



## Gathering Tools for a BOWFIRE Life and Career

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You are completely unique, and gifted by God with talents and callings that came from the Father's heart and are meant to be an amazing inheritance for you now and a legacy forever for your family and the world.

When you give your life to the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ, suddenly those gifts and talents can come alive to you and to others, as life is breathed into them by the Holy Spirit. Becoming a believer means far more than accepting His work on the cross for your salvation, it means giving your life to Him to be a conduit for His love, learning how to allow Him to be Lord and King over all that you are.

Read Ephesians 3:14-19.

Don't separate your art, your music, your writing, and all your creative expressions from who you are, or think of them as something you possess.

Only when you are spiritually alive in Christ do you have the access to understand your identity and begin to find your true destiny. When you are filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit, you can begin to know the joy of expressing your gift in your relationship with the Lord. It becomes a mystery, a beautiful secret, a deep way of God communicating His love to you, and you experience how your gift is anointed to minister back to Him. That is something no one can ever take from you, a deeply personal gem just between you and God.

But with God, there is always MORE! He wants not only for you to have the joy of finding how precious and important you are to Him, but also to see

how to become a beautiful instrument in the hand of God, filling your life with the knowledge of Him, and conveying that to others through your gifts. Nothing can have a greater reward, not only in this life but in the ages to come.

The truth is, whatever you do with the gifts you have in expressing them to the world, they will have an effect, or carry some influence both to individuals and to the culture at large. What do you want that effect to be?"

**The purpose of Bowfire RISE (BF21) is to convey what it means to bring everything you are, including the gifts and callings God has given you, and allow them to be led, developed, used, and expanded for His glory and His Kingdom.**

Our gifts and callings become the kindling of a fire of God's great love to ignite the earth. Only you can light the bowfire of your own heart, which includes all of your gifts. Early Native Americans gave us a beautiful metaphorical illustration when they pioneered lighting a bowfire in the wilderness. (Check out the YouTube video on lighting a bowfire). They used the resources they had, followed careful instructions, had FAITH that their efforts would spark a fire, gained skill in crafting a bow drill, patiently used friction to create a spark, and learned how to nurture and transfer that spark to tinder, and finally to kindling to start a wonderful, blazing fire.

Bowfire Rise training is based upon the primitive fire-building metaphor, except that our bowfire includes **intercession**, or knowing how to speak and decree God's words and promises with relentless faith until we see the fire of God's presence in our lives and gifts. It also involves learning how to value and steward your artistic gifts, hear God's voice, and develop a servant's heart toward your community and world with integrity and without compromise, so that ultimately God is glorified and seen in what you do.

Bowfire Rise is a mission and a ministry, even though it is also a business. So, we are looking in every case for what God may want for YOU, for your life, not just to add students to our training courses, or make connections

that may bring revenue. Every aspect of Bowfire Rise training and interaction with those who participate is prayerfully considered. I want you to find the path of excellence in training and becoming an artist and creative that will work for you. Part of my hope, though, is that engaging in these mentorships will be a starting place for you to make the most important commitments of your life, and bring blessing and favor to all that you do in the future with your art, music, writing, or other creative endeavors.

Using Bowfire Rise as a launching place is a personal decision and commitment that comes by revelation from the Spirit. Bowfire Rise can be a conduit for you to consider what such a decision might mean for your life. You need to count the cost. Giving your life to Him as King over all that you are becomes a fight of faith, as you are battling the spirit of this age, a maze of compromise, corruption, and complacency. The great joy is that He provides all that you need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit becomes your empowerment in the fight!

The deception is that there is a “middle ground” in which you ask God to bless your work but keep the reins of your life in your own hands. Just remember that a “double-minded man” (or woman) is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). Many believers operate in this way, basically directing most of their own goals and actions, unaware that there is a far more powerful and fulfilling way to live in the destiny God has for them.

The talent or gift is yours, and you can do whatever you want with it. You set about finding ways to use your gifts to prosper financially and gain recognition, a market, and a following. Then whatever you produce and express will be completely your responsibility, and your view of success will be your own evaluation. The principle of sowing and reaping will be in place, and your earthly and eternal rewards will be based on how you navigate your own efforts and opinions and act accordingly. But it can be full of pitfalls and heartache trying to promote or even serve through art if it is in your own strength. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which comes by the Spirit is spirit” (Romans 8:1-8).

You may be ready to commit to the Lord, realizing your gifts are part of that commitment but feel led to pursue other avenues of training. I celebrate anyone finding the next steps in their journey with the Lord! Bowfire Rise can still be an encouragement and help for you

Bowfire Rise is just one starting place with a heart for creatives to encourage and provide resources for you to find other training, formal schooling, or ministries that may be a good fit for you, whether or not you take the Bowfire mentorships. Yes, starting with Bowfire Rise involves a choice and commitment, one that is between you and God, and one only you can make. If this is a good path for you, there will be confirmation in your own heart, and in others who pray and partner with you.

Explore the website and if you want to find out more, fill out the application for BF21, the initial mentorship, and I will pray with you about whether Bowfire Rise would be a good launching place for you. If you are unsure, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and give you a witness, a leading, or the next steps for your own life. Bowfire Rise is excited to hear from you no matter what, and bless you on your journey!

“Now to Him who is able to do FAR MORE abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever” Ephesians 3:20-21.