

## TRIUMPHANT LIVING

*“God’s Gift by Design”*

by **Thomas Hansz**

**October 25, 2013**

Prayer by Bishop John for Bruce. The Lord be With You. Brave Men: And Also With You.

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. We bring to You our Brother and leader, Bruce. We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit into his body to heal him. Help him get to the meeting that he needs to be attending, give him wisdom. We ask You to deal with not only his back, which is a perennial problem, Lord, as You know, but also this flu or whatever it is that he has. Restore him to health and bring him back to us and we will give You all the glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

If you look at the outline for today, I took a look at it and thought in the terms of design is it the plan, the purpose, the process, the product? That is the whole outline for design. So I really have not changed the outline that much, I’ve just changed the parts of Scripture that go under it. You can follow along or I have new copies up on the deck for you if you want see what Scripture we are going through.

But we are going to start off with 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:6, 7: “Let Light shine out of the darkness, is what God said, for God who said let light shine out of the darkness made his Light shine in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have these treasures in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us.” What is the treasure that we have inside of us? Christ. But the all surpassing knowledge of the glory of God, which is in Christ. When you actually stop and think about that, the knowledge of the glory of God, who else knows that. You cannot understand that, you cannot even think about it unless you have been born in the spiritual realm. You have been dead to your sins, born alive to Christ. So you then have the faith to understand it.

So when you think about this treasure....then I was thinking what is the treasure we have in terms of design? One is that we have this creation that God made. In Genesis it starts by saying that He made the world, He made everything. The first thing He actually creates beyond the world is light. You cannot have design without light. When you think about it, everything that is in the visual realm depends upon light, and that is what God has given us. So today, we are going to talk a little about design as God’s gift to us and how it applies to our life.

How many of you here are in the design business? Engineers, architects, graphic designers, software designers, program designers or anything if you actually stop and think about it the design is the creation of a plan for a higher goal or of a construction or a function that serves some higher purpose. So when you design something, it is just not to have it but it is to use it and you are always thinking in the future. That is one thing nice about design, it is not here and now but it is how it is going to serve in the future. When you think about it in our lives as Christians, isn’t that what our lives are? We’re given life by God **in** Christ to serve out His purpose for what time we have in front of us for the future and then for eternity—beyond the future.

These are some of the things I wanted to go through and be sure to ask questions because many people do not really understand what it takes to do a design—regardless of what function you are in. I get asked many times,

“Oh, so you’re an architect? Could you draw us up a building?” Yes, we just sit down and draw things and that’s it. But what I have on the wall is the work we do before we do the design.

This is an example of a church. In fact, actually some of you remember David Brannen who was the Associate Pastor over at St. Stevens. He and I were good friends and when I found out the new church that he started in Versailles, Kentucky had gotten some land, we went down and we did a program for how they would develop a church to fill up the site that they had been given. So, this is what happens before design and it goes in to all the things that we were talking about in this outline; there is a plan. What David is talking about is that St. Andrews Anglican Church is to be a focus for Anglican worship in Central Kentucky. It is something like a mission statement. This is the overall plan. They want to develop it as a seven-day ministry center. They are not building a church, but they are developing a center for a ministry that then will be a real focus in that area of Kentucky where they live.

That is the premise on which it begins. Then I sat down with David and his vestry and asked what are the objects? How are we going to accomplish this? Then that gets in to developing the plan. The most important part of any plan are the goals. What do you want to achieve? I’m not going to go over all this card by card; but the main idea in architecture: functions or what are the activities, form and how do you want it to look, how is it going to work in the fabric of the community, the economy or how are we going to spend your money, thoughts on energy and conservation, time, how long of a time-span. We are developing a long-range phasing plan for total site development. Along with their money, we can raise two million dollars or maybe two and one-half. But what we want to do is going to cost more than that. So we designed a system where they could take their long-range goals and bite it off bit by bit into two million dollar bites.

It is very important to understand the goals. If you are going to design a software program, you really want to understand what are the objectives that this plan is to develop? Or if you are going to design a bridge, what kind of traffic, what do you want it to support? So you always think before your start, what are the goals, what are the objectives? What we do in our business—I’m an architect—and what we do in our business is as soon as we get a contractor on board we review all this information with them also. Everybody is on board.

This treasure then is the idea of how to organize and how to get all the information put together so that you can accomplish a design that is according to God’s will and is pleasing to the people who are buying it, and is worthy of your service because many people say, “Well, design is...we don’t believe in rational design, we think design is emotional, design is whatever I want to do.” You see a lot of that but does that kind of thinking hold up in anyway in any other part of society? No.

If somebody can develop something and there are a great number of architects who just kind of say, “Well, this is what I want to do,” sometimes their clients go ahead and let them do it, but then the feedback is, “No one likes the building.” Or maybe it is stunning and won awards but you cannot get people to work in it because it is too cold, or it’s too hot in the summertime, or there is no relationship—people cannot interact with each other, and so forth. It is not what you feel, what you think, it is what you understand. Therefore, if we think about it, there is a strong rational basis to design. Where does that come from? It really comes from the world that God has created.

I am always amazed—I love hibiscus flowers and I have a hibiscus tree on my deck every summer. The hibiscus bud starts off with five leaves and those leaves open up and out comes a flower that has five petals, and

those five petals that have a stamen and pistil and that is broken down into five parts. This is very rational. There is a lot of mathematics in the design of this world.

There is something that has been known throughout history and ancient Greeks used it a lot and it is called The Golden Mean. And it was very popular in the late 1930's or 1940's with the French architect, le Corbusier. He called it "La Modular" but [UNCLEAR] The Golden Mean. You see it in renaissance architecture, you see a lot of thinking and it is the relationship of parts. This Golden Mean is a rational thing but it is also a very esthetic thing because how many people say, "Greek Temples, their ugly." There is a rational basis and I have to apologize because I did have a whole series of slides to show you and give you examples of all this but last night as I'm putting the final touches on the slides, my laptop froze and it is still frozen this morning.

All that you see in the world is a design by God and there is always mathematics behind it.

Yes, Don?

**DON:** *Tom, I like what you say only because I think we have to remember that Christianity is rational, we are to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. So often, we in the Church are that way too. We want to bypass the line and just go to what feels good or whatever. It has been said that the Church [UNCLEAR] several inches wide and several inches deep or something like that? So I liked what you had to say there.*

I think we forget about the rational side of faith. That is what I like when Bruce says, "Do you believe in God of Biblical revelation or the God of your imagination? You can imagine anything but Biblical revelation is truth and truth is based on facts...it is there...and a lot of it is rational.

Getting back to the Golden Mean and if you look at the human body, if you look at the height of a person from head to toe and then go to the navel and divide that person...the relationship of the distance from the navel down to the floor and from the navel to the head is according to the Golden Mean. And the navel happens to be the center of gravity of the body. So it makes sense...when you are the fetus and you are inside the mother—you are floating around this one point—and that is the center of gravity. And yet the relationship in your body is the same. The body breaks down in to parts like that.

Even the temple. God was very careful to lay down to Solomon on how the temple was to be laid out and gave him specific dimensions. Not just—"make it look good and very attractive so everyone will think we are cool." No. "This is the way I want it." There is meaning behind the numbers.

I like what God said to Moses before they had the temple and this is going back to Exodus 31:1-3. He is dealing with all the things that will have to be taken into account to build the tabernacle, the tent, not only the tabernacle but the curtains inside and all the fabrics, and then the vestments for the priests, and everything. God is talking to Moses and the Word says, "Then the Lord said to Moses, see I have chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God and with skill and ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts." He gives him skill, [UNCLEAR] says skill and understanding. So it is both the ability to do the design and then the understanding or thinking behind it. It is not just a whim.

So the skill of these people come from God and elsewhere they go in and He talks about all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs of work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. He has also appointed Oholiab of the tribe of Dan to help him and has given skill to all

the craftsman to “make everything that I have told you.” Now think about that. He has taken a bunch of slaves out of Egypt and who have been working in straw and mud making bricks for years and years and years, and then taking these guys through this huge trip across the Red Sea and into the wilderness and then gives them the skills that they could not even imagine having. But it is a gift from God, it is a treasure.

I think as we approach our work, we should look at the skills we were given to do our jobs as being gifts from the Almighty as well.

Yes?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I'm very interested that it says that he was still with the Spirit of God but that meant that he had ability, intelligence, knowledge and craftsmanship, devise artistic design [UNCLEAR]. We don't normally say when somebody is filled with the Spirit that they are given all these things. We do not put those two together....being filled with the Spirit is something else. It produces something else besides all these things...you don't usually think that it does...but it does and that's kind of interesting.*

That goes back to what my closing remarks are going to be. But let's just take a look at Phil. 4:8, 9. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praise worthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or have seen in me, put into practice and the God of peace be with you all.”

When you think about these things that Paul was telling the Philippians to focus on, those are not necessarily spiritual gifts but they are things of this world. How you serve. Honorable. You cannot argue against that but that should be our focus and God is very concerned about how we function in the world. He has given us jobs and our ministry is who we are where we are. So how are we bringing Christ into our jobs? How are we looking at whatever we do, whether it is the design process or whatever, how does that all go to serving the Creator and the Lord God Almighty? Sometimes we should sit back and think about that. We miss much of this in the Church today too. So often I get asked to get interviewed for a church and so many times the people are only concerned about getting the lowest price. That is not necessarily a stewardship. Stewardship is not getting the lowest price, it is the best price to serve whoever you are serving...the community, your church, or God. You have to look at things and think what is it all about; step back a minute and think about am I focusing on all these things?

Any questions so far, yes?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Bishop Stanley used to say, thinking of vestries: The first question is never “Can we afford it?” The first question is always, “What is God asking us to do?”*

There you go. Yes. Excellent point. We focus on and we are in this body of sin so we tend to think about things in our own terms and...wow...I've got to look good, I've got to perform well; instead of I've got to do what God wants me to do. That should be the first question we ask when we are confronted with an assignment. What is it that we are to accomplish?

Well, the purpose then is to go back to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7. All surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. So our purpose is to let God work through us because the treasure that He has given us, in spiritual terms is one thing but in functional terms is our talent that He has given to us. Our understanding, our ability to organize

and to think. We tend to always think that there is a separation between my spiritual activity and my worldly activity. I think a lot of that comes from misinterpretation of the “be separate” kind of thing. Be in the world but not of the world. You are in the world and you are to affect the world, you’re supposed to bring Christ to the world because we’re the gospel.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** *Yes, we are all ministers of reconciliation.*

Yes, there you go. You may think, what does that have to do with design? Design is just service. It has a lot to do with it. Regardless of what it is that you’re confronted with to design.

I wanted to take a look at Psalm 104. This is all praise to the God and Who He is and how great He is, but in verse 24 it says, “How many are Your works! O Lord, in wisdom You made them all; The earth is full of Your creation.” Again, it gets back to the rationality that in wisdom He formed us, not a whim. We read so much that God did this out of grace and for His pleasure; but it wasn’t a whim. There is solid rational reasoning and thinking and a purpose and a goal; and I think why did He create the world and the universe and everything in the first place? He has a plan and that plan breaks down to what you and I are going to do today and where we go from here. I can’t comprehend it. He is so magnificent, it is mind-boggling.

The other thing is Gabriel is talking to Daniel in Daniel 9:22. “Daniel said, He has instructed me and said to me, Daniel I have now come to give you insight and understanding.” Again, this is the way God works and even back in the Exodus era when all these people are working on the temple it shows that God gave even women who were weaving the cloth the skill to do that weaving. To do it according to what He saw was pleasing and right. So it is not a few people that He gives skills to, but it is to everybody, whether you are a worker, a leader, a craftsman, it doesn’t matter.

The other thing in terms of the process is as we collect ideas, we go back and ask what do we know as facts? What is the background information? This is all the information we have about what kind of church function they want—they did a survey among their people, and what is the climate of the area, what are the site requirements, how does the site look and so forth. We get all the basic background information before we start to look at ideas.

These are none of our ideas but all these ideas came from the members of the church that were asked to sit down and talk to us, such as the vestry, women’s guild, the school teachers, the maintenance people. We talk to everybody and then we organize all their thoughts according to areas like flow of people, support spaces to support the main worship and so forth. What is interesting in all this and we forget about this part so much, this is all in anticipation of what they are going to do.

I remember when I was in school and I was very fortunate to be in an exceptional postgraduate program and we had the world’s leading architect come to visit us. Louis Kahn was going to spend a week with us. That just was unbelievable, mind-boggling. Each one of us had to prepare a presentation for him during the time he was with us and this one classmate of mine, Harry, had been working on an elementary school. Just working day and night to do this new design of an elementary school and when he was reviewing it with Louis Kahn, Louis said, “This is terrible.” {LAUGHTER} Well, you just don’t go to a school like this and fail, this is the last thing you want to do, especially in front of the greatest living architect. He said, “You fail because look at the table and chairs.” Everything was low so all the kids when they would come in to the classroom would sit down and they were accommodated. Kahn says, “You’ve missed the idea of **who** they are. There is no

anticipation for them as they go to school. They have everything they need. A child needs to anticipate becoming an adult.” Well, that’s a new idea. We don’t see that very often.

But in the design process you have to be thinking about that. Where is this going? And can you imagine the child being in a chair that he knows...like he sits in his grandfather’s easy chair. Because he is thinking that some day he is going to be there. Some day, looking in the future. What has God given to us as Christians? Anticipation. Some day Bruce is not going to be in pain. Some day, we are not going to be putting up with snow and rain and all this stuff. Some day we’re going to be doing things that we cannot imagine. It is this anticipation that He puts into our hearts that we just don’t slug through life but we look at what we are doing as a purpose. Because some day He’s coming back. Some day we are going to see the finish. The victory is won, the battle is over but we will see it play out. Anticipation in design is extremely important.

One of the slides I had was one of the Hoover Dam and there are a lot of this kind of knowledge in that but also there is much anticipation on the Hoover Dam when it was built. Who were the people to whom power would be provided by the Hoover Dam? Who were the people? How is it going to change the southwest part of the United States and the economy? Whatever you’re doing in a design role is to look forward. It is not a problem to solve here and now and then move on to the next thing. It is a solution to provide what is going to go in to the future.

I always thought that was amazing and when I think about that anticipation comment by Louis Kahn all the time because he really got down to the core of it. To think about getting that kind of education while you are still in your twenties...not a bad way to get steered through life.

These are concepts that are [UNCLEAR] because it is their church it is not mine. We do this whether it is for a [UNCLEAR] technology center or a church, or an office building, etc. We identify all spaces that are going to be required to fill this part of the program. So this gets down to the quantity and too many times, if you have ever worked with an architect or an engineer, they will always just refer to this as the program—how many square feet do we need. This says how those square feet are organized, how they are arranged, and what actually happens to them. For this project we developed a budget, which is broken down according to the goals they have of being able to take things in two and one-half million dollar bites. Just the worship facility alone is two million one, and then the fellowship hall is two million, their education spaces were 1 million six, and so forth. We show them here is how you work in current prices to accomplish what you need. Again, you think how many times have you been in a building campaign and it is over-budget? It is so easy.

It is completing the process that is important that those projects never did. They never sat down and did an adequate budget before they started; they just get a price and that price might be separate from their goals. I have had companies call me up and say, “Well, we want you to do this building for so much.” I say, “OK, what is it based on?” “Our CFO has determined that we have this much money that we can spend on a facility.” And I’ll say, “OK, what is going into that.” And they say, “Oh no, that is what you are going to figure out.” They have a budget and they have needs but do they match? A lot of times they don’t. But before you do any design, before you make any drawings, you can figure out how much it’s going to cost.

Then the other half of it is once you figure it out, then manage the design process to that. All of a sudden if the plumbing is over-budget and there is no way that you can do the plumbing for what you thought, then that money has to come from somewhere...not the client because you don’t go back to the well. Once you get your budget you stay there, but maybe you can take some money out of the architecture. Heaven forbid.

{LAUGHTER} Or you take it from mechanical, or you work things around but if you think of your budget as a pie, the pie doesn't grow but your slices change to be managed. That is what we forget about in the design process...there is much management that takes place during the design and execution before you even get to the building part.

The idea, too, about this I like so much is when we were doing a building not far from here...over in Saxonburg a number of years ago, we were interviewing all these different groups and I was dealing with all the supervisors one day and we were asking all these questions and I said, "Sara, if this was your building and you owned it, how would you design this part?" She said, "I always thought if we had this function here and these other functions around it that would be the best way to function." So I drew a little diagram and asked, "Like this?" She answered, "Yes." So I put it on the card and when we reviewed it with upper management, one of the guys whom I think was a senior vice president took a look at it and said, "Oh, that's the horse-shoe scheme. We've talked about that and it is never going to work." So we drew up it anyway to scale, made a plan; that was one of the options that came out of the results of the program. They looked at that and said, "That's a good idea, where did you get that?" "That's the horse shoe scheme." But no one listens to the people on the floor as much as they think because they think they know what to do and so they get a pre-conception of what it is going to be.

So many times in our life as Christians we are not in the Word of God as much as we should be to understand what He has for us; what He has done; what He is going to do; and Who He is but they say, "Oh, I know Who He is, I know about God." When I see this stuff on TV where people talk about...someone was interviewed the other day and said, "Oh, I think God is in the trees." God made the trees.

We get our imaginations going ahead of us and we forget about an organized process, of being rational, of doing things that are pleasing to God...not for us but for what He has given to us.

Yes?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I'm always with my clients [UNCLEAR] because my clients only want the state's list and the budget and I just kind of [UNCLEAR] budget. I'm just wondering what would be equivalent in the Christian life, what are all the elements of the Christian life before you get to the space list and the budget. [UNCLEAR]. Because you get saved and then there is like nothing goes on until the final thought. Just a thought.*

I think it is a great thought. We talk about it all the time, in modern American evangelism is you are out, you need to come in because God loves you and you want to have a good life. So once you are in, you are saved and that's it. What do you do? Well, being saved is just the start. What do you think some of the steps would be in Christian maturity?

I like what Martin Luther says about the Christian life. He says that it is also growth and [UNCLEAR]...the life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness. So many people who are Christians say, "I am righteous in God's eyes" and then go on. Are you growing in righteousness? It is not being, but becoming. Not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing towards it. The process is not yet finished but it is going on. This is not the end but it is the road, and as all does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Is that sanctification? The growth?*

Yes, because that is the process we're on. We always tend to think of it as once it is done, then that's it.

Yes, go ahead.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I think that Jesus said something very interesting, but what did He say that was not? He said, "Seek and you shall find." I think that we forget that is the business of the Christian. The non-believer thinks that he is seeking after God but he really isn't. But it is our business to seek and what does that involve? It is active. Bill and I were talking a little about the means of grace this morning and Scripture and all the Word of God, the sacraments...I would include prayer and worship as well in that. God has given us those things so that we do grow in the knowledge of Christ.*

Yes. We have the Word and we have the Holy Spirit...what else could we want? But do we take advantage of what He has given to us?

Any other thoughts?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I think too that priorities [UNCLEAR]so to speak, just establishing or seeing, or sensing different priorities being with God and with family and focusing less on the world and trying to get the better job or get this, or get that...but by doing so it makes things a lot less stressful and your focus in different, and you feel more fulfilled.*

Yes, understanding your priorities is extremely important; not unlike Steven Kubby who says, "Do not prioritize your plan, plan your priorities." You know what's important. God has given you the understanding of what is important in your life. Schedule those and then work around everything else, rather than being like me and at the end of the week say, "Oh, I was going to do this and I didn't get it done." I wanted to do this and I should have said no because it is not a priority, but I didn't want to say no.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *My grace is sufficient.*

What is grace?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Forgiveness...at Christ's expense. We don't deserve it.*

Yes. Not only that but I think it goes a little bit beyond that too. I always go back to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:10 where Paul is talking about he is the least of the apostles, "But by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace to me was not without affect." It had affected him, it changed him. "No, I work harder than all of them..." The other apostles. "Yet not I but the grace of God that was within me." It was also the grace of God was an empowering part of his life. It gave him the ability to do what God had set out for him to do because of His favor to Paul and He said...you're my man. So often we forget that God is doing something, or at least God wants to be doing something in our lives and we need to stop resisting.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Jesus says He is praying for us because He has given us His Word and He calls us to be in the World, to empower us to be the light of the gospel. So it is not about this room, that is not*



where it is at. He empowers us, the world is going to hate us because He has given us His Word...the truth. So it is about living out the truth.

Yes, go ahead. Good point.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *I was thinking [UNCLEAR] with regard to that...salt and light [UNCLEAR] to influence. That is why we are salt and light.*

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Forgiveness. You cannot have any relationship without forgiveness. Marriage will not survive without forgiveness. No relationship. So He said, "My grace is sufficient." You must have it, you must receive it. It's there, it's a gift. You don't earn it.*

Yes. I like what Bruce always says in terms of response to God is one of gratitude. I've been given all this. You have forgiven me, You brought me into it. All I can say is, "Thank you." I have nothing to offer, there is nothing here. But how often do we think, "Well, I've got the right idea. I am going to do this because I know better." That is part of the sin that we carry with us day after day in this old body, but we need to be thinking of the new life...I'm a new person and I need to defeat this and let God do His thing in me because the things we are not only **in** Christ, but we are His brothers and sisters. We are not **going** to be, we **are**. Not only that but if you go back and read John 17 and His prayer at Gethsemane, He calls us co-heirs. We are inheriting along with Him, not after Him; He has brought us in to be co-heir of the Kingdom **with** Him.

Whew! I can't imagine that! That's beyond comprehension.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *Two thoughts about your analogy on an individual basis as far as how God has wired each of us and has called us and made us: we each have our own sight, we have our geography that we impact and we have to make sure we are being efficient with that; and then as far as we each have our own ministry that called has called us to. I could take each of those things and apply it to our life as far as our design. [UNCLEAR]But then the big picture is God says that Christ is the Cornerstone, the Apostles are the Foundation and He is building His Church...so we are just blocks and mortar, we are part of the big picture as far as God's Church. So the question is, are we in line with the Master Builder and working towards His purpose of that function?*

Yes, sure, that's right. How do we fit into the plan?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *One thing that still [UNCLEAR]me in a way and one thing that Bruce touches on a lot, before the foundation of the world we were [UNCLEAR], we were talking about being brothers and sisters in Christ and we were talking about this plan and the Master Builder and that this was all [UNCLEAR] before the world was even created.*

He knew us by name. Unbelievable. What an amazing God He is. How great He is to us. He has given us all this for one reason. Because of Who He is.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANTS:** *His glory. We are here to glorify God.*

Yes?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *We listen and we hear but do we do? As you said, “Out of gratitude not out of obligation.”*

Yes, so many times we do these things out of obligation and we should be thinking of thankfulness.

One last question before we dismiss?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT:** *[MOSTLY UNCLEAR]one was the place that you would [UNCLEAR] the budget and [UNCLEAR]. I’m not going to sit down at that drafting table [UNCLEAR] the budget is too high, the budget is too low; there has to be a motive, you have to come to peace [UNCLEAR]. The Prince of Peace... [UNCLEAR]....*

Well that’s a good point. Before your begin drawing anything to make the design you have to do the thinking behind it. Before you go out and execute a software program...you do not set down and start writing code. You sit down and go through a process of what are the goals, what do we know, what are the ideas, where are we going to go with this? Look at the future and see where we are going to go with this.

So, I hope that helps you to understand a little about design from a process standpoint, but also how our lives are designed by God and how we should be thinking about our lives in terms of service to Him and having Him work through us in this world.

Let’s ask God to watch over us. Father, we thank You for this time and we do ask You to watch over us. We know that You do...You love us so very, very much. We just ask that You stimulate our minds with ways to be of service to You, not for ourselves but that You receive the glory and that Your intentions are carried through in this world. We ask that You keep Bruce in mind and watch over him today. Be with him if he makes it to this meeting and we just pray that it will all work out for the best in Your terms and thank You again for this opportunity to be together and to worship You in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.