

THE

SPRING 2015

CONNECTION

*Guidance Beyond
Graduation*



2015 FLY CONVENTION

[IDENTITY]

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

June 29—July 4

Estes Park, CO

[Registration Available Online]

[Regular Registration Deadline March 27th]

[Online Registration open until May 29]





Guidance Beyond Graduation



By Pastor Jason Holt

GUIDANCE BEYOND GRADUATION

Tim is 18 years old. He loves Jesus and is grateful for his parents (most of the time). Tim understands that he has some big decisions in front of him over the next set of years – college, career, church, and relationships.

Tim prays for the Lord's guidance and reads the Bible, but he still finds himself very uneasy over any decision. In his bedroom late at night, he exclaims a muffled question into his pillow, *"Lord, how I am supposed to know what you want me to do?!"*

A Common Question

This moment is not unusual. It can be difficult for a teen to discern God's direction for "big" decisions with many influences involved. Please know that you are not alone. It is also important to realize that you are not in a cosmic game show where God is the smiling host waiting to see if you will pick the right door. Let's look at what the Lord says about this area.

Uncommon Guidance

Scripture gives us significant direction here. Hezekiah 3:16 does not say, *"You shall go to the most economic academic institution within two hours of your home."* (BTW, there is no book of Hezekiah.)

What the Bible does point to is the approach, the attitude, and the Author of life that we can trust with our decisions.

Proverbs 18:10 – "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe."

Notice the approach that sees that Jesus is the Protector and takes the step to entrust the decision into His hands. Many times we are facing many "good" options and need the "best". Yes, we can weigh all the factors, but ultimately, the decision comes down to trusting the Lord with it. He is faithful. You can find safety in your decision with Him.

Proverbs 19:20 – "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future."

The attitude that a person takes with this decision says much about the person. A youth that seeks parents, pastor, youth leaders, and other caring, believing adults finds insights that he did not have. No matter the age all of us have blind spots within a decision. *"What really is my motivation here?"* This note can be

better examined together than alone.

Proverbs 20:30 – "No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord."

It is also transformational to remember the character of God in this decision. Is the Lord gracious? Is He powerful? Is He active in my life? Yes, yes, yes! Therefore, a teenager that seeks Him in God's Word, in prayer, and in godly counsel can come to a conclusion with confidence that God will guide in it and from that point forward.

A Challenge Faced

It is definitely possible for a Christian teen (or adult) to ignore these areas and skate around the decision. The result may have tough consequences. Instead, a decision that comes through an honest look at who God is and how He is leading can be done with confidence. What I suspect can be difficult in facing the challenge is that a God-honoring decision often still has tough steps to face. The road following Jesus is not easy, but it is always worth it.

Uncommon Comfort

As a pastor and a father, I am learning more and more that I find the peace that passes all understanding as I lean on Jesus in my decisions. You may evaluate it is needed in the "big" decisions, but I am learning that Christ invites me to look to Him in all my decisions.

By His Grace,

Jason

Pastor Jason Holt

Director of Youth Ministries



Center for Parent/Youth Understanding (CPYU)
Initiative

Our friends at CPYU know what a big transition the young adult years can bring, so they launched CTI - www.collegetransitioninitiative.com. CTI connects young adults and resources to navigate these decisions with an emphasis on the centrality of one's faith in Jesus Christ.



FLY Convention Spotlight

By Jordan Rumohr

Who am I? What am I here for? What is my purpose? What is the point of any of this?

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions? Have you wondered who you even are?

The world around us tries to push us into different molds everywhere we go. At school we're supposed to be a straight A students. At home we're supposed to be good kids, good brothers and sisters. We're supposed to be athletic, good looking, thin, funny, smart, deep, important, witty, likeable, nice. But none of us are all of these. We simply don't measure up to what the world around us wants us to be. And we never will.

We are children of God. Yes, we've heard it before, but let the truth of it sink in. In Jesus Christ, you are a child of God. And He chose you. He wasn't pressured into it, and He doesn't do it grudgingly. No, in love, He chose you to be His child. He didn't ask you to be perfect, or popular, or funny, or cute. He chose you simply because He loves you.

This is where we can find our true Identity, as children of a loving God. What a great promise, and a great place of rest for our souls.

[IDENTITY]

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

So what are we supposed to do with all of this pressure heaped on us? The answer may be simpler than you think: take it to Jesus. Who does He say that we are?

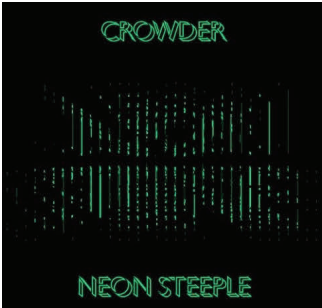
"He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will." (Ephesians 1:4-5)

Identity is the theme for FLY 2015. Adoption, being children of God, is only one facet of our Identity that we will look at together during this exciting week. We invite you to Estes Park, CO this summer to look at it with us. We'll see you there!

Jordan is from Buffalo, MN
and is the Treasurer for the
2015 FLY Committee



Media Minute



MUSIC: Crowder—Neon Steeple

David Crowder always has had a distinctive voice.

When his band “David Crowder Band” went different directions

(a segment to form Digital Age and David himself to go solo), I wondered what sound the eclectic singer would pursue on his own. Would it be reflective or energetic? Would it be blues or bluegrass? To date, the answer is mostly “yes.”

Crowder (as a solo act he has only gone by the last name to stay distinct from the previous band title) has not disappointed. Ranging the sounds that past fans are used to the tones new fans can appreciate, he hits the mark. His work appears to want to dig beneath the surface and allow God’s promises to shine on the struggles of this world.

His sometimes haunting, searching tone fits perfectly like on the single “Come As You Are”, which is an invitation song to the broken, burdened, and hurt to come to the throne of God’s grace.

Other times his voice extends a sense of hope in Jesus as on “I Am”. This song weaves together the personal response (“*This is my resurrection song*”) to the Savior’s perspective (“*I Am holding on to you*”). “Neon Steeple is a collection of songs and sounds looking forward to the past and counting the present as sacred,” Crowder comments on his website. “It is a longing for belonging, a search for home.”

His voice as found a home inviting listeners to consider a believer’s true home.

[For a lyric video of “Come As You Are”](#)

[For a lyric video of “I Am”](#)

[For more on Crowder music](#)

FROM THE CREATORS OF “GOD’S NOT DEAD”



MOVIE: Do You Believe?

From the creators of “God’s Not Dead” comes “Do You Believe?” This movie has been released in the United States and Canada on March 20. I was able to read quite a bit about the film, but I admit up front that I have not seen it yet.

The goal of the movie appears to be to take the next step after “God’s Not Dead”, but with a different crowd. From tough family dynamics to a street struggle to a workplace challenge, the characters encounter a wide range of ways to wrestle with the place of faith in their lives. The intersection is a local pastor calling the congregation to live out their faith in action.

confusion, which I invite the reader to watch for when viewing it, but the initial summaries appear to call believers to a life defined by faith in a James 2 manner and call those outside of the faith to consider Christ’s cross. The trailer indicates key point that brings them all together at the local church.

The other noteworthy piece about the film is the list of notables in the cast. Sean Austin (The Lord of the Rings films), Mira Sorvino (Academy Award winner), Lee Majors (Six Million Dollar Man...ok, ask adults about that one), Alexa Vega (Spy Kids series), and many other recognizable faces deliver the storytelling.

If you enjoyed “God’s Not Dead”, I anticipate that you will be engaged by “Do You Believe?”

A question may arise about “works-righteousness”

[For the trailer or more about the movie](#)