

# LAUNCH YOUR LIFE

Creating a Life in Service of God

# **ACTION PLANNER**

Thank you for choosing to purchase the Launch Your Life Action Planner. We deeply believe that God has great plans for your life. We also deeply believe in the power of intentional living.

As you step back and consider where you have been, take stock of what you are currently doing, and make plans for your future, God will open doors for you and will show you His purpose and plans for your life. The following journaling prompts, templates, and suggested work will help you dream, see how God has prepared you, and focus your energies. The book and Action Planner also offer practical suggestions to resume writing, interviewing, and starting your career. This kind of work takes time and space. We also believe it can be helpful to share progress with a trusted friend, advisor, or mentor along the journey. Self-reflection, dreaming, and planning require putting it down on paper, meditating on it, and then picking it back up. We recommend actively working on it over some time.

You only have one life to live. Our desire for you is to live that life dreaming and living the purpose that God has for you. Have fun.

### I-P-A: What is That?

*What one does is what counts, not what one had the intention of doing.* – Pablo Picasso<sup>1</sup>

Picasso was right. Without planning, intentions are just passing thoughts. Further, without the action, intentions and planning remain much-deliberated dreams. If you want to Launch Your Life, you need all three: Intention, Planning, and Action—or, *I-P-A*. If you are legal to drink and enjoy an occasional beer, you may be familiar with those three letters: I-P-A. But our I-P-A, *this I-P-A*—Intention, Planning, and Action—will provide you with many more life opportunities and benefits than an India Pale Ale.

While writing this book, we found several thoughts that touched our hearts in ways that challenged us in faith, action, and character. In the same way, we expect that you will find opportunities for growth in your character, spirituality, or life in

general. Keep the thought of *I-P-A* at the forefront of your mind. Do you want to find a new college major or a new job? *I-P-A*. Would you like to enhance your career development or consider additional education? *I-P-A*. Have a desire to learn more about God's Word? *I-P-A*. Do you want to grow closer to God or a friend? *I-P-A*. Have other goals? *I-P-A*.

The Launch Your Life Action Planner will help you directly with the I and the P, and we hope it will inspire you on the A, but the follow-through is ultimately up to you. Heed Picasso's words as you read. We want you to hear the call to faithfully move forward in life and feel empowered to do so. Imprint *I-P-A* on your heart, engrain it in your mind, and make it part of your soul. And where one door shuts, keep moving forward and look for another that opens.

If "plan A" in your action plan doesn't go as hoped, remember there are twenty-five more letters in the alphabet—and more than three thousand characters if you're in China! This book is not about your future. It is *for* your future. So, let's make it count.

**Journal** – What is your intention with this Action Planner? Why did you purchase this book?



## PART I – It's Starts With God

### Chapter One

#### DARE TO SOAR

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding not one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and you men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40: 28-31*

This Isaiah passage is a favorite of many faithful men and

women today. It's a Scripture that speaks of God's eternal presence and His unwavering power, and it carries a grace-filled promise for us. These are inspirational words about dreaming in Him. They also call us to go to God, to lean on Him, and to allow Him to change us into people who impact the world. We have hope as we pursue God, and specifically, hope to dream. In fact, because of Christ, we should be less afraid to dream. We should expect Him to use us and we should desire for Him to do things with our lives that only He can do.

It's easy to read about the dreams of others, to simply find a good story or an interesting read. We can sing songs about dreaming or listen to Dr. King speak his majestic words in the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. But it's an entirely different matter to make things personal and go beyond being a dream spectator to participating in *your own* intentional work of realizing a dream.

God wants us to make things personal. He believes in us and wants us to dream. There is no more enduring inspiration than a dream that comes from God. The passage in Isaiah 40 that we first read is about dreaming. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength"; "they will soar on wings like eagles"; "they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." These are all inspirational words about dreaming. They inspire us

to strive to make possible what we think is impossible. The challenge is to open our eyes to things not seen. They are God's words that give us hope of an extraordinary future and endless possibilities. But victorious dreaming takes passionate effort on our part. We need focused ambition and the ability to make deliberate decisions to realize a great dream.

As you launch into the early part of adulthood or the next stage of your life, think about your future. Where can God take you and what impact can you make that can only come from you? Where will you be in one year? Five years? Because there are so many variables in life, it is difficult to think about time much further than five years into the future. So for this work, we advise you to focus on dreaming in the one-to-five year horizon. The important thing is to realize that it begins with you. No one else can dream for you. For sure, you may have a loving parent, a close sibling, a friend, or a spouse who has high hopes for your future. And yet even if the whole world has high expectations for your life, your future comes down to you and your thoughts and choices for your life.

**Journal** – Make a list of dreams for the next 1-5 years. What are your dreams



- Professionally?
  
- Spiritually?
  
- Scholastically?
  
- Relationally?

The Wright Brothers were dreamers who lived by intention. Other visionary people had the same dream: to fly a controlled machine that could carry a man or woman. Four hundred years ahead of the Wrights, Leonardo Da Vinci created machine designs in hopes of flying, but he never saw success. In the years leading

up to the notable day of the first successful flight in Kitty Hawk—December 17, 1903—there were others who made attempts to fly. In most cases, however, their efforts came crashing to the ground—often literally, sometimes ending their lives.

What was the difference? Why did the Wright siblings attain success where many others failed? Was their dreaming that much better? There are several reasons why fortune fell their way, but mostly it can be credited to their study of birds, their tenacity, and their application of bird flight to their flying machine. Despite the Wright brothers not being a story of faith that we read in God's Word, there are numerous principles we can take to heart. We know it took much study and preparation, as well as perseverance, to overcome the unknowns and failures. Before their time in Kitty Hawk, the brothers spent months reading and studying about birds. They would sketch and make numerous diagrams. This study informed experiments and prototypes to figure it out.

Beyond that, it took a bold non-traditional vision for them to move forward. There were no books to study on flying machines or airplanes, no information on the mechanics of wings or the

effects of air pressure on an aircraft. The brothers were envisioning what no one else could. The Kitty Hawk locals enjoyed those same birds for many years, but only for entertainment. The Wrights saw a vision. They observed the birds with a desire to learn and create something that would leave an impact on this world. They dared to act on that dream. This vision led to deliberate efforts in each of their roles to make plans, communicate, and work efficiently. The brothers were willing to face the dangers, the difficulties, and the rough days. They also determined to keep after their goals and dreams when failure struck. They worked long hours crafting each part for the plane, and when those failed, they made new ones. They continued to persevere—more and more toward that splendid day when they would make their first flight.

**Journal** –

- In what ways are you willing or demonstrating an ability to face the challenges, the difficulties, and the rough days?

- What are the setbacks that you find create the most trouble for you in being able to move forward, with action and intention, toward your dreams? Why are they so difficult?

Because the phrase “dreaming for God” can be a bit vague, especially with what seems like a long future ahead, it’s important to discuss *productive* dreaming and how it should show up in day-to-day living. The truth is that dreaming should touch every area of your life, and dreams should drive your day-to-day spirit and what you choose to do. We want you to recognize the gifts you have received from God, including your talents, experiences, and spiritual gifts and give them entirely to Him for His use. This surrendering to God should inform your college choice, your employment, your relationships, and more.

If you love God, you should dream that He uses your life in a