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Dear Friends,

Special Spring greetings to you this month of September! We are noticing the changes in the weather each new day. With this observance of natural phenomena taking place all around us, I have been wondering if we are as observant to our own natural behavioural patterns, and why. I have had two words stand out in my thoughts these past few days, and I thought I would share a little word study with you, this month.

*Those words are: - **Destiny and Destination!***

I looked up the meaning of both of these words in the dictionary and came forth with this information.

*For **Destiny**, we read:-*

Destiny or fate is a “predetermined course” of events. It may be conceived as a predetermined future, whether in general or of an individual. It is a concept based on the belief that there is a fixed natural order to the cosmos.

- 1. The inevitable or necessary fate to which a particular person or thing is destined; one's lot.***
- 2. A predetermined course of events considered as something beyond human power or control.***
- 3. The power or agency thought to predetermine events: Destiny brought them together.***

*For **Destination**, we read:-*

Destination – appears to be a **“predetermined place”**, where we will all end up – for the better or worse; it is our **future home!**

1. The **place to which one is going or directed**; the predetermined end of a journey or voyage; **the place to which a person or thing travels or is sent.**
2. The **ultimate purpose for which something (someone) is created or intended**; the ultimate end or purpose for which something is created or a person is **destined**; the **purpose for which something (someone) is destined.**

So, from those explanations, we can see that we each have a **predetermined course** to which we should aspire, and a **predetermined place** to which we proceed. I thought a lot about that this week, hence my sharing my thoughts and more importantly, the Word of God, on this same **predestined topic**. Let's think for a minute about our destiny. One of the verses that come to my mind is Jeremiah 29:11(Amp).

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

That tells me that God knows what is best for my destiny, (or that predetermined course my life should take). And that reminds me of other verses found in 1 Peter 1:15-16 (Amp).

1Pe 1:15 But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.

1Pe 1:16 For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. [Lev. 11:44, 45.]

We must be continually doing self-examinations and reminding ourselves of the purpose of life. As opposed to popular belief, we are not destined to happiness, nor to health, but to **HOLINESS!** God has only one intended destiny for mankind – **HOLINESS!** His only goal is to produce saints (holy people). That is the purpose of redemption. His agonising death on the cross for us was not out of pity. He came, and died to save us, because He created us to be **HOLY!** Never tolerate, because of sympathy for yourself or for others, any practice that is not in keeping with a Holy God. Holiness means absolute purity of your walk before God. The words you speak, the thoughts you think, all need to be checked against God's check list and scrutinised accordingly. So, what are you exhibiting in your life? Holiness?

Now that we have discovered what our destiny is we need to look at our destination. We discovered at the beginning that our destination is already a **predetermined place** to which we all must go; a predetermined end of our journey through life. And, again, contrary to popular belief, **hell is just as real as heaven.** Read with me **one account** of our **final destination** as found in John 14:2-6 (Amp).

Joh 14:2 In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.

Joh 14:4 And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way.

Joh 14:5 Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

*I love that scripture. That promise is written above my name. What about yours? Do you know your destination? Do you know, that you know, that when the final curtain is drawn on your life, that you know where you are going? Have you made the choice to fulfil your destiny here on earth and reach your final destination, at home in heaven. Or are you still uncertain? Maybe not even interested, up to this point? If so, I urge you to consider the alternative, which many do not understand... **Hell!!! It is real!!! It is forever!!!** And it isn't a picture perfect rendition of the fireplace, with the devil and his two red horns on his head, stoking the flames with his pitchfork. NO! That is the fairy-tale version. The reality is found in Revelation 20:10-15 and 21:8 (Amp).*

Rev 20:10 Then the devil who had led them astray [deceiving and seducing them] was hurled into the fiery lake of burning brimstone, where the beast and false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (through the ages of the ages).

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was seated upon it, from Whose presence and from the sight of Whose face earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

Rev 20:12 I [also] saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged (sentenced) by what they had done [their whole way of feeling and acting, their aims and endeavors] in accordance with what was recorded in the books.

Rev 20:13 And the sea delivered up the dead who were in it, death and Hades (the state of death or disembodied existence) surrendered the dead in them, and all were tried and their cases determined by what they had done [according to their motives, aims, and works].

Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades (the state of death or disembodied existence) were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Rev 20:15 And if anyone's [name] was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire.

And...

Rev 21:8 But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive, and as for the unbelieving and faithless, and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations, and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practicers of magic arts and the idolaters (those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God) and all liars (those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed)--[all of these shall have] their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death. [Isa. 30:33.]

*We have come to the end of another month's letter. I hope I have given you enough information to consider your position, with regard your destiny and your destination; having completed your journey here on earth. By now you should have realized we all have choices to make on a daily basis that will determine our destinations end. **There is an end! It's either Heaven or Hell! Choice** - it remains ours to make. **Just know that should you die, that isn't the end of your journey.** It's only the end of your earthly journey. **Your eternal journey is then beginning.** Make your life count for Christ, and Heaven will be your destination. Remember, **God has only one intended destiny for mankind – HOLINESS!** That will guarantee your entry into Heaven. See you there; or maybe in a few more letters here on earth, while fulfilling my destiny and before I reach my final destination.*

Till next month

From my house to yours

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

