RIGHT PEOPLE
RIGHT PLACE

RIGHT PLAN

DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

JENTEZEEN FRANKLIN
What will I do with my life?
Do I take this job?
Should I invest money in this opportunity?
Whom should I marry?
What does God have to say about it all?

God has bestowed an incredible gift in the heart of every believer. He has given you an internal compass to help guide your life, your family, your children, your finances, and much more. Jentezen Franklin reveals how, through the Holy Spirit, you can tap into the heart and mind of the Almighty.

By understanding and developing your spiritual discernment, you will:

Learn to trust those divine "nudges"
Separate God’s voice from all other voices in your life
Safeguard your marriage
Know what that inner, uneasy feeling means
Choose the right people for your life
Become a better parent
Learn how to deal with an unbelieving spouse
Grow to fulfill your God-given destiny

Tap into your supernatural gift of spiritual discernment and you will better be able to fulfill your purpose as a child of God.
“As a leader, there are few topics more difficult to navigate than that of discernment. And trying to teach others about it is even more harrowing. But in his book, *Right People, Right Place, Right Plan*, Jentezen Franklin has unveiled the key that unlocks this perplexing subject. Whether you are a leader in the church, business world, education, or home, this book will give you the real-life knowledge you need to hear the voice of God and make the most of your full potential in every situation you face.”

—*Ed Young*

*Senior Pastor, Fellowship Church*

*Author of Outrageous, Contagious Joy*

“Jentezen Franklin reveals the strategic influence wise and discerning men and women can have in the lives of those around them. Allow *Right People, Right Place, Right Plan* to alter your perspective and speak to your heart.”

—*Joyce Meyer*

*Best-selling author and Bible teacher*

“*Right People, Right Place, Right Plan* is a powerful, new, revelatory work! Pastor Jentezen Franklin has tapped into the God-given, Spirit-driven wisdom that is able to protect, guide, and mold believers into God’s greatest vessels in their homes, businesses, and ministries. This is a must-read for all men and women who are seeking a deeper understanding of themselves and their power as children of God!”

—*Paula White*

*Founder and co-pastor*

*Without Walls International Church*
“Jentezen Franklin, in this exciting and life-changing book, reveals how men and women of discernment forever change the lives of people in their circles of influence. If you read one book this year, make it Right People, Right Place, Right Plan.”

—John Hagee
Best-selling author
Senior Pastor, Cornerstone Church, San Antonio, Texas
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JEN TEZEN
FRANKLIN

WHITAKER HOUSE
DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the six darlings in my life: my wife, Cherise, without whom I would be nothing; my four daughters, Courteney, Caressa, Caroline, and Connar; and my son, Drake.

May the lessons in this book be a part of the spiritual legacy I leave behind for all of you.
APPRECIATIONS

A special thanks to three of the greatest men of God I have ever been privileged to know: Tommy Tenney, T.F. Tenney, and Steve Munsey. Their mentorship in my life has been profound.

To my congregation at Free Chapel, which has loved, supported, and believed in me for almost two decades, I want to express my sincerest gratitude.

Lastly, a special thanks to my television partners, who enable me to take the gospel around the globe.
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Part I

The Gift of Discernment
Chapter One

**YOUR INTERNAL COMPASS**

*Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.*

—Deuteronomy 8:3

In the middle of China, an ordinary person repeatedly drops a small shard of iron onto a leaf and watches as the leaf floats on the water. Inexplicably, the leaf spins around until it points in the same direction every time. Historians and archaeologists now believe that this is how the compass, the original navigational tool, was discovered—years before the Bible was ever written.

They had no concept of north and south—the alignment naturally sought by the metallic shard—and for millennia no one would discover why this solitary piece of metal behaved as it did. Yet, years later, the compass would be embraced by sailors and travelers needing the precise direction to lead them to their ultimate destination. Before the compass, these wanderers could only look around and set their course by the physical markings around them. They had no idea that there was an internal force—in this case, the earth’s magnetic field—that influenced that small piece of iron.
RIGHT PEOPLE, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT PLAN

Inside every believer, ordinary and extraordinary, there is a compass—an internal force—placed by God, waiting to be discovered and used for His glory. When you learn to utilize and trust this valuable resource, you will find that you can better navigate the stormy seas and cloudy skies of life.

Whom should I marry?
What will I do with my life?
Do I take this job?
Should I invest my money in this opportunity?

Life, it seems, is a never-ending cycle of decisions that can alter the entire direction of our destinies. How freeing it would be if we had access to an internal compass that would fix the direction of our lives to true north. Without it, we are left to look around and set our course by the markings of our physical world—our emotions and hunches, and the voices of those who would want to influence our journey.

What if we could learn to rely on the compass set in place by our Creator? What if we could discern the voice of God in our lives? God desires to speak into your life, if only you would learn to recognize His voice. By the power of His Holy Spirit, He has given you all you need to set a course for your life that will lead you to the right people, the right places, and the right plan in order to achieve His perfect will for your life.

THE VOICE OF GOD

In Genesis, God said, “Let there be,” and there was! The heavens, the earth, the land, and the seas were all spoken into existence by the voice of God. Then we read: “God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26). Thus, man was made in the image of God, who then put
His life within man. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). As the image of God, man was different from the rest of creation, for he was a self-determining being. Man had a voice in how his life would turn out. He was created in the likeness of God.

Man demonstrated this immediately as he began to name the animals. Just like his Creator, man could also talk and call things by a name. Man was not a god himself, but he could speak like God, and Godlike force was in his voice because God had “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” God breathed His voice into Adam.

But Adam and Eve were not alone in the garden. Satan slithered in and immediately went to work driving a wedge to separate man and woman from the voice of God. Notice his approach: “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said?’” (Genesis 3:1). Satan knew that if he was going to defeat the human race, he had to separate man from the voice of God. You know the rest of the story. Satan said, “In the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5). Does anything strike you as strange there? How about the fact that they were already like God! They had been created in the likeness of God.

Here we get a sneak peek into the strategy of the enemy in your life: he will do whatever he can to get you to listen to his voice instead of the voice of God. He would like nothing better than to suggest the direction of your life. He will tell you that you have to be someone else—someone other than who God wants you to be. Why else would he suggest to Eve that she could “be like God,” implying that Eve was not already made in
the likeness of God? Perhaps that is why so many people spend their whole lives trying to impress others by being something that they are not. Their lives are racked with frustration and regret. They don’t understand that God made them in His image. You don’t have to be somebody you are not—you are already what He wants.

After the fall, God came walking through the garden in the cool of the day. What did Adam and Eve do? They hid from the voice of God. From that moment on, the Old Testament becomes a chronicle of mankind’s love/hate relationship with the voice of God.

In Exodus, God spoke with Moses through a burning bush and, later, dictated the Ten Commandments complete with flashes of lightning and smoke. Scripture says the people trembled and told Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die” (Exodus 20:19). Look at how well Satan’s plan was working. Man went from speaking with God in the garden to being afraid of His voice. Satan had so perverted man’s relationship with God that they thought the very sound of His voice would kill them. Today, Satan’s plan is no different. He will convince you that if you listen to God it will kill your relationships, your career, and your fun. He will tell you that the Word of God will take life from you.

Eventually, things got so bad that God said, in effect, “Okay, you don’t want to hear My voice anymore? You don’t want Me to speak to you? Fine. I’m done.” With that, His Word stopped. Scripture ceased—bringing an abrupt end to the Old Testament.
And for four hundred years, the voice of God went silent.

Eventually, that silence was broken by “the voice of one crying in the wilderness” (Matthew 3:3). The book of John leaves no doubt that God was ready to speak again: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1, 14). God had broken the silence, and now His voice had skin and bones.

When Jesus started His ministry by being baptized in the Jordan River, it was God’s voice that confirmed Jesus as His Son: “And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:17).

Can’t you just imagine the demons trembling? The voice that was in the garden, the voice that walked “in the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8), that voice was back on the planet speaking into the lives of His beloved creation. The Word of God was back to display its power. Jesus spoke to a storm and it stopped. Jesus spoke to Lazarus and he walked out of a grave. Jesus spoke to a fig tree and it withered. When His followers expressed amazement at the demise of the tree, Jesus informed them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done” (Matthew 21:21).

It was official. Not only was God’s voice active again, but it was also free to work within and through the lives of those who called upon Him. God was not finished working through the lives of His people. In fact, He was just getting started.

**God’s Voice in Your Life**

How can you discover that special, internal direction that
RIGHT PEOPLE, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT PLAN

God uniquely gave to you? What is God’s plan for your life? Many women today can feel anything but special as they try to fulfill the everpresent demands of career, church, and family. They feel left out, stressed out, and frazzled. Most men today are confused as the world tries to feminize them, and then expects them to be “real men” by satisfying their every desire. They feel marginalized, emasculated, and under attack.

God sees you as extraordinary, and He desires to use you in extraordinary ways. He is searching for men and women who dare to believe they can make a difference. Today, the body of Christ (the church) must open up their spiritual ears to hear and recognize the voice of the Almighty. Could it be that God wants to use you as a key player in His kingdom in these last days?

I was six years old, taking a bath with my G.I. Joe action figures one Saturday night, when I began to sing Bill Gaither’s song, “The King Is Coming.” My mother, who was listening, entered the bathroom and said, “Jentezen, our church musicians are out of town tomorrow and your dad asked me to take care of the music. I have everything lined up but the special music for the offering. Will you sing that song tomorrow for the offering?”

She kept on pushing me, not taking no for an answer.

“I will if you pay me twenty dollars,” I finally said.

“It’s a deal!”

My mother read between the lines, sensing something about her son’s destiny through her spiritual discernment. Yet, neither one of us knew that singing that song the next day would launch me into my ministry.

Believe it or not, I still remember that day. Tears were flowing as the congregation was moved. The tender touch of God