



**Glenn Brown**

441 1/2 Lark Drive  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

Telephone 970-434-1377  
Email [casabrn441@gmail.com](mailto:casabrn441@gmail.com)  
Website [www.glennbrownministries.com](http://www.glennbrownministries.com)

## **SEPTEMBER, 2022**

### **Facebook**

---

---

## **SEPTEMBER, 2022**

### **GETTING A PUPPY**

#### **Owner's Perspective**

Why do people get dogs? They are time-consuming, messy and demanding, especially when they are puppies. And expensive. They can cost hundreds or thousands to buy and to maintain: food, shots, grooming, training, fencing, vet bills, boarding, traveling, etc.

Some reasons people get dogs (I asked my Zoom group): For unconditional love; for protection; for company, for service (service dogs); family culture ("We've always had dogs"); "To make me more accountable."; "So I will have someone to love"; "For conversation"; "For our kids."

Because of centuries of breeding, people can get a dog designed to meet their needs: herding sheep, service, protection, company.

#### **Dog's perspective**

Dogs don't get a vote. They are bought and sold like property. They may get a good owner or a terrible owner (Have you seen those heart-wrenching videos of neglected or abused dogs?).

Dogs instinctively relate to their owner as their pack-leader, and they seem to have an instinct to give their leader/master unconditional love and loyalty.

Dogs are smart and can be trained in an amazing variety of ways.

### **GETTING A BABY**

#### **Parents' Perspective**

Why do people have babies (biology) or get babies (adoption)? They are time-consuming, messy and demanding, not only when they are

babies. And painful for the mother. And expensive. They cost thousands to birth or adopt and hundreds of thousands to maintain: food, clothing, shots, educating, fencing, medical bills, boarding, traveling, etc.

Some reasons people get children: They were an accident; for unconditional love; for company; for service; family culture; "So I will have someone to love", etc.

It is not possible for parents to get a child designed to meet all of their needs or wants. This is true whether the child comes naturally or by adoption.

#### **Baby's Perspective**

Babies don't get a vote. They are born, and some are then adopted, like property (not exactly true). They may get good parents or terrible parents (We have all heard heart-wrenching stories of neglected or abused children.)

Babies instinctively relate to their parents as their pack-leader and seem to have an instinct to give their parents unconditional love.

Babies are incredibly smart and can be trained in an amazing variety of ways.

## **GETTING A SON/ DAUGHTER OF GOD** **GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**

God apparently created and designed the universe for the purpose of getting sons and daughters made in his image. Not wanting automatons, he gave them free will. Knowing they would rebel and fall, he planned from the beginning to rescue them (those who would freely choose), at great cost to himself, through the sacrifice of his Son.

The Bible simply says that God did all this "For His glory."

Rick Warren says that God created humans, not out of necessity, but in order to have someone to love, a family.

Sons/daughters of God are time-consuming, messy and demanding, not only when they are babies. They are painful (love always demands suffering). And expensive, not only to birth but to maintain.

## **SON'S/DAUGHTER'S PERSPECTIVE**

They get a vote. It is the deciding vote (?) I am not certain about this statement. The Bible is clear that God “chooses, elects, fore-ordains, predestines” those who are to be “born from above” into everlasting life. God is sovereign. The Bible is also clear that God’s election is based on his fore-knowledge; that is, he knows who will freely choose to believe in and surrender to Jesus Christ. So God gets a vote and we get a vote, and it takes two votes to get invited in.

They always get not only a good parent but a perfect Parent, although this will not always be clear as long as sons/daughters live on this broken planet in a broken body.

Sons/daughters are incredibly smart and can be trained in a great variety of ways if they will submit to the Father’s training regimen.

Our birth/adoption into God’s family answers the four great human questions:

- (1) Where did we come from?
- (2) What is our purpose?
- (3) What can we do about our sin?
- (4) What happens when we die?

## **LIFE IS A TEST**

(I’m rereading “The Purpose Driven Life” and continue to be amazed at Rick Warren’s wisdom. The following is from Chapter 5. I suggest that you read it slowly and thoughtfully.)

“Life on earth is a test. This metaphor is seen in stories throughout the Bible. God continually tests people’s character, faith, obedience, love, integrity, and loyalty. Words like *trials*, *temptations*, *refining*, and *testing* occur more than 200 times in the Bible. God tested Abraham by asking him to offer his son Isaac. God tested Jacob when he had to work extra years to earn Rachel as his wife.

Adam and Eve failed their test in the Garden of Eden, and David failed his tests from God on several occasions. But there were many people who passed a great test, such as Joseph, Ruth, Esther and Daniel.

Character is developed and also revealed by tests, and all of life is a test. You are always being tested. God constantly watches our response to people, problems, success, conflict, illness, disappointment, and even the weather. He watches the simplest actions such as when you open a door for others, when you pick up a piece of trash, or when you’re polite toward a clerk or waitress.

We can’t know all the tests God will give you, but we can predict some of them based on the Bible. You will be tested by major changes, delayed promises, impossible problems, unanswered prayers, undeserved criticism, and even senseless tragedies.

A very important test is how you act when you can’t feel God’s presence in your life. Sometimes God intentionally draws back, and we don’t sense his closeness. A king named Hezekiah experienced this test. The Bible says, “*God withdrew from Hezekiah in order to test him and to see what was really in his heart.*” Hezekiah had enjoyed a close fellowship with God, but at a crucial point in his life God left him alone to test his character, to reveal a weakness, and to prepare him for more responsibility.

When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life. Even the smallest incident has significance for our character development. Every day is an important day, and every second is a growth opportunity to deepen your character, to demonstrate love, or to depend on God.

Some tests seem overwhelming, while others you don’t even notice. But all of them have eternal implications.

**The good news is that God wants you to pass the tests of life, so he never allows the tests you face to be greater than the grace he gives you to handle them.** The Bible says, “*God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm.*” At the time you are put to the

test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

Every time you pass a test, God notices and makes plans to reward you in eternity. James says, *“Blessed are those who endure when they are tested. When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”*

=====

## **HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MESSAGE FROM GOD CALLING YOU TO A PARTICULAR ASSIGNMENT OR MINISTRY?**

At some point in their lives, most (all?) Christians have had what they believe to be a message from God - by a dream or vision or impression or prophecy - calling them to a particular assignment or ministry. The major characters in the Bible received this kind of message from God - Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul, etc. I've heard or read the testimony of many Christians during my years as a Christian who heard from God in this way. God also spoke to me at different times - actually, in all of the ways I listed; that is, through dreams, visions, impressions and prophecies (I must be really dense), and called me to my assignment in inner healing and deliverance.

But this is a very complicated matter, and I want to address some of the problems connected to these “messages from God.”

First, was the message you received really from God? Only mentally unstable people believe that every impression they get is from God. I've known and even counseled several people like that, and they were confused and unbalanced. There are three possible sources for these messages that come to people: (1) God, (2) our own imagination (3) the devil. Messages supposedly from a dead person or in some cases from an angel (which may be a demon disguised as an angel of light...we need discernment here because God can also send his messages by angels) or from the stars or from an idol of some sort are really from the devil.

How do we know if it is truly from God? That is a big subject of its own, but basically we should ask some questions: “Is this message Scriptural? Is it loving and encouraging? is it reasonable; that is, does it line up with who I am and with my talents, gifts and interests?” And most importantly, we should confirm any “messages from God” with several mature believers. This is especially true if obeying the message would disrupt your life or the lives of others. There are certainly exceptions to these rules. Obeying God might be terribly disruptive and require great suffering and sacrifice.

Messages from God are rarely crystal clear. God speaks in pictures, analogies, metaphors, mysteries. Think about Joseph seeing the sun, moon and stars bowing down to him. And remember that Jesus taught in parables that were obscure to most people and that he had to interpret for his disciples.

Sometimes it takes a long time to figure out what God is saying to us however the impression may come. Why does God do it that way? Why doesn't he make his intentions more clear? I believe it is because God is working out some things deep inside of us and that takes time and struggle. Remember Jacob wrestling with the Angel of God. At any rate, if you don't like the way God does things then I think that is your problem. One of the advantages to being God is that you can do whatever you want, whenever and however you want, and you don't have to explain yourself.

An important point is that the longer we walk with the Lord the more familiar his voice and his ways become to us. If you are married to someone for many years, when they say “Hi” on the phone you don't wonder who it is.

Sometimes a message comes to believers but they are not sure if it was God or what it means or they have no way to cause it to happen. In such cases, we are to “put it on the shelf” and wait to see if there is more clarification or if at some point God brings it to pass. (A historical example was God's promise to bring the Hebrews back to Israel.)

What if you receive what you believe to be a message from God and it lines up with what

you have had a burning desire to do, say teaching or being a missionary or being a nurse or a doctor or cooking and preparing food for needy people or whatever. What should you do?

Check it out as best you can, and then start preparing yourself to do whatever it is God has called you to do. Read, study, go to school, prepare yourself. Think of the years of sacrificial effort it takes to become a doctor. But some people think that if God calls you to be a missionary or an evangelist they should jump from being a minnow to being a whale. God takes us on our journey step by step. We must grow into whatever he is calling us to do, and he is testing us to see if we can handle the next step.

Joyce Meyer has told how God put a vision in her mind over and over that she would be standing and preaching to multitudes. But she was sick emotionally and spiritually, having been abused by an evil father for years. First, she had to be healed and to learn to forgive. Many people get stuck here at the beginning and never pay the price to be healed and set free from an abusive past.

She was also learning to be obedient in the small things. She told how God insisted that she return the grocery cart to its stall and pick up pieces of trash on sidewalks and driveways. She thought that was ridiculous and complained that none of her friends were doing these trivial things. God said to her, "But they don't have the high calling that you do. Do you want to do this or not, Joyce?" She said it took years of dying to self, obeying God in the small things, teaching small groups of housewives in homes and tiny churches before she started moving to more responsibility.

When God called me to the inner healing and deliverance ministry in 1973 I started trying to learn how to do it. I prayed, read and studied the Bible, read Christian books (hundreds of them over the years), attended seminars and conferences, ministered to people over and over again. I never stopped doing those things for the next 40 plus years. Obviously it is God and God only who saves and heals and delivers, but he expects us to

give our very best effort to be a partner with him.

It is a very serious thing to receive a calling, an assignment from God. It is the reason we are here on earth. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:10, "*We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" If you are not serving God by being a housewife and mother, a chef, a salesman, a pastor, a mechanic, a businessman, a policeman - or whatever God has called you to do for his glory, then what are you going to say when you stand before him and give an account of your life?

Bobby Shuler said that the most common question that Christians ask is, "What is my calling?" He said that is the wrong question. We should ask, "How can I serve you now, Heavenly Father?" Don't wait for God to give you a vision or a prophecy identifying your "calling." You are called right now to love and serve your family, your church, your employer, your neighborhood, your employees. Are you being obedient in the little things God has spoken to you about? You are certainly not going to be getting any big assignments if you are not faithfully serving him in the little things now.

One other very important point: Perhaps you believe you have received a message from God calling you to a specific way to serve him; for instance by being a missionary or an evangelist, but it is really impossible for you because of your circumstances. You may be disabled in some way, or be infirm because of your age, or have family responsibilities, or there may be other circumstances that simply preclude your serving God in a traditional way. I believe that God has given us a principle in the Old Testament that gives us great encouragement.

In 1 Samuel, chapter 30, King David leads 600 soldiers into a battle against the Amalekites, the ancient enemies of Israel. But in racing through the forest and wilderness to attack the Amalekites, 200 of his soldiers became too exhausted to continue the battle, and they were left behind with the baggage.

David and the 400 remaining soldiers fought and won a great victory over their enemies, and they captured a large amount of plunder. Some of the “troublemakers” among the 400 soldiers said that they should not share any of the plunder with the soldiers that were not physically able to take part in the battle. David said to them, *“No, my brothers, the Lord protected us and gave us this great victory, and the share of the men who stayed with the baggage is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle.”* And it became an ordinance in Israel from that time forth.

Some 25 years ago, I served here in Grand Junction on the board of Turkish World Outreach, TWO. Back in the time of Christ, the area of Asia now known as Turkey was an important site of Paul’s missionary outreach and was the location of all seven of the churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. During the Middle Ages, this area was conquered by Muslim armies and has been an Islamic republic since that time. TWO is an outreach of love and service to the people of Turkey. Missionaries, per se, are forbidden, but Christians may go as teachers, engineers, etc., and pray to be used as yeast in the dough.

During my time with TWO, I observed that a very large number of Christians felt a “burden” for Turkey. This is another way of saying they felt called by God to reach out in some way to the people of Turkey. A small number of those people were called to go physically to work in Turkey, and those folks were rigorously screened by the board.

What about the people who did not physically go to Turkey? They stayed with the baggage. They prayed, gave money to support the ones who went, supported feeding programs for the hungry, wrote friendly Christian letters to mailing lists gleaned from phone books of citizens of Turkey, made short term mission trips to Turkey, hosted visiting missionaries, and a host of other things.

This is simply my way of describing some of the ways that God gives a specific assignment to his people and of the many possible ways of being obedient to God. Don’t let the enemy put guilt on you for not doing something you were not able to do. But if you have a clear calling to go, then, if possible, by all means obey God.

God sees our hearts.

I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.  
If any of you want to receive tax credit for your financial contributions, you may send them to:  
CANYON VIEW VINEYARD CHURCH  
736 24 ½ Road Grand Junction, Co. 81505