



## Conjunction Junction What's Your Function?

by Vincent M. Newfield

“If you could do anything at all...*anything*, and you knew that you would not fail, what would you do? If education, money, health, age and time were not obstacles, what would you pursue?”

These were the questions my pastor friend asked me many years ago. Like others, I had come to a major junction in my life where I was doing some serious soul-searching. I was desperately trying to understand God's function for my life. As Joyce said, we're all created with the purpose and privilege of fellowshiping with the Father, but each of us also has a *specific* purpose, or calling, in life. And that's what I was after.

Interestingly, *purpose* is defined as “that which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished.” The word *purpose* also carries the idea of *intention* and *design*. In other words, what did God intend for us to do in light of the way He designed us.

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*So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and **be what we were made to be**, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.*

—Romans 12:5,6 The Message

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**The Way You Are Wired** means the way you are designed. It's basically what you're good at—the things you're naturally gifted and talented to do. Your design also has a lot to do with what you enjoy doing. As a kid, I wanted to do many things when I grew up. I wanted to be a veterinarian, a meteorologist and a number of other things. But when it came time to choose a major in college, I prayerfully chose the field of communications. Why? Because talking and being in front of others was something that came naturally *and* I enjoyed it.

One thing I'm not cut out to be is a doctor. Fainting when my daughter Bryanna was being born and regularly becoming sick at the sight of blood were two irrefutable clues to this fact. I'm also not mechanically inclined. When it comes to fixing things, like a car or washing machine, I'm “all thumbs.” Years ago, things like this really made me feel inferior—like I was less of a man. But thankfully God helped me to learn that I am not less of a man because I can't do these things. I just have different gifts, and that's okay.

**Giving Yourself to Your Gift** is very important. Once the Lord helped me get pointed toward the path of my specific purpose, I began to concentrate my efforts in that area. Looking back over the past twenty years, I can see how each mile of the trip has been a building block for the next. Each phase helped me *refine* talents I knew I had and *define* talents I wasn't aware of—like writing. Was everything I did during the past twenty years directly related to my calling? No. But God has used everything I've been through to prepare the way for what I am today.

By giving ourselves to our gift, we free the fire of passion within us to fuel our purpose. Passion energizes our hearts and urges us onward even when circumstances seem insurmountable. Have you ever been in a swimming pool and tried to hold a beach ball under water? It's not easy to do. No matter how hard you try to hold it down, eventually it breaks free and rises to the top. The deeper in the water you push it, the more momentum it has when it bursts forth on the surface.

To a great degree, that beach ball is like our passion for our purpose—no matter how disappointing or difficult life becomes, *nothing* can permanently prevent it from rising to the surface. Which brings us back to the opening question: If you could do anything at all...*anything*, and you knew that you would not fail, what would you do? I encourage you to seek the Lord, ask Him to show you the way you are wired, and then give yourself to your gift with all you've got!

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*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful....*

—1 Corinthians 12:7,8 The Message

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