

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

94. There Is Only One Who Controls Your Destiny

You are listening to episode 94 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast titled, There Is Only One Who Controls Your Destiny. Welcome to the podcast and thank you for joining me today. I'm so glad you're here! Over the weekend I got to thinking about our destinies. Do we each have one? Who controls them? What does God have to say about them? Have we let others dictate them? You name it, if it had to do with destinies, I probably thought about it. And it all stemmed from something I caught on a TV show. Who controls your destiny? Is it others? You? God? This matters. We'll dig into God's Word to see what He has to say about it, too. So, hang with me there for this next short while and together we'll find help and hope. Sound good? Let's get to it.

Who controls your destiny?

Do you? Do others? Does God?

I'm not referring to luck, or fortune, or karma. I'm referring to Oxford Language's definition of destiny: the events that will necessarily happen to a particular person or thing in the future.

Did you watch American Idol this season? It just ended this past Sunday evening. We aren't big TV-watching people here, but this show is one I enjoy watching. And this season was filled with many stories of people who inspired me. Including the winner, Iam Tongi. I was rooting for both he and the runner up, Megan Danielle, so I was glad they were both in the finals of the show.

But a certain story emerged, beginning with Megan's in-person audition. I guess you could say Megan is a big fan of Christian music artist, Lauren Daigle, and sang one of her songs in the audition. Somehow, Lauren happened to come to Megan's audition, and she surprised her by coming in the room and singing with her. Megan was invited to go to Hollywood for the show.

On Sunday evening's finale they flashed back to that audition moment before Megan and Lauren took the stage together to sing another one of Lauren's songs. They also showed a short clip of when Lauren was a contestant on American Idol years ago. *What?? She was a prior contestant? Is that where she got her start in Christian music?*

If you know me, I took to the internet and searched. Interestingly, I found out Lauren tried out for American Idol three years in a row, 2010, 2011, and 2012. She was cut just prior to making it into the top 24 in 2010. She didn't make it to Hollywood in 2011. And in 2012 she made it to Hollywood but was cut in the first round in Las Vegas. Three times she tried out and three times she was denied.

How many of us would quit at that point?

How many of us might take the three denials as "signs from God" to give up on our dream? And I wonder, how many of us might consider letting go of singing all together after receiving those three consecutive rejections? Let alone any smaller rejections she received along the way?

I think I would have had questions. Questioned myself. Or questioned my calling. Or questioned, "God, what you doing here? Am I to continue pursuing this dream?"

Who knows what questions Lauren asked, if any. Who knows what her thoughts or feelings were. But being human, I think it's safe to say she might have pondered what plans God had for her.

What if she would have let that show determine her destiny? Because of the show, what if she would have let go of her dream to sing and share God's Good News through music? What if she believed if she wasn't good enough to be on the show, she wasn't good enough to be used by God?

And how often do we do that?

How often do we allow one rejection (or two or three) or one person's opinion or (or two or three) affect us? To question our calling, our worth, our ability and desire to pursue our dreams? It's so easy to do, though, isn't it? If we're not totally sold on the truth that God has good plans for our lives, plans we can't even imagine, it's easy to think if the world rejects us and our God-given gifts, well then, what good are we, anyway? It's easier to give up sometimes than to keep facing the rejections, the nos, the you're-not-good-enough-to-go-to-Hollywood whispers.

Because we all hear them. We each hear the whispers whether we're trying out for American Idol or applying for that new job. Whether we're submitting our creative work into a contest or putting together a book proposal to send to a publishing house. Whether we're getting up enough nerve to try something new or mustering up enough confidence to attend a social gathering on our own. We hear the whispers of "you're not good enough." "You don't have what it takes." "Why not give up and not face another rejection?" "This is not your time. No time will be your time."

If you think you're the only one who hears such whispers, allow me to tell you, you aren't. I hear them, too. Each woman hears them. Believe it or not, but it's true. It's what we do with those whispers, however, that matter. Will we listen to them? Act on them? Will you allow them to control your destiny? Will I? Or we will allow God, the One who knows us better than we know ourselves, the One in Whom we find our true worth, the One who has good plans for our lives be in control of our destinies, instead?

Because He's the One who's really in control.

If Lauren would have walked away from music at that point, ponder for a moment what we would have missed out on. What this world would have missed out on. What Lauren would have missed out on. But because she didn't. we are able to enjoy her music. The world gets to hear God's Good News through it. And He is glorified.

And look at how God has blessed Lauren! She's won two Grammy Awards, seven GMA Dove Awards, five Billboard Music Awards, and has had four number one singles!

Even though she didn't get her singing start on the show, through a number of smaller recordings and opportunities for supporting vocals, she was signed to a record label in 2013. The year after she was cut from the first round of American Idol. And here she was eleven years later, singing on that very show, supporting a brand-new artist on Sunday evening.

God's plans for our lives are so good, aren't they?

He's the One who controls your destiny and mine.

Your destiny isn't left up to chance or to luck or to yourself. Aren't you glad the pressure is off?? Yet, others will tell you they control their destiny. But do they? Some of us have let others control our destinies so far, but we're still here. So, we can change that. God is the One who truly controls your destiny and mine.

But don't take my word for it. God says it better than me.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

The Lord will work out his plans for my life— for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me. Psalm 138:8 NLT

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 ESV

Aren't these verses great to remind us in whose hands our destinies rest?

Lauren's Daigle's destiny, yours, and mine.

And if we've given that control to anyone else besides God, including ourselves, let's do something about that today. Will you pray with me?

Father God, You are so good to us. You are faithful, Your ways and Your thoughts are above ours, and You are in control over all things. Including every aspect of our lives, and even our destinies. Nothing is beyond your grasp or beyond your ability to handle. So, we lay everything at Your feet today. We trust You with our lives, our futures, our hopes, and our dreams. We ask that You align them with Yours for us. If we've given that control to anyone else, we are so sorry. Lord, we ask You to help us, to guide us, to show us Your way for us to walk. Please give us Your wisdom as we walk with You daily. We love You and give you all glory today. Amen.

Friend, may Lauren Daigle's story inspire us all to not let anyone else but God control our destinies or futures or lives. As I say often, "He's got good plans for our lives." Let's see where He takes us, friend. And if you found encouragement or hope in this episode, would you please rate and/or review it so others can find this encouragement too?

We're in good hands, friend. God bless you!

[Lauren Daigle](#)

[Jeremiah 29:11](#) NIV

[Psalm 138:8](#) NLT

[Romans 8:28](#) ESV

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