

## The Journey – The Search for His Plan

God's word speaks of many 40 day journeys throughout. In Rick Warren's book, [A Purpose Driven Life](#), he reminds us of the following:

- "Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
- Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai
- The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
- David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength for a single meal.
- The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
- Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
- The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection."

As Warren states, "The bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant time period."

On October 29, 2008, I began what I believe, hope, and pray is my 40 day journey to a major life changing decision regarding the path of my "work" and my commitment to growing His Kingdom. I offer the following daily journal of scriptures revealed every morning and significant events which can be reflected back upon by myself for future inspiration and may be passed on to others in their times of need.

### Day 1:

Romans 5:1-5 Peace and Joy

1Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we<sup>[b]</sup> rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3Not only so, but we<sup>[c]</sup> also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Grandmother Arnold's Favorite versus.

Philippians 4:6

6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Revealed to Lisa when I called her to let her know that I thought it was my last day at the company.

**Day 2:**

Isaiah 26:3

3 You will keep in perfect peace  
him whose mind is steadfast,  
because he trusts in you.

Patty Blakely sent a message saying that this was Jim and her inspiration when he was diagnosed with heart issues.

1 Samuel 17:32

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Deuteronomy 8:3

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Kevin Calhoan provided as inspiration

James 1:2-3 Trials and Temptations

2Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
3because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

**Day 3:**

Matthew 4:18-22 The Calling of the First Disciples

18As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you

fishers of men." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 A Time for Everything

1 There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under heaven:

2 a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

6 a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

9 What does the worker gain from his toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on men. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. 13 That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

15 Whatever is has already been,  
and what will be has been before;  
and God will call the past to account. <sup>[a]</sup>

16 And I saw something else under the sun:  
In the place of judgment—wickedness was there,  
in the place of justice—wickedness was there.

17 I thought in my heart,  
"God will bring to judgment  
both the righteous and the wicked,  
for there will be a time for every activity,  
a time for every deed."

18 I also thought, "As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. 19 Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath <sup>[b]</sup>; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. 20 All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. 21 Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal <sup>[c]</sup> goes down into the earth?"

22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?

#### Day 4:

Philippians 4:12-13

**12**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13**I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

4:13 was given to me in high school by Tammy Brothers and has always been a favorite verse.

#### Day 5:

Psalms 119:130

**130** The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.

Tom Streeter – Zionsville Fellowship Message – Luke 16:1-3 - Choosing to serve God vs. Money.

<http://www.zionsvillefellowship.org/teaching/2008-11-02.mp3>

**Day 6:**

John 13:35

**35**By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**Day 7:**

Joshua 24:15

**15** But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. ***But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.***"

**Day 8:**

Proverbs 6:16-19

**16** There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:

**17** haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,

**18** a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,

**19** a false witness who pours out lies  
and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

This versus continually comes to me as I see the "wicked schemes" around me. I rejoice that I have resisted partaking in these schemes and knowing that justice will be done in God's timing to those whom continue to "shed innocent blood".

**Day 9:**

Mark 10:45

**45**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Coming at a time when I am attempt to decide what I want to do with my life moving forward, "serving" continues to be a central theme.

**Day 10:**

Psalm 70:1

**1** Hasten, O God, to save me;  
O LORD, come quickly to help me.

While we are encouraged to have patience, I am challenged continually.

**Day 11:**

1Cor 1:27

**27**But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Acts 8:26

**26**Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

Translated as "get up and go even if it appears to be a demotion".

Also, the Song "Everyday"

"Everyday, it's you I live for, everyday, I'll follow after you, everyday I'll walk with you my Lord!"

**Day 12:**

Tom Streeter Message – Luke 16 – Money and Stewardship

<http://www.zionsvillefellowship.org/teaching/2008-11-09.mp3>

**Day 13:**

Proverbs 28:8-18 – Don't Gossip!

**Day 14:**

John 15:13

**13**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

**Day 15:**

Joshua 1:9

**9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Radio Now – "Face your fears"

My routine to date has been to not start my day of job searching until I had a scripture verse written in my notes. Today, I struggled to find the scripture which I felt God was revealing. I began to go about my daily routine and stopped myself immediately. I pleaded with God to reveal His word to me and this is what was revealed.

**Day 16:**

Eph 2:8-9

**8**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9**not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Day 17:**

Philippians 3:13-14

**13**Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

**Day 18:**

Romans 15:1-13

**13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Day 19:**

Tom Streeter – Zionsville Fellowship – Use of Money

<http://www.zionsvillefellowship.org/teaching/2008-11-16.mp3>

**Day 20:**

Act 5:1-11

Ananias and Sapphira

**1** Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

**3** Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

**5** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. **6** Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

**7** About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"  
"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

**9** Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

**10** At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

**11** Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Don't hold back from the Kingdom of God!!!

**Day 21:**

Isaiah 26:3

**3** You will keep in perfect peace  
him whose mind is steadfast,  
because he trusts in you.

John 14:27

**27**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Philippians 4:6-7

**6**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Day 22:**

2 Kings 5:15

**15** Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant."

Elisha – Messenger – Had nothing but faith.

Naaman – King – Had everything of the world, but had leprosy and no faith to get in the water as he was told.

Have faith in the God of Israel!!!!

**Day 23:**

1 Samuel 16:7

**7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

**Day 24:**

Philippians 4:8-9

**8**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Day 25:**

Matthew 6:33

**33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Day 26:**

Psalms 119:27-28

**27** Let me understand the teaching of your precepts;  
then I will meditate on your wonders.

**28** My soul is weary with sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word.

**Day 27:**

Matthew 19:26

**26**Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Also, began reading [Money Possessions and Eternity](#) by Randy Alcorn.

**Day 28:**

Mark 12:41-43

**The Widow's Offering**

**41**Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw

in large amounts. **42**But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins,<sup>[a]</sup> worth only a fraction of a penny.<sup>[b]</sup>

**43***Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.*

Would you be willing to give your last two dollars to Him?

**Day 29:**

Romans 12:2

**2**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Day 30:**

Luke 16:9

**9**I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

**Day 31:**

1Tim 6:9-10

**9**People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Day 32:**

Proverbs 12:22

**22** The LORD detests lying lips,  
but he delights in men who are truthful.

**Day 33:**

2 Cor 8:1-9

## Generosity Encouraged

**1**And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. **2**Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. **3**For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4**they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. **5**And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. **6**So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. **7**But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us<sup>[a]</sup>—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

**8**I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. **9**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Tom Streeter – Zionsville Fellowship – Use of Money

<http://www.zionsvillefellowship.org/teaching/2008-11-30.mp3>

**Day 34:**

2 Tim 3:12

**12**In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

**Day 35:**

Mat 6:19-21

Treasures in Heaven

**19**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Day 36:**

2 Cor 5:10

**10**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

**Day 37:**

Rev 3:20

**20**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

**Day 38:**

1 Tim 1:5

**5**The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**Day 39:**

Genesis 50:20

**20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Heb 13:14

**14**For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

**Day 40:**

Ph 3:14

**14**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Jim Strietelmeier – Neighborhood Fellowship – Living Up to What We've Already Attained

### Summary:

What is the “prize”? For many, to include myself in my younger years, the “prize” is to have a successful career and make a lot of money. It seems that while some claim to know and trust God, our actions here on earth tend to be focused around money and possessions rather than eternal purposes.

At the beginning of this 40 days, “I began what I believe, hope, and pray is my 40 day journey to a major life changing decision regarding the path of my “work” and my commitment to growing His Kingdom.” Thus, while I knew there was a potential that this would not result in a new career by the end of the period, truly, the “prize” which I was deep down hoping and praying for was clear direction on my next career at the end of my journey.

Well, what I have received is reaffirmation of what I already knew was the real “prize” which is eternal life and treasures stored up on heaven. If I were to outline my 40 day journey, I believe it would be something like the following:

- Trust in the Lord

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

- God or Money? Which will truly take priority in your life?

#### The Widow's Offering

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. **Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others”.** Mark 12:41-43

Would you be willing to give your last two dollars to Him?

- Store up Treasures in Heaven

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mat 6:19-21

Are you investing in The Kingdom with your time, money, and possessions?

While the 40 days has passed, I continue to reflect daily on the blessing God has provided by giving me this break in life. While I don't believe I had strayed far from the real "prize", I do believe that this time has clearly aided in refocusing and renewing my commitment to serving His Kingdom.

While is it yet to be revealed, I no longer anticipate "major life" changes with my career path and our families living of our daily lives. In fact, at the time of writing, it appears that God had the career path issue resolved long before and "opened the door" to my next career on Day 1 with a phone call in the evening after "Jeopardy".

There will be many challenges which lie ahead; however, let this time be a cornerstone in my life which I can always reflect back on in turbulent times always remembering these words from Ps 46:19 – "Be still and know that I am God".