



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES  
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2007



# **The Secret Things of God, Part 3**

**Featuring**  
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*Psychologist*  
*Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,*  
*author of The Secret Things of God*

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## I. “Why am I here?”

It’s a huge question to which we don’t give enough thought

The purposes we invent for ourselves are never big enough

Our purpose comes from the One who put us here

Until we wake up and realize we were created by Someone Else for a purpose, we won’t find it

## II. We were created for a purpose

We’re designed to relate to God

We’re also given talents and abilities and potentials

- To enjoy

- To put to use for others and for His purposes

God designed you for success

Finding the “sweet spot” of what you’re supposed to be doing

Bringing the gifts to fruition

Integrating these into our values and service

This takes away the feeling that “the forces are against me”: the biggest Force in the universe is *for* me

<sup>24</sup>*A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup>for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?*  
—Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
—Ephesians 2:10

## III. We need to find the path to becoming fruitful

It’s one thing to desire to do, it’s another to succeed

Success is not an absolute standard

*“...The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’...”*  
—Matthew 25:20

You won't find your purpose as defined by someone else

We're different, so comparison makes no sense

Realize the work is about me—about getting “me” to work

*<sup>4</sup>Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, <sup>5</sup>for each one should carry his own load.*

—Galatians 6:4-5

#### IV. Your heart determines the course of your life

We will bear fruit to the extent that the tree is healthy

The ones who really are successful become what it takes to be one of those

The diligent one creates the prosperity

When we're diligent and growing, God and life bring us new contexts

Our own character issues can get in the way

For you to gain in performance, you have to do something anxious or fearful, pushing past the comfort zone

What would you attempt if you knew you would not fail?

If nothing works, it's time to take a look at the patterns

*A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*

—Proverbs 16:9

*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

—Romans 12:3

#### V. We are not all alike

We have to find out what we are good at

A map for finding God's will (Romans 12):

- Offer yourself as a sacrifice to Him
- Find what you're not going to be: “do not be conformed”
- Give up the grandiose expectations

The only way to learn and get better is by failing

*A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*

—Proverbs 16:9

If we think we're above failure, we'll never get out of failure

There's a difference between faithfulness and flawlessness

- Find your gift, and do it with all your might

Look at your motivations

Whatever you use is going to grow

When we only have a little, we're afraid of failure

The only way to get over it is to fail

When you get active and you sow, things happen

Wholehearted efforts bring results

## Next week on *Solutions*: “The Secret Things of God, Part 4”

### Resources

#### BOOKS:

*The Secret Things of God: Unlocking the Treasures that are Reserved for You*

By Dr. Henry Cloud

[www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com)

*Integrity*

By Dr. Henry Cloud

[www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com)

*Changes that Heal*

By Dr. Henry Cloud

[www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com)

*Boundaries*

By Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend

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