



Season 12: Episode 8 | Derek Schneider | How Do You Know If God Is Speaking to You?

Hello and welcome to Scripture Untangled, a podcast by the Canadian Bible Society. My name is Joanna la Fleur. I'm a friend of the Canadian Bible Society and I'm going to be your guide for today's episode.

Today we're sharing a recent conversation I had with Pastor Derek Schneider. Derek Schneider was once a music recording artist until his faith led him to turn down a record deal and answer his true calling in life. He is a requested speaker, coach, best-selling author, and transformation specialist.

He's the president and founder of History Makers Society, through which he has helped several thousand discover their God-given purpose, many having gone on to become catalysts of transformation in their own communities and nations. As an advisor to leaders of various capacities, Derek is impacting people and society on several continents. Even through his brief teachings and seminars, you are guaranteed to walk away with the keys necessary for effective leadership.

Derek is a fourth-generation pastor and founder of History Makers Church in Oshawa, Ontario. He pastors alongside his wife Sarah and their family. Enjoy this conversation.

Joanna la Fleur: Derek Schneider, welcome to Scripture Untangled. We're just really glad to have you on the podcast.

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Derek Schneider: It is an honour to be on the podcast, especially around this kind of subject is my thing.

Joanna la Fleur: Yeah. Well, I mean, we've done an introduction of you, so people have a little bit of a sense what we're here to talk about.

But for those, you know, who don't know you, let's just start, give us a little bit about your heart, the calling you have in this season, just broadly, like maybe in the sense of like, where are you at in life? And what do you feel like are those big pieces that are putting that together? The big, whether those are job titles and family things, or, you know, ministries, ministry callings?

Derek Schneider: Well, you know, what means most to me is the Lord, my wife, my children. I've got two little kids, four-year-old and a two-year-old. I'm happily married to a wonderful Filipino woman.

So, I'm well taken care of that way.

Joanna la Fleur: The food must be good in your house?

Derek Schneider: Oh, yeah, it definitely is. And there's lots of it, which can be a problem at times.

But I've also pastored for many years and founded a leadership academy called History Makers Academy. And that was born out of a desire to take people who are attending church week after week, and awaken in them, helping them to identify their calling and purpose, their why, why they're here on this earth and taking what we do in the building, outside of the building. And so, through the academy, that's taken me to a number of different nations, where we've done training and equipping over there.

And through these graduates, we're really making impact both in the church and beyond the walls of the church. And that all comes under an umbrella ministry called

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History Makers Society. And now I'm pastoring again, at the same time as all that History Makers Church here in Oshawa.

Joanna la Fleur: Awesome. Well, and I grew up just beside Oshawa, Ontario in Whitby, Ontario. So, I know Oshawa in the sense of that was where the mall was for me growing up.

So, I ended up in the big mall, but we would also go there for maybe youth and Christian events, maybe in some cases at a PAOC church or whatever. But from your own Pentecostal roots, knowing that this is a podcast where people are coming, I love that on this podcast, we're ecumenical, we're across the Christian faith experience and tradition, but you have this Pentecostal tradition in your background, these Pentecostal roots. And I'd love to know, your early memories when you think of being a kid, you were a pastor's kid.

And so, thinking of like, prayer, and sort of spiritual breakthrough, early experiences, do you have memories as being a little kid and seeing people pray in the church? Or what was your memories of that?

Derek Schneider: Oh, yeah, definitely. I'm a fourth-generation pastor on both sides, believe it or not. And so, it starts in the family, right? So, I would see my great grandfather pray or my grandpa pray and my mom and dad were people of prayer.

And our Pentecostal church was spiritual. And we would have altar calls. And I remember as a child responding to those I remember when I gave my life to Christ at six years old, because it wasn't out of fear of hell or something like that.

I just had a knowledge and inner knowing when that altar call was given, that I needed Jesus at six years old.

Joanna la Fleur: You remember the moment; it sounds like it wasn't just a blur. It was a specific time.

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Derek Schneider: Oh, no, I remember that moment so well, even at six and squeezing my mom's hand, wanting to go up to the front to receive Jesus. And even when I think back to it, I don't know how a six-year-old can know they need Jesus in the deep way that I knew. And that I think shows us that salvation comes by a revelation given to us through the Holy Spirit. Like He pulls on our hearts. Otherwise, why would we believe in a bearded man walking around in sandals over 2000 years ago, right?

Joanna la Fleur: Yeah.

Derek Schneider: So, there were things like that.

And then that continued on. And I had my backslidden years as well. But there was so much put into me, I knew the Lord was real.

And my parents were people of prayer that even when I was backslidden and pursuing a record deal, I was in the music industry.

Joanna la Fleur: I didn't know that that wasn't in my notes about you. Now I want to ask about that.

Derek Schneider: I was running from the call of God. Like I opened for the release of Eminem's movie, *The Eight Mile*. I was on mainstream radio.

If you were driving through Toronto or some places in the US, and turned on the radio, you could hear my song, some of my songs. And my parents would go into my bedroom when I wasn't home. And they would join hands and pray for my soul, pray for me to come to Christ.

And, you know, long story short, I was about to sign a recording contract, a record deal. And the Lord interrupted my plans. His presence filled a bedroom I was in, and He told me I'm not to sign that contract and that I've been called to preach.

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And true story, I turned down the recording contract. And let me tell you the work it takes to get to that place. You would never turn that down unless you truly met with Jesus and it's hard to say no to Jesus.

Joanna la Fleur: Wow. So, in brief, because I'm thinking about people listening, this isn't the purpose of our conversation, but it relates like when you felt like you heard God speak to you, it can look so many different ways. So, was it like a conviction of the heart? Was it you heard five different people say the same thing? Was it a Scripture on a billboard? If you could say a little more for people, because just to encourage people, that's a big life decision. And you were sure enough to say, I feel like the Lord is speaking. So maybe a little more practically, what did that look like without going into every, you know, line of the detail?

Derek Schneider: Yeah. And that's a really great question.

And all of those things that you mentioned are ways that God speaks. And I've experienced those. This was much deeper in the sense that I had never really had it since at that level.

It began with sort of a depression, what I found out later might be called a dark night of the soul, where I was suddenly totally restless, dissatisfied by the music career. It was very strange. And it brought me to a place of desperation, where I actually sat in a chair in a room.

And I said, God, if you're interested in me, here I am. And the way I could honestly describe it to you is I felt the presence of the Lord like I had felt in church, except on a level I had never felt before. And I heard what you could call the inner voice of God, or some people call it inner audible voice, where it's not out loud, it's not coming from outside to your physical ears, but it's on the inside, but it's so loud, it bypasses and interrupts all of your thoughts, you couldn't have made it up.

And, I heard the Lord speak, and it was strong enough that I surrendered. That's what happened. I surrendered.

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Joanna la Fleur: Yeah, I love that.

Well, because we're talking about prayer and if prayer can, you know, too often, we forget it's a conversation. Both ways that we are speaking, but God is speaking.

And so that's why I wanted to say tell me more, like how did God speak to you? Because I mean, in a major professional change in my own life out of a secular to a Christian ministry work, I had so many people tell me the same Bible verse all disconnected to one another. And I'm like, okay, I hear you. Anyway, so it's different for everybody.

But there's more to it always, I'm sure than what you've been able to share. But I love that. So, this idea of like, moving, you've talked about this moving from prayer for prayer's sake, to prayer that produces real results. And where was that turning point for you where it went from like, we just need to pray to like, oh, this is a very real and an active, powerful thing in my life.

Derek Schneider: Sure, sure. And if you don't mind, I felt like I left something hanging that yeah, of course, those listening or watching the highest level of hearing God's voice is really the supernatural peace, you know, an inner leading of the Holy Spirit accompanied by supernatural peace.

It says that the peace of God guards your hearts and the original language there is let the peace of God call the shots in your life. And so when it comes to major decisions, I don't even rely on a feeling or I thought I heard a voice, I gather as much intel as I can, there were people that confirmed my decision, there were Scriptures, just as you described, I gather it all up. And I say, you know what, God, You are saying this.

And I removed fear from it as well. I believe that God's ability to keep us is greater than the devil's ability to deceive us. And so that's all part of the journey of hearing His voice.

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But to answer your question, when I made this shift, I wanted to see results in prayer. And I wanted to understand how prayer worked. And I don't know why, you know, I often say that we sometimes pray religious prayers, where we pray about things God has already done, or we pray about things He has told us to do.

And so, I didn't just want to get on my knees and pray for prayer's sake, I wanted to pray and see a result through my prayers. And that sent me on this mission to understand and if our viewers or listeners can handle this, the mechanics of prayer. Are there different types of prayer?

And we know Ephesians alludes to that in the original Greek of all kinds of prayer. So, there are different types of locks, and they require different types of keys. In the same way in prayer, different situations require a different prayer approach.

Joanna la Fleur: Yeah, yeah. Well, I love that, too. I mean, even just like there's different kinds of Scripture.

There's songs, and there's poetry, and there's letters, and there's law, and there's history, and all these things. And in the same way, not all prayer, it's a great reminder that not all prayer is the same. There's a, you know, "help me" in a moment of severe emergency, you know, whatever.

And then there's these, you know, other levels of much more depth. And so, was there was it I had him, you know, trying to get in your life story, like, was there? Maybe it was what you've already shared. But this like, a moment or maybe a season of hunger that brought you to a different level where it just became like, this isn't negotiable anymore.

This isn't casual prayer. Was there a moment of where that shifted for you?

Derek Schneider: I really wanted to see the Bible come alive right away when I left the music industry. In fact, I made a bit of a deal with God.

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I said, if I give all this up, don't let me be one of those cold preachers that I would see, I very naively wanted power, I wanted to see the power of God moving. And so, for Him to help me to see that I was drawn to prayer. And I kind of summarize, because it's alluded to all throughout Scripture, like you just mentioned, there's the help me prayer, that's desperate.

We hear about the prayer of faith, that's a prayer of faith, we offer up a desperate cry from our hearts, or the Scripture that says the earnest heartfelt prayer, this kind of thing, I've kind of categorized the three reasons I pray, which you might find interesting. The first one is I pray, so that I can become like Him, I want to spend time with Him, I just want Him to rub off on me so that the environment of heaven, which is access through prayer, is what changes my life. That's one reason to pray.

A second reason to pray is to petition God for things. A type of prayer is supplication, where there's tears. I'll offer up prayers of petition, Lord, I need this, this needs to happen.

But the third type of prayer that's one of the most important I find is I pray to see strategy, or I pray to see what God would do if He was here in my shoes.

That's a little different.

Joanna la Fleur: I'm imagining is that like in a moment, like maybe it's a bigger strategy, but like, do you mean like you're standing, you know, pastor, trying to care for someone going through something, and you're in the moment saying, like, God, what should I do? Or what should I say right now? Or do you mean more strategic? Like, where should we live? How do we spend our money? How does this church be impactful in our community? Is it both? Is it small and big S strategy or?

Derek Schneider: Yeah, that's a great question.

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Well, for many things, like sitting in a meeting in the moment, I try to draw from the dimension of wisdom. And that's where Scripture is so important. What's the wise thing to do in this situation.

But for most things, as I'm spending time with God, I want to hear His voice. I want to see Lord, what would You do in this situation? I'm going to meet with this person about something difficult. How would You answer them? Here's a dilemma between two people, how would You solve this? And as kind of primitive or juvenile as it sounds, inviting God into problems goes a really long way.

He actually wants to show you, what would Jesus do? Like the Scripture says, Jesus only did what He heard and saw the Father doing. So, He would go away for huge lengths of time and pray so He could see what God the Father would do and or is saying, and then He would go and do it.

And so, prayer became a little more simple to me, I wanted to spend time with Him. I felt His power when I would come out of prayer, I felt energy, I felt wisdom. And I would find in difficult moments, boom, a thought would come, boom, I knew how to do something. This all came out of spending time with Him in prayer.

Prayer is not a moment, it's a lifestyle.

Joanna la Fleur: And in that, is it something like, has your experience been something like, oh, the more I do it, the more I see it's the more that I want to do it. What I mean by that, you know, what I mean is like, it's like, it's not just like today, I'm going to start, I'm going to become a person who does this for 30 minutes, an hour of like, that doesn't just happen immediately.

I guess you could try, but it won't stick. But you've almost like, you've pre prioritized it as you've learned it.

Derek Schneider: Yes, that is correct.

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But it's also a bit of a dating relationship into a marriage where He kind of tricked me at first, I say where that power encounter where I turned down the record deal was that was so big, that very next day, I wanted to go back into prayer and have that again, I wanted to experience Him again. But if anybody's been married for any length of time, you don't always feel the warm fuzzies, you don't always feel passion, you might not even always feel love. But you do you operate by principle when I'm not feeling like praying, I default to the principle of prayer, I need to pray, whether I feel Him or not.

And so, it becomes a practice. And as dry as it may sound, I do schedule my prayer times in my calendar.

Joanna la Fleur: Yeah.

Derek Schneider: And the reason I do that is because all of life, especially in our culture is fighting to steal that time from me. And I know I need it.

Joanna la Fleur: Well, maybe, you know, as you've said, you talked about the dating to marriage relationship, I mean, romance isn't dead.

But if you don't schedule a date night with your wife, you've got two young kids, it's never going to happen. You didn't get the baby. All the things that had to be arranged to block that time.

If you don't, if you don't arrange it, you know, it's not going to be spontaneous. Like it might have been when you were dating in the beginning.

Derek Schneider: You totally got it. And if you've been dry for a while, there's probably people that will hear this that will say, Well, what about where I'm at? I feel like I can't even pray past a half hour. I'm just struggling is I always tell people, yeah, it's just like working out.

If you haven't been to the gym in a while, you start out at a basic level, I tell people, do start out with what you can do consistently for four or five days in a week. And then

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increment use that leverage that power and those small victories to start to increase it more and more. And the Word the Scripture again, birth prayer, the Scripture helps you to birth prayer.

Joanna la Fleur: You're going there. So, I want to go there. We're on the podcast is Scripture Untangled.

So, we can't help but talk about Scripture and prayer and its connection. Like, maybe whether you want to go practical, you know, are you praying the Scriptures? Or are there some Scriptures that have shaped your ideas around prayer or spiritual? Like, are there ones where you're thinking of that those ones that are locked in your head that you would offer to others? Or how would you use Scripture in the context of prayer, I guess?

Derek Schneider: Yeah, yeah. For me, I find that when we read the Bible, you know, James talks about the Word being like a mirror.

It's like a man who looks at himself in the mirror and seeing himself and he walks away and he forgets what he looks like. So, when you're reading the Bible, you should look for yourself within it. Look for what maybe needs to change or what God might be saying to you.

And as you see it, pause and pray it. Like this drains the religion right out of it because we get real excited. We do our 15-minute Scripture reading and we feel good.

I punched the clock. But take the Lord is my Shepherd, for example. When I read the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. That's too good to not pray. I don't just want to read it. I want Him to be my Shepherd to the point that I shall not want.

And so, what I will do is, as I read that the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. I'll say, oh, Father, You are my shepherd. I invite You into my life to shepherd me today

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to the point that I want nothing. You are my provider. You are my supplier. That's one phrase we just took there.

And then I shall not want He makes me to lie down in green pastures. Lord, I could use some green pastures. I pray that no matter what stress I face today, a green pasture vibe is going to go with me to where I'm de-stressed.

I'm not bound by anxiety. This is all off of one line. So, when you go down that road, your time with God actually starts to get longer than 10 minutes.

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Joanna la Fleur: Right. Well, and would you say, I'm thinking about people who are starting, you know, in the beginning, you might be learning to cook. You maybe use the recipe and later you don't look at it anymore.

But what do you think about lists? Like I think and even some people, it's liturgical, like there is an order. We pray for this thing and then we pray for the sick and we pray for the world, and we pray for our government leaders and we pray. And there's actually like an order or just simply a list of the way in which we pray.

So, we don't forget whether it's a person or a category like if in an Anglican church, they prompt you to pray for the government leaders. And it's because it's part of the liturgy. You might never think to do it, but it's in the liturgy.

So, it prompts you. So, what do you think about that idea of like lists?

Derek Schneider: Oh, I actually I absolutely believe in lists and any type of prayer like that. We have to remember that all religions pray.

However, not all have faith in the true God. And so, if somebody has a liturgical type of prayer, it doesn't matter if it's a list or not, has faith been injected into it. So, if you get up there at your podium, remember, Jesus got up and read the Scriptures in the synagogue, and there was tremendous power.

When you get up and read the liturgy, or you get up and read a list of something, if you've put faith, if you inject if that's from the heart, and you've injected faith in it, that prayer is more powerful than somebody who just behaved, I'm sorry to say very charismatic for a half hour. You know, it's faith. Yeah, if it's faith it works.

Joanna la Fleur: Well, and if you talk about faith, you know, there's also people who struggle in their faith because there's unanswered prayer. There's things we might have asked for that for decades that have not happened, you know, prayer for you said about your parents praying in your bedroom when you were out as maybe the

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prodigal son, or other prayers, you know, prayers for the sick that are not answered, prayers for ourselves, but whatever prayers for all kinds of things.

So, I'm sure you have had this in your own life. We all have things that have not come to be. And also, as a pastor, you know, and carry the stories of others.

What do we do with that? Like prayer, faith, when our prayers are not it's a struggle. I don't want to pray because, well, God already knows what I want. And he doesn't seem to give it to me.

So why am I doing this?

Derek Schneider: Absolutely. And you've asked a loaded question that might even be more loaded than some would realize. So, I try to simplify it.

And I tell people that if you haven't seen the answer to your prayer yet, you're just not done praying. And so I think of some people who are praying for their unsaved kids, and that mother who's praying for that child, you know, she may die having not seen her son come to Christ, but guess what, her son may be on his deathbed, that prayer will be answered, and he will give his life to Jesus just before he passes. I feel the same way about physical healing, because that would be the biggest one that I'm asked about, or I face when I do hospital visits or different things.

And my conclusion is that even if somebody is not physically healed in this world, when they walk into heaven, they are healed. My father died of cancer, he was believing for healing right to the last moment. And let me tell you something, he walked into heaven healed.

And so we need to be careful that we are true believers who have one eye on this life and one eye understanding eternity, that there is a hope, there is a life beyond this one, I'll get asked about the loss of a child, or somebody who didn't get married, and I always have to bring it back to you need an eternal perspective here. There's a lot

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more going on than you realize, God is good. And you keep praying because it's working something out in you.

Joanna la Fleur: You know, you're moving me in this direction now. So, I want to talk about prayer in the context of the church, meaning corporate prayer we do together. You have the story of, like, there was something about you were homeless or something for prayer.

I'm curious about this. But just this idea of, talk about, okay, I prayed my list or my items for the first 10 minutes, half an hour. And I'm like, oh, my goodness, I have to do three more days of this.

What am I going to pray? And what I'd love to know a little bit about that. But in the context of the story, really, it's about what you've been led to in prayer in the community, prayer for your church, three days of prayer, prayer for the city. Tell us about what's going on there.

Derek Schneider: Well, I must say, Joanna, it's refreshing to be interviewed by someone who actually has looked at my book on prayer and has heard some of these stories and asked the right questions, you know? Yeah, for me as a pastor, I came into an understanding that my responsibility was to more than just those that attend my church. I wanted to pastor my community. I wanted to have impact in the community.

And I found sometimes the gap between what we do in our buildings, and where people are really at out there can be vast. And so, I think because I was younger, I had a little more maybe radical zeal, although I do it again. But I turned off the light to my office, I closed the office door at the church.

And I made myself homeless for the purpose of three days of prayer, meaning I stayed on the street, I slept on the street. And wow, it's not easy to be homeless. Side note, by the way, it seems to take more work to be homeless.

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And I mean, you're wandering around looking for where you're going to use the washroom where, how you're going to... and I was fasting as well. So, I combined fasting, along with prayer for the city. And the first day I nearly quit.

Because I walked for 20 minutes. And I kind of prayed about whatever came to mind and prayed for the city. And I thought, well, now what? Surely somebody's praying for the city before like, what's the point? And without getting into an exhaustive teaching here, the Lord took me to one Scripture in Luke that had to do with binding the strong man.

And when a strong man is in place, and guarding its goods, you know, you just can't plunder his goods kind of thing. And to cut a long story short, that led to a revelation that that night on the street, the first night that what is the armor that's holding the strong man in place? What are the things that cause our city to be bound and not come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. And that led to the Lord beginning to reveal to me as I walk those streets, the prostitution, the drug addiction, and I wrote down all of those issues in a list.

So, here's our list. And I began to pray and repent on behalf of the city for these things one by one by one.

And that turned into more. I don't know if that presents more questions or not. But...

Joanna la Fleur: Yeah, well, even that like, as you said, what do I pray next? And then you're starting to see, look around, even just simply be curious about what you're seeing around you a prayer walk, even if it's not multiple days, just a prayer walk in your own city that God is showing you what's going on, and that you're beginning to identify and be able to pray through that list.

Derek Schneider: Yeah. And when He shows you, I've been a pastor and lived in Oshawa all my life, but I felt like I had never seen the level of drug addiction, poverty, like it was just like He opened my eyes. I guess I could say it this way.

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I had seen it maybe visually before. But now I was seeing it with my heart. I was feeling what He feels about it.

I carried it, I had genuine grief and sorrow over it. And I think that true sorrow birthed a type of genuine prayer, not just help our city, but I wept over it, you know, and I think that produces a prayer that God can make connection with and begin to answer.

Joanna la Fleur: Well, what you're illustrating again in the story is you made time for it.

In this case, it was a three-day outdoor journey that you made space to hear God is always speaking in the world and through His Word, but we may not make space for it. So, I think often prayer in a busy church, a busy life, a busy, even the life of a pastor, we hate people hate to admit it. But even the most the person who's supposed to be the most prayerful or spiritual amongst us, it often is the first to go.

Derek Schneider: Oh, yeah.

Joanna la Fleur: What in the busyness when prayer is dropped, what does it cost us?

Derek Schneider: Oh, man. Wow.

I have a bit of a view that the way we do ministry, not just our Western busy culture, but the way we do ministry with a lot of ambition, numerical goals, big budgets, big this and that doesn't lend itself to the disciplined prayer life. There's just 100 reasons to not have time to pray if you're a pastor, whether its people, emails, problems, we're in the business of problems.

And so that is one thing I do help pastors with through coaching or trainings and that is daring to cross the threshold into partnership with God, where you set aside blocks of time, you really alluded to a great secret there, because the Scripture says, "Go pray to the Father who is in secret, closing the door," half the battle is getting alone.

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And sitting there and saying, Here I am, Lord, I don't know what to do for the next hour. But I've blocked off this hour and dare to stay there. And I promise you, He will show up. He wants to partner with you.

But it's for pastors to take that leap to where they say no to something to say yes to prayer, or they put off something maybe into the afternoon, so that they give their mornings three days a month as a pastor, I give to radical seclusion, fasting and prayer. I do it every month. And I do not touch office work.

I do not do social media; I don't take calls. I'm literally in the Word getting caught up on books, I'm reading, study time, prayer time, and even sleeping in resting my body, and having a monthly reset. And when I come out of prayer, I think God's thoughts.

I see certain situations the way He would see them. I feel refreshed, I feel on fire, and I have something to offer the people that need it in our church.

Joanna la Fleur: Well, that's just as you said, you have something to offer on the other side, that you're not just running in your own strength, your own energy running on fumes, as most are.

I mean, you started us off with you have two small children, which I can only imagine, you know, it's a very busy time in your personal and your ministry life. So, before we wrap up, I'd like to touch on History Makers. And there's lots that we don't have time to go too far into it, because you've touched on in the context of, we're talking about you as a teacher or trainer, that's a huge heart that you have, but that you're trying to say, God is putting things on people's hearts.

How do we know what that is? And then how do we take action about it? Not just like, I feel bad about this problem in my city, but actually, I need to do something about it. So, it's from prayer and listening to a plan to a strategy to an action. Tell us a little bit about this.

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And what this is, very practically, but also like what you're seeing come out of it. What's the fruit so far? I know, it's early days in that some fruit we don't know until eternity. But what's some of the glimpses of it that we're seeing?

Derek Schneider: You know, I'll hold these three-day trainings in different places in the world.

And I'm usually asked the same question that people are fine with salvation. They're Christians in these trainings. They usually always ask, how can I identify my calling? What's my calling? What's my purpose? Am I in it? Am I missing the mark? These kinds of big questions.

And I used to give really complicated responses, a list of 10 keys to finding your purpose. But in actuality, you need to ask yourself, what do you want to do? And find the love of Jesus there? Who do you want to help? And bring the love of Jesus there? What are you gifted to do? What do you have an ability in and bring the love of Jesus to that? Find yourself in prayer, ask the Lord to help you with it. But I find you have been given built in passions, built in abilities.

And if you can package those into something that extends the love of Jesus to people, you're home free. I meet unsaved people who are CEOs or run charities. And they're some of the happiest people, though they haven't met Jesus yet.

It's because they're taking the resources they have to reach others. So, I want to advise people to be careful in finding my calling, my purpose, my destiny. Yes, you need to find that.

But why your purpose, your calling, your purpose and destiny should be connected to extending the love of God to people. And you'll sleep well at night, when you learn to take what's in your hand and extend His love to people. Ministry is not just, if I can quickly say this, what we do on Sunday up to God, we'll call that ministry or a pastor will preach, we'll call that ministry.

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Ministry is less about giving our heart, extending our heart to God, but more about translating His heart to others. And in that, that's a pretty good purpose for being here.

Joanna la Fleur: So there's a story I will prompt you with, you can choose to tell a different one, there's one that's more passionate in your mind today, is the story of a man who came through some of your training, and he does stuff in senior centers, and was never in never engaged in this way before.

So, tell us, I don't know if that's the one you want to tell us. But tell us a story about him or someone like him.

Derek Schneider: Yeah, I was just in Dallas at a massive conference.

And I was telling these kinds of stories. But he was somebody who had never evangelized, never led a single person to Christ. And there's a lot in our churches.

And he came through one of our trainings. And he got involved. He said, I want to be used with seniors.

And he got involved in this senior center and began giving leadership to this like senior's church that was in this center, that turned into two of them in two different centers. And he testified at one of our conferences, he began leading people to Christ on almost a weekly basis. But a better story than that would be Aisha, whose husband had gone to prison, and it impacted their family.

And she had had a prophecy, someone said, you're going to help families that are broken. And she kind of was waiting all her life for that to materialize. Well, she created a program to help families impacted by incarceration.

And that led to our local university sending interns to her, her program was helping to rehabilitate families who have been broken. There's something in us to do. And we have lots of these stories.

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And when that's awakened, imagine church buildings filled with heaven's resource to reach people. And my job as a pastor is to help awaken that in you and send you out to go and reach people with your gift and your purpose.

Joanna la Fleur: So, when you're seeing this across, I mean, you're traveling, you just said you were in Dallas, I know you're in other countries, but in Canada.

What is, as we wrap up here, what is something that you feel hopeful about? Or maybe... Is there a prophetic image, or just something about the church in Canada? And what God is doing today? Or what is stirring up? What is happening? What do you see?

Derek Schneider: Well, people watching might have loved this right until this moment. But I would say just a few lines here to qualify it is that historically speaking, the church thrives in persecuted times. And comfort, over comfort and consumerism hasn't always brought the best out of people or the church.

And I think that God is allowing a measured amount of trial, crisis, persecution, that's perhaps awakening in us a need to pray, a hunger for Him, a desperation, people are certainly going back to church because of it.

And so, I think comfort has not brought the best out of us and God's waking up the church through crisis, trial and pain. Now, can I give a little bright side on that, is that as we return to Him in a deeper way, as we turn our families to prayer, as we turn our churches more missional, all you're going to see is that the church, the light of the church will intensify, though the darkness intensifies, the light of the church, the glory of Christ will intensify.

And you'll have a really alive church that's doing and return to the real commission of Jesus, which is to do more than gather in the building as good as that is, but to go and make disciples of all people groups.

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Joanna la Fleur: Yeah, Derek, it's great to have this conversation with you. There's so much more in you. I can tell them we have time to get to, but of course, if people we're linking in the show notes for people to get your books and, you know, more resources of all the stuff that you're doing. So, we'll make sure that people can find you and find more of you. But, you know, maybe just as (we) close, you have, again, it's Scripture Untangled.

Is there a Scripture you want to leave people with of an encouragement? It might be something you've read today, or it might be just one of your favorites. You've talked to us about Psalm 23. Maybe that's the one (to) go back and pray through Psalm 23.

But do you have a Scripture that you want to leave people with today?

Derek Schneider: I think it might be the Scripture that says, Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, yet he prayed and it stopped raining. And then he prayed again and it rained. That's pretty powerful.

I like that it says Elijah was a man like us. We tend to memorialize the heroes as the only ones who can pray and see God move. But in actual fact, they're just like us.

And if we will pray fervently, and if we will pray in ways we haven't before, for me, I went out on the street. If we will pray in ways we haven't before, I believe we'll see things we haven't seen before.

Joanna la Fleur: We'll leave it there.

Amazing encouragement. Thank you, Derek.

Derek Schneider: Thank you.