*, 2d ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010), 25–30.

## Chapter 25

1. This chapter contains content that originally appeared on WillMancini.com under the following titles: “Summer Dreamin’: How to Use a Bucket List for a More Meaningful Life,” “The Bucket List for Believers: 4 Ways to Redeem Your Dreams,” “5 Kinds of Aspirations That Will Help You Design Your Life,” “The 5 Major Obstacles to Personal Vision,” and “4 Essentials to Achieving Your Life Goals.”

2. John Ortberg, “Ruthlessly Eliminate Hurry,” *Christianity Today*, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2002/july-online-only/cln20704.html>.

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1. J. Robert Clinton, *The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development*, 2d ed. (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014).

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1. Javier Escamilla, “The Social Security Dilemma,” [https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/poverty\\_prejudice/soc\\_sec/hsocialsec.htm](https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/poverty_prejudice/soc_sec/hsocialsec.htm) (accessed August 1, 2019).

2. William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (London: J. M. Dent & Co., 1906), 339.

3. Jonathan Edwards, “Resolutions,” in *Letters and Personal Writings*, Volume 16 of *Works of Jonathan Edwards Online*, ed. George S. Claghorn, 754, <http://edwards.yale.edu/research/browse> (accessed May 9, 2018).

4. Saint Ignatius of Loyola, *The Spiritual Exercises*, trans. Louis J. Puhl, SJ, 186–87, <http://spex.ignatianspirituality.com/SpiritualExercises/Puhl> (accessed May 8, 2018).

5. Edwards, “Resolutions,” 753.

6. Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, trans. Aloysius Croft and Harold Bolton, book 1, chapter 23, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kempis/imitation.ONE.23.html> (accessed May 9, 2018).

7. *Ibid.*, book 1, chapter 21, <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kempis/imitation.ONE.21.html> (accessed May 9, 2018).

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