



YOU HAVE  
**PERMISSION**  
guide

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE  
5 STAGES OF PERMISSION



# God has a mission for you...

For over 30 years, I've had a front row seat, watching thousands of students launched into a personal mission from the university campus. It was during my time as campus minister, that I came to understand how everyone (including you) has a similar personal mission. This book takes us through the five stages of developing that mission. All powered by one common source - permission.

This guide will help give you clarity and nudge you into the adventurous life you were created for!

*Pete Cocco*

Permission Founder &  
Author of You Have Permission

O N E

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# Permission to dream big

**Imagine without limits: If money is no object, what would you want to do?**

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**Identify passions: Make a list of the things that truly excited and motivate you.**

(Remember, your passions don't always stem from a place of positivity. As a matter of fact, they often originate from a place of holy discontent.)

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**What do you want to see happen that would require vine help? Ask God what He thinks.**

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# Permission to dream big

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**Surround yourself with positivity. Create an inner circle support team. Establish regular check-ins. Who should be on your team?**

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**How are you remaining open to the idea of aligning your dream with others?**  
What books/podcasts are you listening to? What questions are you asking other dreamers?

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## Notes

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T W O

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# Permission to be armed & dangerous

## **Armed:**

**Establish a routine of “being” with Jesus. Components to this time could include prayer, scripture, meditation. Find a place. Schedule a time. Have a plan.**

## **Dangerous:**

**Ask three trusted friends what your top two spiritual gifts are. Ask for examples.**

## **Exercise your spiritual gift muscles in the following ways:**

### **Apostle**

- Think forward. Identify the unexplored path ahead
- Network. Connect with other apostolic individuals, mentors, or leaders who can offer guidance, exchange ideas & collaborate on projects.
- Stay humble and accountable. Just because you want to move faster than everyone around you, doesn't mean you should.

### **Prophet**

- Be attentive. Pay attention to the impressions and nudges that align with God's character.
- Stay humble. Remember that the prophetic gift is a channel for God's messages, not a reflection of personal superiority.
- Persevere. Developing your prophetic gift takes time and practice. Don't be discouraged by challenges or doubts.

### **Evangelist**

- Clarify your message. Break down complex concepts into clear and concise explanations.
- Adapt to Your audience. Tailor your teaching style to your audience's level of understanding and background.
- Connect with real life. Help your audience see how biblical principles apply to their everyday lives.

# Permission to be armed & dangerous

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## Shepherd

- Create safe spaces. Cultivate environments for people to be themselves.
- Offer counseling resources. Connect people with resources such as books, workshops, or professional counseling.
- Practice active listening. Listen with your eyes to people's concerns, struggles, and joys.

## Teacher

- Stay curious and open. Approach learning with curiosity and a desire to continually grow.
- Use different teaching methods. Employ storytelling, visual aids, discussions, and interactive activities, to engage different learning styles.
- Empower people to teach themselves. Generously share resources, study methods and teaching tools.

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# T H R E E

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## Permission to flip the script

### Being before doing

- Take a posture of surrender. Allow Jesus to fill your insecure cracks with a living water that you can then in turn share with others.
  - Take a walk with God. What does He see? What does He feel? What person, place or problem is He drawing you to?
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### Chaos before order

- Be a student, not a teacher. Learn the names and the needs of those outside of your context.
- Be a guest, not a host. Humbly enter the world of those around you.

### Self-discovery before formal teaching

- Develop a question-based lifestyle. Progressively deepen the relationships around you by asking casual, meaningful, spiritual and discovery-based questions.
- Help people study the Bible by reading the text and asking same four questions.
  1. What did I learn about God?
  2. What did I learn about people?
  3. What do I feel compelled to do?
  4. Who else needs to hear this message?

### Time before invitation

- Use your time to disciple those around you. Model a Godly and meaningful lifestyle as you invite others to join you in all aspects of your life, including trips to Walmart.
- Go slow. Don't rush it. Don't forget that discipleship is more caught than taught.

### Authority before assignment

- Believe it. Accept and internalize the reality that God's authority rests on you.
- Act on it. Jesus' authority is meant to be acted on. Do something risky, say something bold, travel somewhere far.

# F O U R

## Permission to start fires

### Fire requires friction

Keep the chaordic tension alive. Understand and appreciate both sides of church.

#### *Characteristics of the Two Sides of Church*

Sodality (Chaos)	Modality (Order)
Mobile	Stationary
Takes new ground	Protects existing ground
Reproduces easily	Does not reproduce easily
Decentralized	Centralized
Narrow focus "there" (go to kids, homeless, etc.)	Broad focus "here" (bring people to our gym, library, and kitchen)
Pioneering	Established
Expansion driven	Care driven

### To Sodalic people:

- Pray for the modalic people in authority. Imagine the specific challenges they are facing. Show the modalic people the tangible fruit from your experimentation.
- Resist the temptation to share undeveloped ideas with modalic authorities too soon.
- Maintain a healthy respect for the slow and methodical process.

### To Modalic people:

- Make a list of teachers and shepherds to disciple in order to make space for new growth.
- Implement systems where open forums of discussions, frustrations, and feedback are welcome
- Make a list of the sodalic people in your life. Ask them what they are excited about. Be quick to say, "wow", slow to say "how".

# Permission to start fires

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## Fire requires chemistry

- Mission- Make a list of what could and should be, but isn't. Narrow that list down to one thing that you can do something about. (This is your mission.)
- Community- Find someone who shares a passion for your mission. (This is the start of your community.)
- Worship- Make a list of creative ways in which you could bring God into your mission. Prayer, questions, celebrations, God stories etc. (This is your worship)
- Overlap- Be intentional about bringing your worship, community and mission together. It's the overlap that counts.

## Notes

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# F I V E

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## Permission to prioritize play

### Play on a team.

- Pick players- Recruit a handful of teammates, Christians or not, who share in your mission. Disciple them in the context of your mission by practically helping them be better teammates.
- Implement a structure- Utilize the strengths of groups (feedback loops), and gatherings (worship and teaching) without sacrificing the mission of your team.
- Let people go- Encourage your teammates to start their own team.

### Play outside

- Say yes- Be characterized as a person who says “yes” to new opportunities that come your way.
- Take risks- If you want what others don’t have, you must try things they are not trying.
- Welcome surprises- Remain open to the possibility that your greatest mission may sneak up on you.
- Stay outside- Missional living is a lifestyle. It is imperative that we always remain open to new opportunities.

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