

Discovering Your “Mission” and Your God-Given Strengths

Get God Involved in the Process of Discovery

Begin a journal that essentially will be a conversation with God.

You, along with God, will find the best ways to use this time, but here are a few ideas to get you started:

Spend time daily with him. Read the stories in the Bible noting how God intersects the lives of his people.

- Discover and marvel at how he worked in and through the people involved in the stories and Scriptures you are reading
- Identify the characteristics and abilities you see in some of those within the story, especially anything that highlights being created in God’s image
- Ask good questions that will help you discover something about God-given strengths
- Also ask good questions about “abiding” with God as we live this life and use our strengths and abilities (see John 15:4-5)

Enjoy stillness and deepen your ability to listen to God.

- Be still and know he is God (Psalm 46:10). In context, this verse refers to ceasing from war. But it can also apply to our lives since at times our greatest war is within ourselves. Looking deeper into the rich Hebrew language you see this verse refer to relaxing, ceasing from being discouraged and instead choosing to recognize and acknowledge God’s presence and nature.
- Use this time of silence primarily to get to know God and grow in your connection to him, so you are more open to hearing him *and* more likely accurate and discerning in regards to his leading. Always know he doesn’t do anything contrary to his nature or his word.

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2

Connecting with God and getting to know him more deeply through prayer and reading Scripture are foundational to hearing where he is taking you in your life (your journey or mission statement) and how he will be working through you (your strengths and gifts from him).

Specific application to writers:

As you begin this journal and conversation with God, make note of:

- Topics and issues that come to mind that you’re passionate about (non-fiction *or* fiction writers)
- Specific ideas that come to mind for articles, stories, books
- What you are most enjoying about the process of writing, from idea to finished product

More to come after the 2009 Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. Check back for further discussion on:

Refining your “mission statement”

More ways to explore and discover your strengths

The reality of our weaknesses

My determined purpose is that I may know him,
that I may progressively become more deeply
and intimately acquainted with him,
perceiving, and recognizing, and understanding
the wonders of his Person more strongly and more clearly.

Philippians 3:10 (Amplified Version)