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The Path

4. Eleven False Assumptions About Missions

Before you can write a mission statement, you have to clear away eleven wrong beliefs that trip people up. The chapter names each false assumption and corrects it, arguing that your mission is always bigger than your job, role, or to-do list, and that everyone has one worth finding.

Key takeaways

- Your job is not your mission. Jobs change (four careers in a lifetime is now normal). Tie your identity to a job and you lose yourself when it ends.
- Your role is not your mission either. Being a wife, mother, or caretaker can end through death or divorce; the 'empty nest' crisis comes from making a role your whole identity.
- Your to-do list is not your mission. To-dos are usually urgent but not important. Leave them behind when you dream big.
- You are probably already living your mission at some level — the goal is deeper awareness, not relocation. It can start right where you stand.

- You are important enough, and your mission does not need to be grand. Small acts ripple outward; parenting, teaching, and healing are among the most important missions there are.
- A true mission fits — it should not crush you or feel borrowed from someone else. Beware missions imposed by others, by your peers' expectations, or by where you happen to live.
- Don't settle for a career that merely parallels your real dream. Go for the real thing directly.
- Life is not random and you are not an accident. God knew and planned you before birth.

Passages worth keeping

“The job you have is only the brick in your hand—it is not or should not be your only choice for landscaping.”

The book's core image: don't mistake one task for your whole calling.

“Beware of taking on missions that fit someone else's needs—but not your particular interests or gifts.”

Sums up several assumptions — a real mission is a willing fit, not an externally imposed burden.

How it connects

The whole chapter builds toward Psalm 139: if God formed and scheduled your days before you were born, then finding your mission is uncovering what He already placed in you, not manufacturing importance from scratch.

Scripture referenced

- **Exodus 3:5** -- 'Holy ground' — your mission can begin right where you already are.
- **Matthew 11:29-30** -- 'My yoke is easy' — a God-given mission fits perfectly, not one full of suffering.
- **Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24** -- Closing meditation: God knew and planned each of us before birth — no life is an accident.