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[00:01:01] <Music>

**Annie:** Hi friends, welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs, and I'm really happy to be with you. Today, we've got a great show in store. But first let me say thanks so much for all your kindness around the episode from Wednesday, the Q&A. We loved getting to do it and I'm just really thankful for it. So if you haven't listened to that one, make sure you pop back, and if any of your friends are in a singleness season, if they are waiting to be married or to have kids, and need some conversation around that, I hope you will share that episode with them.

Today on the show I get to talk with my friend Danny Gokey, you know Danny Gokey, we all know and love him. He was a top three finalist on Season Eight of American Idol. A chart-topping vocalist on Christian radio, and now he's been honored with three Grammy Nominations. Three wins as the K-Love Male Vocalist of the Year, Two Dove Awards, and tons of Dove Award Nominations. And he's got a new album out called *Jesus People* that I love, y'all this

conversation, y'all's need to buckle up. I'm such a huge fan of Danny, even more grateful to call him friend, and to get to share this conversation with you. So here is my conversation with our friend, Danny Gokey.

**[00:02:25]** <Music>

**Danny:** Jesus, we need you to get in here-

**Annie:** That is right.

**Danny:** I need you Lord.

**Annie:** That's right. Listen, I have had a morning where I thought, "It is the Lord that Danny Gokey is coming in here today, because there will be something for all of us in it."

**Danny:** Amen.

**Annie:** So I'm just believing for it.

**Danny:** Amen.

**Annie:** You go to The Belonging, is that right?

**Danny:** I do.

**Annie:** How much do you love Alex and Henry Seeley?

**Danny:** A lot.

**Annie:** A lot.

**Danny:** And you know what's funny, is that we started going to The Belonging before it was called The Belonging.

**Annie:** Oh, you were like in the basement?

**Danny:** Yeah, it was, but there was, they don't tell that story, there was two sides of the basement. There was the little basement where Henry had his little studio.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Which was the littler, if we say the, is that littler, I don't think it's word, but-

**Annie:** That's right.

**Danny:** But I want to use it.

**Annie:** I'm into it.

**Danny:** Me too, because I like to make up English stuff, anyways, the little side. I remember, I was at a writing session, and a girl named Mia Fieldes was there, and I said, "What church do you guys go to?" Because I had stopped going to a church probably six months before, because I was real discontented with the Nashville church scene.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** I was. And I don't know why, don't ask me why, I just, and it could have been more me than anything else, so I stopped going to church. I woke up one morning, and I heard the Lord whisper in my spirit, I heard this, "Follow me." And I remember when I told my wife, and it didn't mean that God was saying stop going to church, I just really sensed the Lord saying, "Just stay close to me."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And so, I did that writing session, I asked Mia Fieldes the church she goes to. She said, "I go to this little get together, and it's like a little prayer meeting, and it just they prophesy, they pray, they worship, and these are people from Australia." And I said, "I'm going."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** "When is your next service?" "Oh boy, we meet every Tuesday." Every other Tuesday, at the time it was every other two weeks, every two weeks. And I was like, "Oh man." So it was like a month before I could go, to put it that way, because of my schedule.

**Annie:** Wow, yeah.

**Episode 312: Danny Gokey      That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs**

**Danny:** I went there, I looked at my wife, Leyicet, and I said, "This is home."

**Annie:** Wow.

**Danny:** And there was only like 15 people there.

**Annie:** Mm-hmm.

**Danny:** And I remember Henry's voice was just, it was the best voice I'd ever heard.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** A male voice.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And the word, I still have the notes from the first service that I went to. I sent it, recently, to Henry and Alex about a month ago, I was scrolling through and I said, "Hey, these are my sermon notes from the first time Henry preached." And I said, "It's still ministers to me now."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** What was said.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Because his points were, y'all, ready it's August 20th, 2013, wow August 20th.

**Annie:** August 20th?

**Danny:** I know.

**Annie:** ...that is literally-

**Danny:** My album.

**Annie:** ...the day this comes out, and the day your album comes out.

**Danny:** Oh my goodness-

**Annie:** Wouldn't He do it?

**Danny:** ...this is great, so the Lord is about to speak to all of us right now.

**Annie:** The Lord is about to speak to us.

**Danny:** This is what the notes were-

**Annie:** This was today, eight years ago?

**Danny:** Yep. "So often we pursue the promise instead of the presence. That's a horrible thing to do." Next point, "Don't pursue the success nor to be in front of the people, or the approval of man more than the presence of God." Number three, "Don't use your gifts to make a way but let the presence of God make a way."

**Annie:** Danny.

**Danny:** "We try to get our gifts in front of the presence of man, instead of keeping our hearts in the presence of God." Last point, "Desire His presence more than you desire, position, promise, and power." Wow.

**Annie:** I mean, that's no joke today?

**Danny:** No.

**Annie:** I mean, what is that, because the interesting thing is eight years later your album comes out, and that's already the posture of your heart.

**Danny:** Annie, let me tell you this, I can't even believe, I'm right now tripping out a little bit, because God is really big with dates for me.

**Annie:** Me too. Oh, we're about to go, all my notes are going out the window.

**Danny:** Okay, do you want to go there?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Because we're about to go there.

**Annie:** Yeah, listen... Yeah, yeah, go all the way, go Danny Gokey.

**Danny:** So why are dates so important to me? Because so, for instance, I'll tell you one story real quickly. The Lord, when my wife was pregnant with our last child, Emmanuel, the Lord was the one who told us He said, "Name the child Emmanuel." Which means God with us, Leyicet was six-months pregnant. Little did I know that Emanuel would come on my first wife's birthday, my first wife who's in heaven, on her birthday, and I just sat there, Emmanuel, God with us.

You know what the Lord was telling me in that moment? Because I dealt with anxiety, I dealt with being angry at times, and then being extremely sad through the years of, "I don't get this, we prayed prayers, what happened?" And 11 years later, the Lord, He would just show me, "I was with you in the pain. I was with you in the depression. I was with you in the stormy season. I was with you in the good season, I'm Emmanuel, I am God with you, here and now, and forever." All that really hit me. I was like, "Man!" So that's just one of-

**Annie:** Does that happen a lot though?

**Danny:** Yeah. Can I just tell you another story? Because this-

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Let me try to pack this-

**Annie:** This is building so many people's faith, when they go, "Should I care that this date happened twice in my life?" Yes, you should care.

**Danny:** Can I say-

**Annie:** God will show you as much as you want Him to.

**Danny:** And pay attention.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And this is like, this why the Bible says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** The hardened heart will just throw that off as just coincidence.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** In this next story, my father-in-law, is not a Christian, my wife's dad, I don't know why. But, so, this next story, he just chokes, I'm going to tell you this, this next story is a big one.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Danny:** And he literally just throws this off as coincidence. Me and my wife, back in 2018, were praying for a house. Now her parents had lived with me for five years already, and I was ready for a change. And so we started believing God for house, and as a matter of fact, my pastor started praying with me from home.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** He is my spiritual father, and He's like, "Hey, I just feel the Lord is saying we need to pray together, what are your needs?" I mentioned the house, we started praying about that. So anyways, I start, and so we're praying about the house, but I get this big idea that you know what, I'm just going to put an addition on the house where I'm at. So I can get apartment for my wife's parents.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** The architect shows up, he's drawing these plans, this is great. Then all of a sudden, he disappears and pauses the whole house, I am super discouraged.

**Annie:** Sure.

**Danny:** But God! Little did I know that God was putting it on a pause. Because, I hit a radio tour, I was in Atlanta airport one day in April, I started praying in January. April, I get a call from my realtor, he goes, "Do you remember this lady named Regina?" I said, "No. Who is Regina?" He said, "Two years ago, we were looking at houses." And he said, "We walked into a house, and all they did was talk about Jesus. They were drug addicts..." And I said, "Oh, yeah, I remember

her." I go, "Why are you mentioning her?"

He goes, "She called me out the blue today, said she was praying, and she said she's buying a house out of foreclosure. But while she was praying, the Lord said, 'That's not your house that belongs to the Gokey's, are they interested?'" And I said, "Is it nice?"

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And he goes, "I'm at the house right now, this is incredible." And I go, "Well, I'm going to be gone for four days, can I see it Saturday?" And he's like, "Let me call them." He gets a confirmation. So check this out, that was a Tuesday.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** That Thursday, I had to fly to a show.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** So I'm traveling. I hopped on a plane, I'm talking to, they sit me next to this lady, I'm talking to this lady. We're talking about God and all these things, she has no idea of who I am. And then finally when I tell her she's like, "Oh, yeah, I remember you from American Idol."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** She goes, "You know who you need to meet? You need to meet Gigi in Nashville." I said, "Who's Gigi?" I go as, "I know a lady named Gigi, from Gigi's Cupcakes." "No, that's not her." She starts talking up a storm about this lady, all these things, she goes, "Get your phone out, I'm giving you her number, you're going to call her." In my brain I'm like, "I'm not about to call no rando, no rando stranger."

**Annie:** Right. Some woman.

**Danny:** And just be like, "Hey, my name is Danny Gokey want to be friends?" Yeah, a woman, on top of that. The plane lands, I start googling "Gigi", the information it gave me, Oh my gosh! Gigi is Regina, who called me two days earlier, who called my realtor two days earlier, and said they had a house for us. I called my wife up, I said, "This is God."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** This is God, right? We go look at the house. I mean, it's the most up-to-date, the most expensive house that I had to buy. And I say that for a reason, because it's not to be like a pat on the back, it was, I needed to extend my faith because I started seeing God moving. And there was a point I can get in fear, or I can say, "All right, God, you're starting this, let's see what happens." I tell my realtor, now we look at this house, it's everything we ever wanted.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** My wife wanted a one-story home, because she wanted kids to be on the same level.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** It has a guest house.

**Annie:** Ha!

**Danny:** I'm literally praying, "God, I need my space." And there's this guest house behind the house, has a pool, and you don't understand, and it has a jacuzzi, now, why is it important? Because I do most of my prayer in jacuzzi or bathtubs?

**Annie:** Do you really?

**Danny:** Oh, that's like my prayer spot.

**Annie:** What?

**Danny:** I'm telling you. And so anyways, I tell my realtor, I look at the price tag, I'm like, "This is a foreclosure, is this expensive, and I need to redo it?" I said, I need you to rent my house out that I'm in right now. And I need to go see if I can get a loan for this. I know this is a long story, but I'm just getting to the point-

**Annie:** I need you know I'm having the best time.

**Danny:** Okay, good.

**Annie:** So you just keep on.

**Danny:** So my realtor puts out that my house is for rent. That same week, a couple from Oregon, "We want it." And we put it up not for a cheap price.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** But we put it up like, "Hey, we need to believe God that we're going to pay for this next house."

**Annie:** Yes. Yes.

**Danny:** They want it, they want in two weeks. I don't want to lose the renter so I'm like, "Give us three weeks." So we get the loan, so we're still living in our house, we're starting the construction process, now, this is where it really gets a little bit crazy.

**Annie:** Oh, good.

**Danny:** I told my wife, I said, "You know years ago, I had this prayer warrior in my life, who described the house to me in a dream that God gave her." And I said, "I wonder if this was the dream she was talking about." She only just told me about a dream.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I call her, her name is Morell. I said, "Morell, do you remember that prophetic dream you had about me?" She goes, "Oh, yeah, I wrote it down." She takes a picture of it and she sends it to me. Check this out, in this vision that she had, and it was marked January 10th, 2010-

**Annie:** Oh my gosh!

**Danny:** Now, this is, imagine this is in... Right. I had just lost Sophia about 15 months earlier.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Had a dream, and they used to call me Dan, back in the day at home.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Danny:** "Danny Gokey, bought a house on lots of land, this house has 24 acres."

**Annie:** Oh my gosh!

**Danny:** She said, "I saw four kids running around, three boys and a girl."

**Annie:** Danny?

**Danny:** At this time, I only have three kids.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I only have three kids, two boys and a girl. She said, "I saw a mother-in-law suite behind the house." She put this faithful servant blessing, and she said, "Host prayer meetings at this house." She describes this to a tee. Now at the time, so check this out, I'm like, "Oh my gosh, this is literally, reading my mail."

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** So, now, remember I told you about the time that we needed to get out of our house and into this house?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** So the three-week point came, I was on tour. Guess what day we moved in on this house, guess what day? Exactly to the date that 10-year anniversary of my wife passing away, my first wife passing away.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh!

**Danny:** She passed away July 9th, 2008. I stepped into this house, July 9th 2018. You know what 10 means? It means redeemed by God.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Danny:** 10 is, because there's the 10-plagues.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And if you look at 10, it means, "A supernatural deliverance."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** I couldn't believe, 10 years earlier, that I was standing at the casket of my first wife. That 10 years later, I remember I woke up July 9th, I woke up that morning, and I just was like, it was 4:00 a.m., I remember it was actually that would have been July 10th, because July 9th, we stayed there.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And I just said, I couldn't believe it, I just walked outside and I said, "This is supernatural."

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Check this out, now the house has a gated entry.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** It was broken.

**Annie:** Oh, wow!

**Danny:** Okay, this is God, it was a foreclosure, remember that.

**Annie:** Right. Oh, yeah.

**Danny:** It was going to cost 10 grand to fix. Well, during the process, our contractor hit it, we got a check for 10 grand to fix our gate.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh!

**Danny:** I'm talking about the most littlest details to the tee.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** This house fulfilled everything. It confirmed to me that I could still keep my in-laws, and that we could have them 100-feet apart, yet still visit them whenever we wanted.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Everything lined up supernaturally. It took faith though-

**Annie:** Talk about that.

**Danny:** ...to inherit the promise.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Because the amount of money, I felt, it was over everything, anything, it was scary to purchase this house.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** But by faith, I said "God if you brought this to me, I don't have to carry this because what You start You finish."

**Annie:** I need you to know that two weeks ago, Jesus said to me, I was asking Him about a situation, and I was like, "What am I supposed to do?" And he said, "I do not start stories and then hand them to you to finish."

**Danny:** Oh, my goodness.

**Annie:** And I was like, "Oh, You're right, You're the actual starter and the finisher. I'm just in the story, I'm not in charge of the story." He was like, "I didn't start this and then hand it to you, sit back, I'm going to finish it."

**Danny:** Can I mention, I love that because in our own strength I still doubted, even though all that dream was true, Leyicet is pregnant again.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I'm like, "Oh, my gosh, what happens if this baby is another girl?"

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And it's different-

**Annie:** Than the dream.

**Danny:** ...than the dream. And sometimes we kind of doubt God like that. We're like, because to me, now, I believe in the prophetic, there might be people listening, who don't believe in the prophetic. But it is a gift that God gives to edify the church.

**Annie:** It's a gift, yeah.

**Danny:** And, you know, I was raised in such a way that we were told if they don't hit it 100%, they're not a prophet.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I actually, maybe in the Old Testament, because I don't know, because that was really the voice of God, they didn't have the Bible.

**Annie:** Yeah, that's right.

**Danny:** But today there's like-

**Annie:** Or the Holy Spirit.

**Danny:** Yeah, or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit didn't live inside of us, the Holy Spirit would, the Bible says, "Fall upon Saul or David and they would prophesy." But I'm understanding people are fallible, and they can miss it, and their flesh can get involved.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Anyways, with that being said, though, I remember sitting in the room, it's 2019 now, we're already in the house, everything has come to pass to a tee.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And I told Leyicet, I said, "If this is not a boy, like the dream had prophesied." I said, "I'm going to not know how to handle this."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** It was a boy, just like the dream, three boys and a girl. And you know, we have a boy, girl, boy, boy, that's the order of our home.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** But I could have missed that. Because there is a partnership, God doesn't force people, He didn't pick me up and throw me into the house. And I just need people to listen right now, when God is showing you that He's involved in something follow that trail. Because, little did I know, that God would provide the finances for that home.

**Annie:** right.

**Danny:** And I can tell you this, and I hope this is a testimony to people. And I pray this is, well, people understand this because faith does the impossible. We started believing, "God, that you'll provide this, You'll pay it off." We paid that house off within three years.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Danny:** And using godly principles.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And I get nervous to say that, because that can come off very pretentious or very pompous, but it's not that.

**Annie:** No.

**Danny:** What it is, is your faith, Jesus said this many times, He said, "It's according to your faith."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I heard that so many times growing up, and I think, and I would say, "Yeah, it's according to my faith," and you just kind of let it go, God is in control. We always use this term, and I think there's this misconception in the church, God is in control. Yeah, He's in control,

but guess what? He relinquished control and said, "You have the power to choose life and death?"

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And it's, the devil loves to sow that, "Yeah, God's in control, and if He doesn't do it, it's not getting done." Yeah, there's an extent to that, but there's a part where we've learned how to blame shift.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** So that we, because we don't know how to comprehend that there was mistakes along the way that we made, that got us to this point where we're at.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And so anyways, I'm diverging into a lot right here, but I'm so glad I partnered with God. He initiated it, and all I had to do was just say "Yes." Really.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** My whole point was to say yes, and keep saying yes.

**[00:18:17]** <Music>

**Annie:** Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation real quick, to share about another one of our incredible partners, Grove Collaborative. Did you know that companies around the world produce 2 billion pounds of new plastic every day? Oh, gosh! I cannot, I cannot with the stat. No matter how much we put in our recycling bins, only 9% of plastic actually gets recycled. Y'all know this is breaking my soul because I care so much about plastic. At Grove Collaborative, though, they believe it's time to stop making single-use plastic, me too.

Grove is the online marketplace that delivers healthy, home, beauty and personal care products directly to you. Grove takes the guesswork out of going green, and every product is guaranteed to be good for you, your family, your home, and the planet. I get all my cleaning supplies for home and we get everything we use to clean at the office from Grove. I love that all their products are clean and sustainable,

one less thing I have to worry about as far as being a good friend to myself, and our team, and the planet.

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**[00:19:43]** <Music>

**Annie:** When you talk about, you mentioned the holdover when you were going to repair the house you are in, and add the apartment, and then it all stopped.

**Danny:** It all stopped.

**Annie:** So many of our friends, right now, are sitting in the, "Did this just fall apart? I thought I knew what God was doing, did this just fall apart?" What do you say to the people who are sitting there?

**Danny:** You know, there's a verse that I really, really lean on, it's called, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding." My understanding has gotten in the way of a lot of things.

**Annie:** Yeah, me too.

**Danny:** And I look at it as if our understanding gets in the way, because our understanding can a lot of times come from my flesh. Jesus said this, "The flesh profits nothing; but the Spirit gives life."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And I've learned that when it all, because remember, if people remember, it all fell apart when I prayed the prayers. Like people don't understand, I really believe God's word that God still heals.

**Annie:** Yes.

- Danny:** I know this is a very controversial subject in the church for some reason. But somehow along the way, the enemy has sowed a seed, that we believe that God doesn't heal.
- Annie:** Right.
- Danny:** But there's something to say about when God doesn't heal you, you still believe He's a healer.
- Annie:** Yeah.
- Danny:** Because you don't go to your own understanding and start minimizing God. And really, what a lot of people do is they begin to wrap Scriptures around their experience as opposed to letting Scriptures define-
- Annie:** Uh, you better, you better say that, that's right.
- Danny:** So for instance, my favorite preacher's name is Andrew Womack, not my... he's one of my... I have two, Keith Moore, is my literally most favorite preacher. It's not, and there is a church, have you heard of Keith Moore?
- Danny:** I've heard his name, I don't know him.
- Danny:** And that's right, a lot of people haven't, he's got a church in Branson, and a church in Sarasota. But Andrew Womack said like this, he said, "One time that," he's a pastor. He said, "At one time, I was praying that God would heal this lady." And he went in there, and he prayed, and this family prayed with him.
- Annie:** Yeah.
- Danny:** And I hope I quote this correctly, and he said that when he went in to pray with them, the lady didn't get healed, and she died.
- Annie:** Mh-hmm.
- Danny:** And he said, a lot of his own people that he knew finally said, "You know, I guess this was God's will and we missed it." And he looked at them and he said, "No, you can't automatically begin to wrap your theology around that and say, 'You know what, maybe you know that

it was God's will for her to die." And he said he was so glad, because people don't know this about Andrew Womack, Andrew Womack, some years later his son died.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Was in the morgue for five hours with a toe-tag, in the refrigerator. And when Andrew Womack got the news, he was five-hours away from where they were, they had to get in their car.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** They drove to the morgue. And he said in that moment, he started just like Abraham, you know the Bible says, "Abraham did not grow weary in doubt or unbelief, began to strengthen himself in the faith, giving glory to God, knowing that what he said he would do, he would accomplish it."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** He went in the morgue, and this is true, he raised his son from the dead.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh!

**Danny:** Imagine if he would have just said, "You know what, this is out of our control, if God wants his son to be alive, God will raise him from the dead." And we've seen supernatural moments, where God has done that.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** But imagine what we don't, and this is what people, someone told me recently about politics, right? Well, I'm just going to pivot right here because they said this, "Yeah, but you can't think that one man is going to save our nation, right?"

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I said, "I don't think that." And I said, "That's a misconception, because it's the sovereignty of God brings one man up, one king up, and another man down." I said, "You know what, I've heard that my

whole life." And I said, and I was processing in this moment, and I feel like, and I could be wrong, and I'm open to discussion.

**Annie:** Sure.

**Danny:** But I said this, I said, "We use that to absolve our responsibility." But what about-

**Annie:** Our prayer responsibility?

**Danny:** Yeah, our responsibility. Well, I said this, "What if I didn't discipline my kids?"

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** I said, "What if in my home I didn't monitor what they watched? And what if in my home decided..." And I didn't think it was bad, I thought I was doing my job, because ignorance does come at a cost, if you don't believe in gravity, gravity is still a law.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Danny:** It's still going to whether you want to believe it or not.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Danny:** And I said, "What if 20 years later, now my kids are struggling on drugs, they're addicts to sex, are disrespectful to people?" Because disrespectful kids turn into disrespectful adults. Angry kids turn into angry adults. Sexually addicted kids turn into sexually addicted adults. If I didn't deal with that, and then all of a sudden, I'm praying, "Oh, God intervene in my children's life, oh, just fill them with your spirit." Yet I don't see God moving in my behalf, and I just choke it up, you know what, if God wants to touch their hearts, He can touch their hearts.

And I said, that is absolutely wrong. What about you know what, I didn't discipline them back here, and I opened the door to the enemy right here. And I'm actually reaping what I sowed back there, whether I want to blame the sovereignty of God. And this is what I think a lot of times that we miss, because we want to just, and I get it, we feel like "Oh, man."

Sometimes the responsibilities, it's hard to choke down, that politically we could be where we're at right now, and our country can be where we're at, our families, our jobs, whatever our attitudes can be where is at. Because we really didn't take God's word for what it really meant, and just choked it off as, "Oh, if God wants it He'll do it."

**Annie:** I mean, for you to teach that, preach that to us, I mean, you've lost a spouse.

**Danny:** Yeah.

**Annie:** So you've been through praying for someone, I assume, to survive.

**Danny:** We had Scriptures on our refrigerator.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** We believed so much. On our mirror, we would have the Scriptures that, "Jesus went around healing all those who came in contact with Him," and Lord, we receive that. That Jesus you heal everyone you come into contact with. We had the other Scriptures that said, the Bible says, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed," this on a refrigerator. "And you say to this mountain, 'Be thou removed, and it will go into the sea.' You will have what you say." Think about that, the correspondence of the immediate, if you have faith, there's a correspondence of saying right next to it.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** "Sophia, you are healed in Jesus name." I have faith, faith speaks, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** All these Scriptures. Then when she got in the hospital, and things took, so went to the hospital they did a surgery, the surgery didn't go right, and they had us do an emergency surgery, put on artificial heart. We prayed, prayed, prayed, prayed, prayed, even to a point we prayed, there were so many people from my church coming, we were making the hospital staff nervous.

**Annie:** Because there are so many people there?

**Danny:** We're Pentecostal prayers, so like-

**Annie:** Yeah. Loud.

**Danny:** ...we're calling fire from heaven down.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** We prayed so much that at one time I said, "I want everyone," the night before I knew everyone would come.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I saw this parking structure, and I said, "We're going to go pray on top of this parking structure."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** That evening, now, during this time a lot of spiritual activities is happening, kids are seeing angels.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Danny:** I'm not lying, I remember praying for three people in the hospital, three people, me and my friends, they came out of a coma.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And they were, one person drowned and left to die, and we prayed and they came out of it, they were on the water for like eight minutes. These are serious things that are happening, healings were happening. We prayed that night, after we're praying, we're worshipping, we're praying, making declarations, what I mean by declarations we were just saying, "Lord, Your Word says."

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** That's, we put God in remembrance of His word.

**Annie:** Oh, I love doing that.

**Danny:** Someone looked up in the sky and said, "Look." We saw a heart-shaped cloud in the sky.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm

**Danny:** In that moment, "I said, this is a sign of a healing."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Four or five days later she passes away.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I still believe He is a healer. I don't know everything, but here's what I know-

**Annie:** You don't have, is the understanding, right? Like that?

**Danny:** Who knows if she got a glimpse of heaven and said, "Mh, I'm staying."

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** Because I know I would.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** I love y'all, but bye.

**Annie:** Right. Right.

**Danny:** I mean, imagine heaven? But look what God did because in that moment, I didn't resort, this is where people critically, this is where they say, "You're not who you say you are."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And they walk away.

**Annie:** From God?

**Danny:** Mh-hmm.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Because the enemy is out, and what is the one thing is after? Our faith.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And our faith is, what is our faith? It's a total trust and reliance in someone or something. Like this chair I'm sitting on, even though, I didn't make a conscious decision, in like "Do I trust this chair?" I just had enough experience with chairs that they all hold me.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** Do you know what I mean?

**Annie:** Right, right.

**Danny:** And that should be our walk with the Lord, that I have enough experience with You, that even though-

**Annie:** That You'll hold me.

**Danny:** ... I don't know everything You got me.

**Annie:** That's it, Danny.

**Danny:** You know what I mean?

**Annie:** That's it.

**Danny:** And so anyways, I know I'm talking a lot here, but...

**Annie:** Oh, I'm really here for it. I mean, I spent a couple of days, one morning last week, in Hebrews 11:1, I think that says, "Faith is being sure of what you hope for, and certain of what you don't see." And I was like, "I need to know this, every word of this, in the original language." Like, "I need to know what you mean." Because I want to

be found full of faith, and, but does that mean to, "Sure of what you hope for?" That is like a huge thing to say.

**Danny:** Unpack that, why?

**Annie:** Because I have huge hopes. And to be sure of, and we all have, right? We've all had big hopes, and people get disappointed all the time.

**Danny:** And disappointment is one of the keys that many people have stopped going to church.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** Because, and you know it's interesting, they put their faith in what they think God is. Remember sometimes we create who we think God is.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And then when that, so they go to church, and then they see the pastor have a moral failure. You ever notice that people all of a sudden, "If this is who God is? And this is-"

**Annie:** I'm not interested, yeah.

**Danny:** And it's like, no, no, no, you put, what you didn't realize, and you can sit there, remember, like we talked about this whole sovereignty conversation.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** "God, You had Your opportunity to show me who You are, and You didn't." Now, what if you put your faith in the wrong thing?

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And the reason why, "There's only two ways," Jesus said, "You're building a house on the rock or you're building on the sand." What if you, even though you didn't know you're building on the sand, it doesn't matter, the law still was in effect, saying, "You built it on the sand, the sand of man."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** I love what you said here because you said "Man, I have some big hopes." Can I share something, and this is at a risk of, I don't share this with many people, but I feel like I can share this here. Because I was doing interview this morning, and someone asked me, "What are you most excited for this year?" And I had to stop, I said, "People might judge me because of this."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** But like this is, why can't I share this to the top of my lungs? This year, I told my staff this, I said, "Because..." this whole COVID thing just irritated me a lot.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I know that might hurt people, it just irritated me because it's so politicized, that's why, right?

**Annie:** Yes, of course.

**Danny:** But this year I saw something, I saw a man. There is powers that be that want to shut God out of our country.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And more than ever before we need to be doing ministry.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Not building kingdoms, building His kingdom, right?

**Annie:** That's right.

**Danny:** I sat down with my team this, and I said, "We're believing God for a bus, and we're believing God for a sound system." Because I'm tired of not being able to do certain things, because we're limited by finances.

**Annie:** Right.

**Episode 312: Danny Gokey      That Sounds Fun Podcast with Annie F. Downs**

**Danny:**            This is a big thing that I said-

**Annie:**            And people don't know buses are big money. I mean, that's a big deal to believe for a bus.

**Danny:**            Buses are so expensive.

**Annie:**            And you cannot get one right now, because all the tours are going out. So buses are also, they can't make, I don't know who to call to make me a bus, that's the problem.

**Danny:**            It is literally, but God.

**Annie:**            But God.

**Danny:**            So I wrote that down, I told my team this, now my favorite pastor, I told you, Keith Moore.

**Annie:**            Yeah.

**Danny:**            Faith Life Church, Sarasota, Branson, I go to their Faith conferences every year, every year since 2015. Because here's why, in 2006, I never knew this preacher, my friend told me about him. But the Lord said to him, told this preacher, "Give all your message away for free, pay for the shipping, pay for the wrapping, do everything."

**Annie:**            Wow.

**Danny:**            And when the Lord spoke that to him, he had to believe God to raise the finances for that, because he has a big ministry. So people would call, they'd say what they want, he paid for shipping and all these things. So he started being like a father figure to me.

**Annie:**            Yeah.

**Danny:**            Anyways, so I started going to their Faith conferences. They call me back and say, "We want you to do a concert at our church." They offered me no money, but since I love them, I said, "Oh, man, this is going to cost a lot of money."

**Annie:**            Yeah.

**Danny:** Because you know bus, band, crew, all the stuff. I'm like, "All right, we're going to do this, we're going to sow this in the ministry." Anyways, he calls me the day before and he goes, "What are you believing God for?"

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** I go, "Brother Keith, I'm believing for a bus." He goes, "The Lord put that on my spirit." He said, "Are you okay if I asked the church to believe God with you, and take up an offering for your bus?" I said, "Sure." And I get down there we do the show, meet him, talk, he drips and oozes of wisdom.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Now, remember, he didn't tell me he was going to, nothing.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** We sit down and we talk, he hands me a check, he goes, "Let's pray over this."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And so we pray over it. And we're praying over it, and he gives, I get in my bus, I open that check, I lost my breath.

**Annie:** Really?

**Danny:** Make a very long story short, he gave me enough money to buy a bus and a sound system for ministry.

**Annie:** Ah-ah?

**Danny:** Yes.

**Annie:** And you'd only asked for a bus?

**Danny:** I got a brand new trailer, I bonused out my band, because they didn't work, and I bought a trailer and a bus. Now check this out, I had this certain amount of money to go buy a bus. Like you said all the buses were gone.

**Annie:** They're all gone.

**Danny:** Buses that were, 2018, were over the budget that he had given me for a bus.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I got so, but I just said, "God, what," I kept saying this, "What You start You'll finish."

**Annie:** What You start...

**Danny:** Last week, one call, a man finds a shell, brand new 2021, think about it, I was about to go buy a 2018.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Brand new 2021. It fits in my budget, little bit less than my budget.

**Annie:** My gosh!

**Danny:** What am I saying, like, some of you that hope that you have. It might start, "Well, God, doesn't want to give us a bus because that's just real selfish." No, my friends, let me tell you this, if you have the desire to do God's work, and God will decipher if it's a selfish desire, or not.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** One of the things the Lord spoke to this Pastor, He said, one of the things the Pastor said was, "Man, I spent two months on this thing, I could have got a better deal for this thing I was doing. And the Lord told him, He goes, "Keith, you can never, ever spend too much money on something that I told you to do."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** He said, "Now, that can happen." And he just said, "Man, ministry, even though sometimes it comes at a cost, when you're doing God's work." God is going to say, "There's never a regret." I'm saying all this, to say like, "Put your faith out there. Put your hope out there, and let God filter through it, and let God take you where you need to go."

**Annie:** Yeah, you're, speaking of words, you don't even realize how good for our people, because, on today's show is Friday, on Wednesday, we did a whole show for singles, and us answering questions for people who aren't married yet, and maybe aren't parents yet. And are trying to figure out how to operate in their faith life, while God is not answering this prayer that's in their heart. I'm also not married yet, and so it's personal for me to do that show too. And so what you're saying is like, "Man, just put your hope out, put your hope out." And I think, a beautiful thing you're saying is, "Faith involves words."

**Danny:** Yeah.

**Annie:** We have to say the thing we're believing for.

**Danny:** You do.

**Annie:** You can't just keep it to yourself.

**Danny:** Because faith, Paul said, "I believed therefore I spoke." Keith Moore, I'm listening to a new thing it's called "The Power of Words."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And he gives this, Jesus said, "Every idle word you speak will be used against you in the Day of Judgment." He says, think of it, it's in Matthew 12, and he said, "Do you know what idle means?" And when he looked it up "idle" he said it means, "Something that doesn't work." And it goes back to the parable of, I think, the workers who were working, and the ones who were idle outside.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And he said, what is the Lord saying, "Every word that doesn't work on your behalf, you should not be saying it." So what are words that work? If you're feeling sick, words that are idle are like, "Ah, this, man, I just always, I'm tired, I'm always sick." This is something that a lot of people at church mock and laugh at, but God, we're called speaking spirits. Animals don't speak, bears don't speak, dogs don't speak, there is such a responsibility, whether you agree with it or not, over your words.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And your words need to work for you.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And what are words that work? The Bible says that, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue; and those who love it will eat the fruit thereof."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Your words have fruit. And so instead of saying, "God, you didn't come through, I'll never have a man." Or "This always happens." You say, "God, You're giving me favor."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** "God as I walk today, You're opening doors that no man can shut, and God You're raining down blessings on me. God, as I move a step forward, You're connecting me with my mate, and they're moving a step forward, and we're connecting." And words that work are when you're in a difficult situation you use words that edify.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** You know what's the one thing that grieves the Holy Spirit? The Bible says, "Get rid of all anger, wrath, and bitterness." And then it says, "Hold on to that, and do not grieve the Holy Spirit." Words grieve and they can build up or they can tear down.

**Annie:** Yes. And God, I mean, we are made in the image of God, and everything He created, He spoke, He spoke everything, that's what we read in Genesis, right?

**Danny:** Yeah.

**Annie:** And so we are made in His image.

**Danny:** The Bible says, "He framed the world by His Word."

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And if we're called and made in the image of God, we can frame our world with our words.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And I think this is what made, but what's that one thing, that one book, that was a huge success, but it was kind of using Bible but it was more new-age, it was-

**Annie:** Secret.

**Danny:** The Secret. A lot of that was speaking.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Believing, mapping out, you know what it is? It is a law, it really is a law and it works against you, or it works for you.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** But when you partner with God-

**Annie:** That's right. They took it away from the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Danny:** Because the devil knows that words are powerful. Why do you think he uses words to destroy us?

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Why do you think political propaganda is so strong, and political, words can indict you. Words can literally make, man, I don't even... Did you ever, there's like a scientist, there's a Japanese scientist that did a study on words, I forgot what his name was.

**Annie:** We'll look it up.

**Danny:** And he ended proving, how do I get into this, because he ended up proving, he took original spring water. And when he did a process of freezing it and then speaking to it, and when he spoke to the words, the vibrations formed on the molecular structure of the water.

**Annie:** Oh wow.

**Danny:** And beautiful words formed a beautiful like snowflake-type structure.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And when he spoke, "I hate you," to the water, the spring water, and then they magnified it in frozen whatever, this process, it looks like someone punched the water crystal. You got to look this up, I read two books by him, I actually bought these books.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** There are laws that God puts in the place like gravity, speaking, thinking-

**Annie:** That's why we talk to plants, people talk all the time, when you talk to plants it matters.

**Danny:** Yep.

**Annie:** Because our words literally matter that much.

**Danny:** So, there's, he lets people do, and you can look this on YouTube, he tells people, "Do your home test." He said, "Take up a cup of boiled rice, put in spring water in a jar, write the word 'Hate' on it. Take another cup of rice and write, 'Love' on it." And he said, "Every day keep them in the same type of light. Speak to one, 'I love you.' And the other one say, 'I hate you.' And then you would see after 30 days, the one that you said I hate you to, the rice is dirty and black, and nasty. And the one you said I love you to, the rice is a light brown golden." This is cooked rice.

**Annie:** It's wild.

**Danny:** It's wild, it really is.

**Annie:** I mean, I think that's also why it matters, how we use our words about ourselves. I mean, I you should not be a better friend to anyone than you are to you.

**Danny:** That's good.

**Annie:** Because when you're looking in the mirror, if you're saying that hateful stuff to yourself, you, I mean Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself." He didn't say, "As you love your family, as you love your friends, as you love your pets." He was like, "Treat your people like you treat yourself."

**Danny:** You better preach.

**Annie:** I mean that, people don't talk about that near enough. They say, "Love God, love others." And I'm like, "You forgot who He told them to love others like." Like how you care about yourself because the words matter so much. I also think, we're going to do this now, I also think that is why your music matters so much, that's why *Jesus People* matters. That is why these albums that our friends are putting out, and you're putting out matter. Because we play that over our homes, and in our cars, and over our families, that is shifting something, right?

**Danny:** It absolutely is shifting, it shifts atmospheres.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** Have you ever been to church and you, like one person who I actually love dearly is Joel Osteen, and I've done some events with him. But you'll feel a certain way when you walk away from his messages, and it's built up, it's edified, and all those things. And I love that because words are reaching into your soul. And this is why people, they don't understand it, like this is why people deal with rejection even, and rejection follows their whole life. Because their parents don't realize that you are calling them out their name, or even just saying something innocent, "Well, I'm just describing how they are, they're so slow."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** You could've use your words to work.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And to edify, and build up.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And you'll notice words are more powerful than we think. I don't know what to say, because, I just resonate with you, and it's something, you guys, it is a discipline of the flesh.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Words are spirit.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** They give life. And this is why the enemy whispers in our ear, "You're a failure. You're a failure." Or, "You'll never get married." And can we just pause, what are words? Words are capsules that contain images, right?

**Annie:** Yes. Yeah.

**Danny:** So when I say, "Taco," you saw an image of something.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And when I say, "You're dumb." There's an image, you probably don't see the word dumb, but you see a nasty association with that.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And they're like capsules that are seeds, that have been buried into our heart. And I just think that, let's take these capsules and sow it into into our children, sow it into people around us. This is why the Bible says, "Let every word that comes out of your mouth, edify."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** ...edify, and build up. Paul says this, "Edify and build each other up." It's what we're supposed to do.

**Annie:** It's what we are. I mean, no matter whether you have a public life, like you and I do. Or if it's just your Instagram, or if it's the other

friends you're next to at the pool, how you are using your words is building something, you're creating something?

**Danny:** You're creating something and you're sowing something.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** And this is the thing like that people, and they laugh at you because most people are just, they only see in the moment.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And this is something, a discipline that the Lord teaches, that you reap what you sow. Everything is looked at as seed time and harvest, the Bible talks about that. And so when you call your child dumb their whole life, or your spouse dumb their whole life. And then you realize why they're struggling and why they're acting out, and why they're repeating patterns, is because they've taken on that image, and they've reseeded it. That capsule is buried, it is started to seed, and it's bearing fruit now.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** You know, our hearts are soil. Which is why Jesus said, "The sower came out and sowed the word." If he's the sower of the word guess what we are? We're sower of words as well. And those words, if they're on the right surface can really begin to bear fruit.

**[00:43:07]** <Music>

**Annie:** Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time, to tell you about another one of our amazing partners, Chime. Here's the thing I think we'd all agree on, our bank should work with us, not against us, right? Chime, is an award-winning app and debit card with no hidden fees, and no monthly minimums. They want you to get to keep as much of your hard-earned money as possible.

Chime has a fee-free overdraft on up to \$200, and debit purchases SpotMe, it's like overdraft protection, but it's better. So you get your paycheck, benefits, stimulus check, and tax return, up to two days earlier with direct deposit. There are no hidden fees or monthly minimums with Chime. Plus, they have over 60,000 fee-free ATMs at

locations like Walgreens and 7-Eleven, y'all know they have Coke Icees at 7- Eleven, yes, at CVS and more. Y'all that's more than the top-three national banks combined.

They have this mechanism where you can turn on alerts to let you know when your card is used, and instantly block your card if something seems fishy. Save on autopilot, when you sign up for Chime spending account, you can enroll in an optional savings account, and grow your savings automatically with 0.5% annual percentage yield. Which might not sound like much, but it's 10 times the national average, y'all.

Join the millions on Chime, so sign up, it takes two minutes. It doesn't affect your credit score, and you can apply now at [chime.com/thatsoundsfun](https://chime.com/thatsoundsfun). Again, that's [chime.com/thatsoundsfun](https://chime.com/thatsoundsfun). And now back to the rest of my conversation with Danny Gokey.

[00:44:37] <Music>

**Annie:** So people who were listening along with us and are going, "Man, some of that stuff my parents said still lives in me. Some of the things I believe aren't true." But I hear myself, and I say out loud, "God's never going to answer my prayer." Or "God can't be trusted anymore. Because someone I love died or whatever." How do we switch that in us? How do we start healing that in us, so that we are speaking live, and we are doing the work, and we are sowing?

**Danny:** You know, Jesus said right around that verse, said, "Every idle word you will be judged by." He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." Really what we have is we have a heart issue. But this is where we have to get into His word, and let His word inside of us, which Jesus is the living word. So it's not about what I got to do these four steps, it's literally letting Jesus in.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And some of us have let in a Jesus that we created. A Jesus that just is saving us, and now the rest of us is in our responsibility. Paul said it like this, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, not I but Christ lives in me. And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself so for me."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** So we have Christ in us, and then Paul goes over in Colossians 1:27, "This is the mystery that was hidden before the ages." Now check this out, "Christ in us the hope of glory."

**Annie:** "The hope of glory."

**Danny:** So what does that mean, Christ in us the hope of speaking the right things, when I spent all this time speaking the wrong things. Christ in me the hope of speaking right to my children, Christ in me the hope of breaking the addiction, Christ in me the hope of meeting my husband, Christ in me the hope of building that, of writing that book. What is the hope? I have a song of this new record called, "He Believes in You."

**Annie:** Oh, dude! That one and "Stay Strong" mess me up.

**Danny:** Did it?

**Annie:** Yes. Yes.

**Danny:** Oh, man. "He Believes in You" the Lord spoke to me back in 2007. Let me tell you that story.

**Annie:** Yes, I need you to.

**Danny:** I went to church that day and I was believing God, I was really discouraged that day. This is before I was a singer, this is 2007, believing God for a miracle for my first wife Sophia. Driving a semi-truck, being a worship leader, this was my life at the time. And I went to church, and God is, when I put my faith out there He always shows up.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And you got to be on the lookout. You know, "Faith is the substance of the things we hope for." It's like a picture of someone standing at a bus stop, looking for that bus, that "I know that bus is coming, where is that bus?"

**Annie:** Yes. That's it [**Crosstalk 00:46:58**]

**Danny:** That's what hope is, like your neck out, it's extended looking, right?

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And I was looking for God, I led worship that night, I didn't sense anything. The word came forth that night, I didn't sense anything. After church, now, I'm getting into a deep place because I'm like, "Shoot is there sin in my life, God? Worse God, I'm nervous right now."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm. The clock is ticking on God to be faithful.

**Danny:** Yeah, that's the worst, right?

**Annie:** That's the worst.

**Danny:** I felt this darkness come, and I don't know how to explain it, I felt this darkness come over me. I literally from the inside, I said, "Lord if you don't show up, I think this is it." Because I felt demonic presence, and I'm at church mind you.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I heard, the Bible says that, "When God's in you, water like a river comes from out of you." I heard this like water, like a river coming out of me, "I believe in you."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And it just shook me as, and like that darkness went away. I go, "Wait, what?" And I'm trying to process my whole life, I know God is supposed, we're supposed to believe in Him, is this even Scriptural?

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** See, your own understanding a lot of times is like, "That's not Scriptural." My brother, I love my brother, but when I told him that he's like, "That's blasphemy. God doesn't believe in you, you're just about nothing but just..." And he meant well, he was in his own understanding is like, "What I read in the Scripture we are just scum and God saved us." So anyways, that's a later conversation, so

anyways, I go home that night, I'm mulling on that, I go to sleep. I wake up the next morning, there's still heaviness on me.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** I go to my Word, I start reading Ephesians, I like take my Bible, I get on the floor. I read Ephesians one, two and three, I start bawling.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** If you ever want to know who you are, read Ephesians one, two, and three. Because Paul's prayers, you know, "That the eyes of your heart would be open to know the calling, that who's living inside of you." He prays this prayer. Because a lot of us are walking in ignorance, because we don't even know what we have inside of us. I'm bawling my eyes out.

I have this encounter with the Word of God, "He placed us in Christ." "He broke down the wall." "He seated us in heavenly places, that in the times to come." Ephesians two, he says that, "In the ages to come, so now, when we are in heaven, He's going to show us his kindness and goodness." We're going to be on display, understanding, like when we just thought, we saw how good God was, we're going to see a whole another side of Him, like just blown away. So anyways, I have this encounter with the word, I wipe my tears, I get off the ground, and I turn my TV on, it happens to be on TBN.

**Annie:** Aha.

**Danny:** And there was a preacher on it, Jesse Duplantis, literally guys, the first words that come out of his mouth is, "The Lord told me something the other day." And to explain the story, and he says, the Lord said this, "'I believe in you.' I wanted you to know the Lord believes in you, He believes that you can do it." And when I studied, I mean, a numbness just came all over me.

**Annie:** Oh sure.

**Danny:** Because I couldn't believe that God believes in me.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** When I looked it up scripturally, I started understanding why does God believe in us, because Christ lives in me. He doesn't believe in anything of my flesh, but He believes in me because that same spirit that rose Christ from the dead lives in me.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And the Bible says that, "Love believes all things, hopes all things, loves all things," whatever that Scripture is, but it says, "Love believes all things." The Bible says, "God is love." When you study it, you begin to understand. When you see what He says to get in, "Go in your strength, and go fight." So if God has given us the strength He believes in us.

**Annie:** Yeah. Man, I've been stuck in 1 Corinthians 13, in the faith, hope and love. Which is ridiculous, because people hang it up in their houses all the time, and like, "These three things remain, faith, hope and love." And I've been like, "Tell me what those are. If those are the three that matter the most, what does it actually look like to live by faith, to have hope and to love?" And I mean, how do we get stuck in those random little verses like that. Ephesians one through three, I mean, if all of our friends would just go read Ephesians one through three, today, and you will get stuck somewhere-

**Danny:** You will.

**Annie:** ...something will jump out at you. That may be the same thing that jumped out at you or me, or may be something totally different, but something will jump out. Write that in your journal, and then process why that jumped out to you. And that's the Holy Spirit, right?

**Danny:** Amen.

**Annie:** Just teaching you.

**Danny:** He's teaching us to this whole new reality. Faith is such a huge subject-

**Annie:** We don't talk about it enough, I don't think, right?

**Annie:** No.

**Danny:** And I recommend, y'all, I know, I'm just keep saying this but Keith Moore is a faith teacher.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Everything is done by faith. And when you start realizing how important faith is to God. How important, like God said to Joshua, "See, I've given you Jericho." That's a faith statement.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Because you know, I have a song called, "Stand in Faith," it says, "I will stand in faith, I will walk in faith, I will live by faith, I will see by faith."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And here is another one, "I'll receive by faith." Do you know we receive by faith as well? And so your confession could be like, whoever's listening, "I receive, God, everything you have for me."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** So I believe that God has already written all of our stories. And it is our responsibility to have the faith to believe, because Psalm 139 says, David says, "You've written my story, as in a book."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And he says, "All the days were laid out before I even walked one of them."

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** The enemy has also written a story for us. But if you walk in fear, you'll connect with the story of the enemy, right?

**Annie:** Yeah, not interested. Not interested.

**Danny:** But, no me neither. But if you walk in faith, you'll begin to connect. So simple faith statements like, "God, I receive today everything that you have for me. Every breakthrough, every good, every setup that

you've already ordained, I receive the financial breakthroughs. I receive the healings in my body today that Christ paid for."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** If you see this, and hear, and that's why the Word of God is so important, because the word comes as a capsule and changes the image of who God is and who you are.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** And then you can start, out of the abundance, speaking faith statements.

**Annie:** Yeah, I sat with a friend of mine this weekend, and we said, "The things you're believing for, if God did them tomorrow, how do you want to live today?"

**Danny:** Mh-hmm.

**Annie:** How does that change today? If you knew He was going to answer your prayer tomorrow, how would you live today different? And so we've been thinking about, like, as a faith, like, if I believe God's going to actually do the things that I believe He's going to do, but it'll be tomorrow and not today, well, I've got some stuff to do today, right? Like, I've got some things to think about today, because He's going to change my life tomorrow.

**Danny:** Yeah, and not only that but there'll be like this joy.

**Annie:** Yeah, oh, yeah, because it's tomorrow. And then you get to tomorrow, and you didn't get exactly what you thought or you did, and then you go, "Well, then what if He does it tomorrow, what should I do today?"

**Danny:** Wow.

**Annie:** That sounds way more fun, to me, than going, "Oh, He didn't answer my prayer exactly the way I prayed it, and I don't know what to do with that?" Instead I'm trying, I'm not great at this all the time, but I'm trying to go, "Oh what if He do it tomorrow?"

**Danny:** Can we pivot out of that-

**Annie:** Yeah, go.

**Danny:** Because you said something interesting that comes to my mind is that because we go, "What if He doesn't?" Well, guess what? Just like my story, even though the prayer wasn't answered the way that I saw, look what the Lord has done.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** He's restored me-

**Annie:** I mean, you have like a Job story.

**Danny:** Yeah.

**Annie:** I mean like, lost your wife, and now wife, four kids, massive career, I mean-

**Danny:** God is given me double for my trouble.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And we're, I feel like I'm just getting started.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** But here's the thing, the unnecessary pain that I walked through because when the enemy sees our pain, he looks for cracks in our foundation, that's always found in our faith.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Jesus said, "The enemy is trying to steal your faith and sift you like wheat." The enemy is after our faith, that is why Paul says, "Fight the good fight of faith." And a lot of times faith is going to be developed in when your prayers aren't answered. But we can rejoice and say, "But God, you said, you're going to work everything for my good."

And so you know what, instead of wallowing in the pain and depression, and this is something I want to address too because people will be like, "Well you lost your wife, I lost my child, that's

irreplaceable, or my mother." Let me tell you this, the foundation that you're setting out on is a wrong foundation, because nobody wife, child, mom, dad, is ever replaceable.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** So that's a wrong foundation to say that. And then but I say that, that the same God who formed your heart, who made the heart, who created the family unit, is the same God who can restore that heart, and heal that heart better than it ever was. But only people of faith, who get in the Word and see that, because the devil wants to come and say, "That's never going to change, you can never get your child back."

You're right, you're right, you can't get your child back. But the same God who can heal your heart like Job, make you forget the pain of your past, and can cause you to rejoice in this moment. Because of His goodness, because you weren't created, this is going to be maybe a hard statement to receive, but you weren't created for other people to be your everything, you were created so that God could be your all in all and Him, the vice versa, you're His all in all, and He's your all in all.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** And that's only where satisfaction comes out of. And this is the type of faith that we need to have, is believe the impossible, because all things are possible. So the listener, what is that impossible thing that you're facing right now? The Bible says, "All things are possible when you believe."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** You know?

**Annie:** Man, it is work, it is work to have faith.

**Danny:** It is.

**Annie:** But it is the work we are meant to do.

**Danny:** Amen.

**Annie:** It is the work we are meant to do.

**Danny:** Because faith does.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** Faith says, right?

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** Faith, if God gives you a word, like for me when I was talking about the house, I had to just come in agreement with it. A lot of times that's the biggest battle than anything else.

**Annie:** Mh-hmm, yes, to agree, because you're putting your hope out there again. You're saying, "I believe I can hear God, I believe He's shown me a path. I will choose to walk in it and hope, even though I do not see the end yet, but I've seen the end."

**Danny:** Who are some people Joseph, right?

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** Joseph had to see, but remember, I think one thing I remember, you guys, don't go just have faith now for any old thing.

**Annie:** That's it.

**Danny:** One thing that Keith Moore says is, "Someone can't come up to you and tell you go start a ministry." Here is because you can only have faith for what God speaks to you, right?

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Because you build your life on His word, and not someone else's word. So but at the same time, let's make it more practical, though, you don't have to wait for some angel to come and deliver you a word, start practicing it. The Bible says, "If you delight yourself in the Lord, He'll give you the desires of your heart."

**Annie:** Mh-hmm.

**Danny:** So if you're delighting in God, automatically, He's placing the right desires in you.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And if you feel something stirring in you to start a ministry, you can begin to start, slowly, begin to like Gideon, begin to test God in it and say, "Hey, I'm sensing this stirring over here, I want you to start showing up, and start confirming your word."

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** That's happening on the inside.

**Annie:** Yeah, I said to the Lord, a couple of weeks ago, I said, "What am I supposed to do, when I'm right in the middle of seeing You do the thing? Like, "I feel like I'm seeing the prophetic come true in an area." And I was like, "What am I supposed to do now? Because it's not done, but it started." And the Lord just said, "Just worship." And I was like, "That's it, that's it. There's nothing, I can't fix it, or speed it up, or change it, but I know what I'm seeing, because I've already seen it."

And so then He was like, "Just worship, just worship Me and let me do it" I was like, "Okay, I can do that." Now, it turns out, I was in a hotel room in the middle of nowhere on tour, and turned some music up loud. And I was like, "I'm going." Because that's what You said, "When I see you doing the thing that I've been asking You to do in this one area that I should just worship. I don't have to do anything about it, I just have to worship."

We're out of time, we didn't hardly talk about Jesus People, but that album comes out today. It's, I mean, how everyone isn't going to show up at all your shows and listen to your album on repeat when they know the kind of pastor you are in your heart-

**Danny:** Oh man, well thank you.

**Annie:** What a gift

**Danny:** Well, I would just say this, you know, if people listen, I'm grateful for their support. Annie, I'm grateful for you even shining a light on it, and I really do ask the Lord for messages in my songs, I know that probably sounds weird, but He's the greatest artist-

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** ...that there's ever been.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** He's the greatest podcaster that's ever been.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Danny:** He's the greatest entertainer, and why do I say that? Whatever He is in your vocation, you can be the second greatest ever because your daddy has got the key. And so I really look for that key in my music.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And I'm not saying every song was a word from the Lord, but a lot of them were things the Lord had begun to drop in my heart and speak to me. And so I hope it ministers and I hope, share it if it ministers to you, and let other people receive that ministry as well.

**Annie:** Yeah. One of these days you, and me, and Christine D'Clario need to get in the same room, because then the prophetic conversation will go off the chain. That girl-

**Danny:** Isn't she awesome?

**Annie:** She's unbelievable. I mean, we went to Ecuador together with Compassion International, a couple of years ago, and we've been like pals forever since. She'll just call me, and be like "I've got a word for you, I've got something, something is stirring." And I'm like, "Bring it."

**Danny:** She just was at my house this past week, we had her, her husband, and a few other artists over. Because we did this event, this worship together event.

**Annie:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Danny:** And, man, she just said, she doesn't even know when she's prophetic.

**Annie:** Right.

**Danny:** She just said something, I asked her a question, she began to unload, and it really was a key to how to handle stress in my life.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** I didn't even realize, but she had just told me what she was walking through and all these things, and I'm telling you I handle stress in such a different way.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** All because of a simple key that she gave me-

**Annie:** And that's it, that's the gift, that's the gift. Okay, the last question we always ask, Danny Gokey, please come back anytime you want, I feel like we're just getting started.

**Danny:** Oh me too.

**Annie:** This is so fun.

**Danny:** What an honor to sit here and do this podcast, and I hope nobody thinks that our lives are perfect. I'm living this out, you're living this out.

**Annie:** Yes.

**Danny:** Hey, we're all just encouraging each other right now, now, let's go do the work now, right?

**Annie:** That's right, that's right. I cried twice, people know. Okay, the last question we always ask, because the show is called, That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

**Danny:** Yes. What sounds to me? Playing basketball, eating.

**Annie:** Really?

**Danny:** Yeah. Swimming with my children-

**Annie:** Okay that's one eating.

**Danny:** What is like my favorite pastime? Eating food. What is yours?

**Annie:** Same.

**Danny:** Go to my favorite restaurant here in Nashville, Jeff Ruby's, eating steak shrimp, I mean come on!

**Annie:** Oh, one of our questions from your tour manager Steve Railey, was like, "How do I get a table at Jeff Ruby's?" I've never been to Jeff Ruby's.

**Danny:** Oh, Annie!

**Annie:** Where is it?

**Danny:** It's downtown, my friends own it.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Danny:** So it's a big reason, but so she's the CEO, her dad started it. They have several locations in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Danny:** It's a steak and seafood restaurant.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Danny:** But she runs it, the daughter, they're our age, she's a believer.

**Annie:** Yeah.

**Danny:** And they are on fire, her and her husband, ex-NFL player, got injured playing for the Cincinnati Bengals, but fire for Jesus, they run this restaurant. When you go to this restaurant, I think, it's in Cincinnati and Kentucky, it's a restaurant that is supporting the kingdom of God.

**Annie:** Yeah, great, okay, Jeff Ruby's I'll go, I promise I'll go. It's downtown?

**Danny:** And it's a very awesome experience, yes.

**Annie:** Oh, it's an experience.

**Danny:** It's an experience-

**Annie:** Listen, I'm here for the experiences.

**Danny:** It's an experience, I'm noticing in my age, I'm more about the experience than I am about like going to restaurants, a nice one is an experience.

**Annie:** Yeah, yeah. You're not just paying for what you're eating, you're paying for how the whole feel from start to finish.

**Danny:** The start to finish, you walk away feeling like a million bucks.

**Annie:** Yeah, okay, great. And I hope it doesn't cost quite a million bucks, but, okay, I'm going to go to Jeff Ruby's.

**Danny:** Depends on what you get.

**Annie:** Man, Danny, thanks for today.

**Danny:** Thank you.

**Annie:** What a gift.

**[01:02:10]** <Music>

**Annie:** You guys, isn't he the best? Oh my gosh, I've been thinking about so many pieces of that conversation since it happened. Oh, I just adore him, that was really, really fun, and I love when the Holy Spirit shows up like that and tells us some really interesting fun, different things, so I'm here for it. Be sure to grab a copy of his new album, [Jesus People](#) and make sure you're following him, so that you can tell him thanks for being on the show.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly

easy to find Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, all the places you may need me that's where you can find me. And I think that's it from me today, friends go out or stay home and do something that sounds really fun to you, I will do the same. Have a great weekend and we'll see you back here on Monday, y'all, we are excited about this one, it's Dallas Jenkins from the Chosen. We'll see you then.

**[01:03:01]** <Music>