THE JOURNEY [series]

PART 1: PREDETERMINED

[October 18, 2026]

Sermon Summary: In this opening message of a new series called "The Journey," Pastor Jerry explores the biblical concept of predestination and what it means for believers to walk in their God-given purpose. Drawing primarily from Romans 8:28-30, the message establishes that God has foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified every believer. Pastor emphasizes that human beings are triune beings made up of body, soul, and spirit, and that true spiritual activation occurs at salvation through the Holy Spirit. This activation is not merely a one-time event but an ongoing process that requires daily submission of the flesh to the Spirit of God.

Predestination is not automatic or unconditional in its outworking; rather, it is realized through obedience, cooperation, and active participation with the Holy Spirit. Pastor Jerry also addresses the internal war between the old and new natures that every believer faces, pointing to Paul's writings as evidence that this struggle is universal. Ultimately, the message calls believers to activate the Holy Spirit within them, align their body, soul, and spirit to the will of God, and pursue the specific purpose for which they were created before the foundation of the world.

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 8:28-30, which describes God foreknowing, predestining, calling, justifying, and glorifying believers
- Psalms 139:2-4, which speaks of God knowing every path, every action, and every word of a person before it is spoken
- Romans 8:16, which describes the Holy Spirit bearing witness with the believer's spirit that they are children of God
- Romans 8:7-8, which identifies the carnal mind as being at enmity with God and unable to please Him
- Romans 7:14-18, in which Paul describes the internal conflict between his desire to do right and his inability to carry it out in his own strength
- Galatians 5:16-17, which instructs believers to walk by the Spirit so as not to fulfill the desires of the flesh
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 and 6:19, which declare that the believer's spirit is one with God and that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 1:4-5 and 1:11, which affirm that believers were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and predestined according to God's purpose
- Philippians 4:13 as rendered in the Amplified Bible, affirming that a believer can do all things through Christ who infuses inner strength
- 2 Peter 1:4, which declares that believers receive precious promises so they may participate in the divine nature
- Romans 8:14, which states that those led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God
- Jeremiah 1:5, which illustrates God's predestination of Jeremiah as a prophet before his birth
- John 4, in which Jesus declares that God is spirit and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and truth

Key Points:

- God has predestined every believer for a specific purpose, foreknowing them before the foundation of the world, as stated in Romans 8:28-30 and Ephesians 1:4-5
- Human beings are triune beings composed of body, soul, and spirit, with the spirit being the eternal, innermost part of a person and the primary means of connecting to God
- True spiritual activation occurs at the moment of salvation, when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believer and brings the human spirit alive in a new and transformative way
- The soul houses the mind, will, and emotions, and it is through the soul that free will is exercised; God does not force anyone to serve or praise Him
- Every believer faces a daily internal conflict between two natures, the old sin nature inherited from Adam and the new nature received through salvation in Christ
- Whatever nature a believer feeds through their choices and habits is the nature that will grow and dominate their life
- Predestination is not automatic; it is realized only through obedience, cooperation, and active participation with the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit serves as the means by which God communicates assignments, direction, and revelation to believers, making spiritual attunement essential for knowing and fulfilling one's purpose
- The enemy frequently attacks believers by bringing up their past, but God has justified the believer, rendering them innocent, and buried their sins through the blood of Jesus
- The body of Christ functions most powerfully when believers push and encourage one another forward into their God-given destinies

QUOTES:

There is not one thing nor is there one episode that has ever occurred in our lives that God is not aware of.

Our decisions determine destinies. Our decisions determine outcomes. And our decisions determine release or they will produce confinement.

God looked out the corridors of time and he saw a need. And you were born to fulfill that need.

Sell out. Activate the spirit. Let the spirit lead you. Let the spirit show you. When he shows you what to do, do it.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon Series: "The Journey — Predetermined in Advance"

Day 1: You Were Known Before You Were Born

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 139:1-6

Devotional: Before you drew your first breath, God had already written your story. The psalmist declares that God knows your every movement, your every thought, even every word before it reaches your tongue. Jeremiah tried to disqualify himself with excuses about youth and inability, and many of us do the same. We rehearse our failures and whisper our limitations as though they carry more authority than God's declaration over our lives. They do not. God does not predestine you based on your resume. He predestines you based on his foreknowledge and his purpose. Stop disqualifying yourself with negative words. You were known. You were chosen. You were sent.

Reflection: What words have you been speaking over yourself that contradict what God has already declared?

Application: Write down one area where you have been speaking defeat. Replace it today with a declaration rooted in Scripture.

Day 2: The Activation of the Spirit

Reading: Romans 8:9-17; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

Devotional: Salvation is not merely a transaction — it is an activation. When you surrendered your life to Christ, something awakened on the inside of you that had never truly been alive before. Paul reminds us in Romans 8 that God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit, confirming that we belong to him. This is not a feeling manufactured by emotion. It is a divine confirmation, a spiritual proof of possession. Your body is now a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. That means the same power that raised Christ from the dead resides within you. The question is not whether the Spirit is present. The question is whether you are yielding to him daily.

Reflection: Are you living as though the Holy Spirit genuinely dwells within you, or are you functionally operating in your own strength?

Application: Set aside ten minutes today in silence. Ask the Holy Spirit to make his presence known and to speak to you about your next step of obedience.

Day 3: The Battle of Two Natures

Reading: Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Paul's transparency in Romans 7 is one of the most honest passages in all of Scripture. He confesses that he knows what is right, desires what is right, and yet finds himself pulled in the opposite direction. This is not a confession of defeat — it is a description of the war every believer faces daily. Two natures compete for dominance. Whatever you feed will grow stronger. Whatever you starve will grow weaker. The flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit craves what is contrary to the flesh. There is no neutral ground. Every choice you make today is feeding one and starving the other. Choose wisely, because what you feed today will dominate tomorrow.

Reflection: Which nature have you been feeding most consistently this week?

Application: Identify one habit or input in your daily life that is feeding your flesh rather than your spirit. Make one concrete decision today to redirect that energy toward spiritual nourishment.

Day 4: Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified

Reading: Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-12

Devotional: Romans 8:30 presents a golden chain of divine purpose that cannot be broken by your past, your failures, or your doubts. God foreknew you, predestined you, called you, justified you, and glorified you. Notice the tense — Paul writes it as though it is already accomplished. That is because in the mind of God, it is. He rendered you innocent. He buried your sin. He placed his glory upon you. When the enemy arrives at the door of your memory with a shovel, trying to dig up what God has already buried, you have the authority to refuse him entry. Your justification is not theoretical. It is settled. Walk in it. Live from it. Let it silence every accusation.

Reflection: Is there a past failure you have continued to carry that God has already declared forgiven and buried?

Application: Speak Romans 8:1 aloud over yourself today. Let the truth of no condemnation settle into the places where shame has taken root.

Day 5: Pursuing What You Were Predestined to Become

Reading: Philippians 3:12-14; Philippians 4:13; 2 Peter 1:3-10

Devotional: Predestination is not passive. It does not unfold automatically while you sit still. It requires vision, obedience, cooperation, and participation. God looked out across the corridors of time, saw a need in this generation, and created you specifically to meet it. No one else carries your assignment. No one else was built for your particular corner of the kingdom. Paul said he pressed on, forgetting what was behind and reaching forward to what lay ahead. The word pressed implies resistance. There will always be opposition when you move toward your God-given purpose. But the Holy Spirit is not pushing you toward something vague. He is pushing you toward something predetermined. Press on. The destination is already decided. Your obedience is what closes the distance.

Reflection: Do you have a clear sense of what God has called you to do in this season? If not, what might be standing between you and that clarity?

Application: Commit this week to one act of obedience you have been delaying. Purpose follows movement. Take the step, and trust the Spirit to confirm the path.

This reading plan is designed to be used in personal quiet time, small group discussion, or family devotions. Each day builds upon the last, tracing the full arc of God's predetermined purpose for every believer's life.