



Small Group Discussion

The Courage to Live In Your Longings **Derry Long – Chief Strategy Officer Journey Church, Bozeman**

The life that we are living is often different from the life God intended us to live. When we chose to survive rather than to thrive in our relationships, vocation, service and mission then we let life happen to us rather than pursuing God's best life.

Part of the transformation God wants for us is moving from a life of protecting ourselves to a life of faith that risks and adventure to find God's plan.

DISCUSSION STARTER: What was the basis of your choice of vocation? Was it based on income potential, family pressure, prestige or personal fit?

Many were raised under the teaching that God's plan for you was usually something you *didn't* want to do. This view believes that your desires are usually opposite of God's desire for you. Were you raised that way? How does that view impact your view of God's design for you?

Seeing Ourselves From the Designer's Perspective

READ: Judges 6:1-14

What was Gideon doing when the angel found him?

What did the angel of the Lord call Gideon? How did that name differ from his actions?

What was Gideon's vocation and what vocation was God calling him to become? He was a farmer and God was calling him to become a military General and Israel's deliverer.

What were some of the reasons Gideon could have given for not following God's design for him?

It is not a righteous solution to set our longings aside because we have made too many mistakes.
Derry Long

READ Psalm 37:3-5

Commentary – The Psalmist struggles with handling the prosperity of those who don't trust in God. The person of faith can either walk away from trusting in God or persevere in spite of an apparent lack of any benefits to faith. This is where the choice moves from why we trust in God: for the benefits or rewards or for the relationship with God.



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Thus the Psalmist calls us to *Delight yourself in the Lord*. Enjoy the person of God, the relationship with Him. When trouble returns us to the meaning of salvation, restoration to God, then, only, will God bring us to the desires of our heart. We don't follow God for the rewards, but the rewards are part of the relationship.

What is your part in this section and what is God's part? *My part – delight in the Lord, identify my heart's desires; God's part – to give you the desires of your heart.*

What does it mean to *delight yourself in the Lord*? To spend time with, to enjoy the presence of God, to pursue God even when it costs apparent other delights.

How would you know your greatest desires are? *Some people are more self-aware and set goals to achieve the desires of their hearts, while other people get so wrapped up in life and work and family that they don't think of personal desires. For God to give you your desires implies that you have an awareness of your passions.*

Why do you think God gives you your desires after you learn to delight in Him?

Identify your dreams, or desires for life? Consider the following areas – Desires for my vocation, family, marriage, spiritual life, experiences, Kingdom influence. Discuss some of these desires, think through them this coming week.