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The Path

6. Who Are You? — Discovering Your Gifts and Calling

This chapter helps you figure out who you really are and what you're meant to do. It works through four ideas: the family influences that shaped you, the power of encouraging words, finding what makes you unique, and recognizing the gifts that come so naturally you overlook them.

Key takeaways

- We are shaped not just by our DNA but by 'Past Personality Influences' — what our relatives wanted us to be. The job is to sort which expectations fit the real you and which don't.
- We often try to live out our parents' 'unlived lives' — their abandoned dreams. Jung: nothing affects a child like a parent's unlived life. Maggie's story shows a buried dream (the ranch, horses) resurfacing decades later.
- Positive prophecy is powerful: an encouraging word someone spoke over you — even a stranger — can become a key to your destiny if you choose to believe it. Even a negative prediction can become fuel.

- Find your USP (Unique Selling Point). There has never been anyone like you. A good place to look is childhood — what came easily and delighted you often points to your calling.
- Your true gifts feel so natural you dismiss them. Ben Ortega (woodcarving) and Wally Amos (cookies) found their path simply by sharing what came easily. Success came from giving the gift away.
- We're responsible to use and multiply our gifts — and to expect fair pay for them. Value yourself properly, because you get what you settle for.

Passages worth keeping

“Nothing affects the environment of a child so much as the unlived life of a parent.”

Jung — why we absorb our parents' abandoned dreams.

“For the person who uses well what he is given shall be given more... but from the man who is unfaithful, even what little talent he has shall be taken from him.”

The core warning: use your gifts or lose them.

How it connects

The chapter ties self-discovery to stewardship: recognizing your gifts isn't self-indulgence but a spiritual duty, since Scripture holds you responsible for developing and using what God gave you.

Scripture referenced

- **Matthew 25:29** -- Parable of the talents — multiply your gifts or lose them
- **Matthew 20:1-13** -- Workers in the vineyard — God's generosity, and we get what we settle for
- **Matthew 18:3** -- 'Unless you become like a little child' — return to childhood clues about your path