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Intro: Hi friends! Welcome to a very special Wednesday episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so excited to be here with you today to announce the newest and one of the most incredible shows to join the That Sounds Fun Network. We've got a great episode in store for you today.

The network has been a movin' and shakin' here recently with Season 2 of Coffee with Kailey kicking off and with the launch of Unexpected with Hannah Love right before Holy Week. Y'all, how much did you love that? And please don't forget The Snack Show. How much are y'all loving The Snack Show?

So far the shows on That Sound Fun Network this year that have started are just incredible. We like to describe the That Sounds Fun Network like it's an amusement park of podcasts. They're all unique rides, but we put them all together in one park because if you liked the swinging ship, there's a good chance you're going to like the carousel too. We partner with all the shows on things like advertising and strategy and curating the community for the hosts and producers so that no one feels like they're doing this on their own.

And y'all, the network is not even two years old yet, almost there, Cinco de Mayo, and we're already launching our 14th pod, the one I get to tell you about today. So I'm thrilled to share with you the Imagine Faith Talk Podcast hosted by two of my friends, Kevin Olusola, you probably know him as KO, the beatboxer from Pentatonix, and Donovan Donnell, who's an author, a life coach, and an entrepreneur. It's the newest show in the amusement park.

Imagine Faith Talk is a show all about discovering how to maximize our uniqueness, deploy our imaginations, and leverage faith in God to achieve our dreams. And honestly, you'll hear us talk about this but what I loved when KO and Donovan told me about the show is they were like, "We are trying to figure out how to be Daniels in Babylon. Like how do we live godly lives in places that are not godly? And how do we pursue our dreams and what we're called to no matter where we live?" Y'all it is an awesome, awesome show.

Today you get to hear a conversation between the guys and I and a little snippet of one of their first episodes. While you're holding your phone, go ahead and go look up Imagine Faith Talk Podcast. Go ahead and hit subscribe and then continue to enjoy this conversation with the host of the newest show on the That Sounds Fun Network, KO and Donovan Donnell.

[00:03:38] <music>

Annie: Kevin and Donovan, welcome to That Sounds Fun.

Donovan: Hey, Annie. What's up?

Kevin: Hey, thank you.

Annie: Y'all, I'm so pumped about this. This is really exciting. We are really excited about Imagine Faith Talk. Okay, before we jump in, one of the things I have to do is will y'all both introduce yourselves so that our friends listening can know whose voice is whose?

Donovan: Got you, man.

Kevin: Sure.

Donovan: All right, Donovan Dee Donnell, co-host of Imagine Faith Talk. What else do you want to know? My name, everything else or I'll hold on all that?

Annie: Oh, you can just go. Give us some sentences about you, Donovan.

Donovan: Oh, man. All right. I'm God's Son. My mom always told me I was energy wrapped in flesh, divine energy wrapped in flesh. So I've been learning that on my life journey. Presently I am a two-book author, a certified life coach, photographer. I also have a day job in the midst of all this entrepreneurship. So it's just God has given me expanded capacity and I plan to use it for His glory. And so yeah, yeah, that's where I'm at.

Annie: That's the part I can't believe about you, Donovan is everything I learned about you, I'm like, Do you have more days? Whatever calendar you're on, can I have that calendar? I don't know how you get it all done.

Donovan: The Sabbath revives me and helps me to do the supernatural.

Annie: Oh, you better tell that to everybody, that you still take a day of rest.

Donovan: 100%, up and down. That's me. Yes.

Annie: Me too.

Donovan: All right.

Annie: I say to people, I'm like, "Don't expect me on a Saturday." If I'm traveling on the weekends, it's a Wednesday. If I'm not traveling, it's a Saturday. I'm like, our pastor at church says, "God can do more in six days than you could ever do in seven."

Donovan: 100%.

Annie: You get it all done by having a Sabbath. Thanks for joining us, everybody. Okay, Kevin, tell us about yourself, Kevin.

Kevin: Absolutely. Well, my name is Kevin Olusola, and I am the beatboxer of a band called Pentatonix. We're a three-time Grammy Award-winning band who has had kind of unprecedented success in the music industry as an acapella group, something that I don't think any of us really realized could happen. But I think we stayed in the kind of approval, if you will, of God, and He's done so many more things than we could ever do.

And I can tell you the same thing, kind of like Donovan said, I don't think we could have done it unless we took the Sabbath. So from Friday to Saturday, we don't work as a band. We don't. Because I knew that I couldn't do that and I wanted to follow the biblical principles of the Bible. So we don't do any Friday night concerts because of it. And I'm so thankful that they were able to do that.

Annie: I have never heard that from you. Y'all don't do any Friday night shows?

Kevin: No. And if they do, they do it without me because I know I have to follow-

Annie: How dare they?

Kevin: I have to follow the way God has called me to do it.

Annie: Are you telling me that the three of us gathered here today and none of us work seven days a week?

Kevin: No.

Annie: I am so interested in this whole thing. Okay, we're going to keep talking about Sabbath. Don't you worry about that. But Kevin and Donovan, tell me how y'all are friends? How do y'all know each other?

Kevin: Oh, Donovan, I'll let you do it.

Donovan: You will let me do it? All right. Kev was used of God enough to start this Bible study that my best friend was going to, and she thought that I'd be a good fit to come to the Bible study. He thought I would hit it off with Kevin. And she was right on the money. I'm telling you, it was electric. From the first time we met each other, it was just awesome.

We actually had a chance to sit down and have lunch one day, and we were like, "Yo, yo, can we become best friends?" Like, we hit it off so well. Like, God has not given us this chemistry for no reason. There's something we're supposed to do. So we started exploring that. But that's how we met at a Bible study that Kevin orchestrated and I was invited to.

Annie: Why do you all live in LA?

Kevin: I feel like God called us to this place. I mean, Donovan, you've always lived here. And I came because of the band Pentatonix. I graduated from college and then I moved here because the band was starting for the TV show The Sing-Off. But this was my calling ground.

I mean, it's so funny he was talking about the Bible study. The reason I started this Bible study was because as we were having this unprecedented success in the music industry, I didn't know other people who were Christians trying to be at that level, but also keeping the tenants of faith.

So when I realized I didn't have people like that at that level of success who were trying to do the same thing, I said, "Well, you know what? I think I need to create a space for, as we call it, Daniels meeting other Daniel's." You look at Daniel in the Bible, he went and got the education of the world. He went to Babylon, he studied Babylon, but he still had an excellent spirit and was able to be a leader by following God.

And I think that is so possible to go out and do the Great Commission, go out into all the world and preach the gospel. You might not not say the name of Jesus but you may, through your fullest communication of self, speak the name of Jesus. So I wanted to get more people who are trying to be that in the world together. And that's actually where the podcast was birthed out of.

Annie: Yeah, Donovan, will talk a little bit... There are so many of our friends listening who do not do ministry for their job, but they live ministry, right? Like your job isn't ministry, my job... none of the three of us do actual work in a church ministry for our jobs, but we live in. So what's the tension there for you, Donovan? Why are we having these Imagine Faith Talk conversations?

Donovan: What I found was that there's a way that people feel like they have to live life, that culture has taught us, the world has taught us the way of the world, the Bible calls it. But it says, "Do not conform to the ways of the world." That's what it says in the Bible. And He's reminding us there's another way that's much easier, that includes much more fulfillment.

And I feel like God has called us out into the world. He said that "yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," because earlier he tells me I'm the light. So he's called us into these dark places to show people like, Look, the light is nothing to be afraid of. It's actually an ease associated with pursuing God and letting God guide you through life. And no matter where you are, you can represent Him as He preserves you. And I think that's why we've been called into these different environments.

I've worked in a church before. So I've learned how the workings go, but where God calls you, you go. And where you go and where He calls you to, He provides.

Annie: What are the titles of your books?

Donovan: The first book is *Before the "i DO" Are You My Happily Ever After?* So that's a book about having a better relationship with God and with yourself and how that reflects into your relationship with everybody else, even romantic or non-romantic relationships.

The second book is called *Evolving the Entrepreneur: The Premeditated Assault on Stagnation*. So that is a book about, again, just really the Sabbath is in there, rest is in there, all these non-traditional things you think an entrepreneur should not do are in that book. And the third book, I haven't published, is called *The Strip Club: Lost It All Trying to Gain It All, Wondering If It Was All Worth It*. And that's about my five years I spent as a male exotic dancer and how God transitioned me out of that into really be in His light in this generation.

Annie: Dude! Kevin, tell me that when we're here in Imagine Faith Talk, we're going to be hearing some of y'all stories, right? That's part of what's going to happen in this show.

Kevin: Oh, 100%. I mean, when we came together and talked about our stories, we both had the same realization, even though we'd lived separate life journeys. And that one realization was, you don't have to sell your soul to obtain your dream.

Annie: Wow.

Kevin: We both learned that through our stories. And so many people think, once again, you have to do it the way the world has called us to. But if God is the author of your story, He is trying to maximize the uniqueness that is inside of you. And people don't realize sometimes that that uniqueness is your superpower, because it's a God power in you that you're supposed to spread that light throughout the world.

So if you're going to do that, you have to be personally aligned to God. And then you have to do the self-development work. But then that multiplier is faith. When you do things in faith, for example, I'm going to have faith in God that He's going to maximize my six days. When I take that day off on Sabbath, I'm going to trust that God's going to do more at that time. Because as I've seen, now when I've gotten to the highest heights of my industry, I can't tell people that I did it from my own accord.

Annie: Right.

Kevin: I can't. I can only tell them it is through the power within me that I am here. And that is the place of humility God has always called us to be because He wants His children to love one another. So that's how we love, by being able to be in that space of humility and say God is the source and spread that light.

Annie: I mean, when you started that Bible study, Kevin, how did you even find the first people to come? I'm thinking about my friends listening who are feeling like y'all like Daniels in Babylon who are going like, "I don't really know a lot of Christians," or "I live in a community where everybody says they're Christian but I

don't hear anybody talking about praying and I don't hear..." There's those communities too where everybody's a Christian, but nobody's lives are reflecting the fruit that we think would come from someone who's a believer.

Kevin: Sure.

Annie: When you started it, how did you even find the first people?

Kevin: I started just finding my friends who were I knew Christians but they were looking for high performance. And high performance to us is just people who are sustaining optimized performance. And I didn't get this term for myself. This is from a guy named Brendon Burchard who I've gotten high performance coaching from, his whole coaching staff.

And I was looking for people like that so that we could really help ourselves in the faith to be our best selves in every single aspect of life. So we would just talk to people. It was an electric space. And through that, once again, I met Donovan. And he and I started to hang out, we realized that we wanted to continue with this. The pandemic happens, so he and I were starting to lead these Bible studies together. And Core who's our producer who I actually met 12 years ago in China, that's how he and I met-

Annie: What?

Kevin: Yeah, we met in China 12 years ago. He started to come to the Bible study because what God told him is to observe the Sabbath. And he said I was the only person he knew who was observing the Sabbath. So I told him, "Come to the Bible study." And he's the one that said, "Y'all, what you guys are doing is actually a podcast."

Annie: Wow.

Kevin: And Donovan and I were like, "I don't know if we have the capacity for that because we already have so much." And then he said, "Can you all pray on it for one week? Just pray on it." So we prayed on it for one week. And I tell you, when Donovan and I got a resounding "You must do this"-

Annie: No. Both of you?

Donovan: Yes. Almost at the same time.

Kevin: Exactly. At the same time. We talked to each other, we were like, "Oh, oh, we have to do this." And that's why all 2021 we just kept developing and praying and continuously working on this because we have to share this. We're not pastors. And

I think that's the most beautiful thing. God didn't call everybody to be a pastor. He called them to be them and spread light through their unique testimony.

So that's why this is really a podcast about leveraging faith in God for success. How do we do it? And we're going to be continuously studying the Scriptures to see how God is doing that in His ways, in His thoughts, in His process, so we can do it optimized and joyous.

Annie: Donovan, tell me about that yes from God.

Donovan: You know what? You get a lot of opportunities to give up on this path of faith. You get a lot of opportunities to give up. One thing that Kev forgot to mention was that Bible study was in person. And then when the pandemic hit, we decided to go virtual. We could have given up.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Donovan: We could have been like, "Oh, there's no more opportunity." But what a high performer does is that they lean on the creativity that God has given them. We lean on it. Our podcast is really about learning how to weaponize your imagination. So instead of thinking, "Oh, that's it," we said, "No. If God has called us to it, there must be a way that we can get this done."

So we moved into the virtual world. And that is when I first met Core and that conversation came up. And I was just like, "I can't. I don't have the time. I got so many projects that I'm working on, that I'm trying to do. I just wrote a book. I'm trying to promote both of my books, and that takes a lot of energy." And God said to me, He said, "If you're more focused on building your house than my house, then we have a problem."

Annie: Okay!

Donovan: Build my house. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all its righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you. So when me and Kev, I feel like we finished the Bible study, we were talking to each other and we both was like, "I see it." There was almost like a road to Damascus moment. Like, we see it. We see it. And we chose to submit.

Annie: Talk to me a little bit, either of y'all, this idea of I'm so lit up. This is why you're such a gift to the That Sounds Fun Network and we're dying with joy that once God called you to that you called me. That's why I exist on the planet is to help in moments like this, I hope.

All that to say, tell me about like, I'm lit up at the idea that we're going to help business people move the gospel forward and that y'all's show is going to help people that are in their career notice the Holy Spirit moving in their job. How do you have eyes for that? How do we open our eyes to what the Holy Spirit is already doing at our workplace?

Kevin: So one of the first things that we talk about a lot in this podcast is what is the formula for success. And Donovan and I have talked about this and prayed over this, and this is what we came up with. Success equals, in parentheses, personal alignment, plus self-development—and we say parentheses because that's your part of success—times faith, because faith is your multiplier.

Annie: Wow.

Kevin: So that's why for us in success you have to see like Joshua saw when he was leading the children of Israel when God was calling him, are you personally aligned in this space to what God is calling you to do? Are you able to do this with the tenants of faith that God has shown throughout the Bible? Because it says in Joshua, "Meditate on my word day and night. Do not go to the left or to the right. And then you shall see success, and then you will be prosperous." So that's why that is first.

Next part, the self-development part, this is why we talk so much about high performance. And once again, we didn't coin the term, but we see that God is a God of high performance. He wants us to have optimized performance in everything we do. So what does that mean for your energy? What does that mean, for your clarity? Are you clear about what you're going to do for the intention of that day? Because sometimes you go into the workplace, and you let the randomness of life take over rather than let the intention of what you're called to do be your foundation. So that's what you have to develop yourself to be able to hold and withstand what God's called you to do.

And then there's that place the faith part where you occupy faith. That's where only God can live in that space. But because you're participating with the God of heaven, that's where the energy and the flow of the Spirit works in a way where you get to see things happen that you know can't come from you. And now people get to see who Jesus is. That success formula to us is so important in people, in business, creative jobs. Any industry can see God truly work and move.

Annie: Donovan, talk about faith.

Donovan: Man, this is a big deal for me. We often wonder, no matter what industry you're in, no matter what job you're in, you wonder sometimes on your journey, why have I

had to go through everything that I've gone through? And that's the conversation me and Kevin had. So this podcast is full of personal revelations we've had on our journey, moments that we thought that maybe God had forsaken us, moments we thought, "Does it have to be this challenging?"

Annie: Does it have to be this hard? Right.

Donovan: Yes. You know what I'm saying? We struggle with those three big questions. Have I been called here? Do I have what it takes? And will it be worth it? And because of our stories that we talked about in the beginning, everything that we've gone through is now ammunition for us to expose how God is so good in any given situation, and He can cause us to work together for the good to them who love Him.

So as we looked at our stories, we recognize that that gives us a relatable point to so many people. Because we're not afraid to share our stories. But we share it by faith. We went through those situations by faith. And God is now saying, Because you planted those seeds of faith, I'm going to take everything you've been through and make it a speaking point or a conversation piece to relate to other people feeling like they're in a situation all by themselves.

And God said, No, if you read the Bible, it says, your brothers and sisters have gone through some of the same things. And sometimes that's incredibly comforting. And we've learned that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. And when you can relate, you care. And they're like, "We're going to listen to you guys."

Like Moses, he was in a wilderness for 40 years before he actually had to lead the children of Israel to the same wilderness for 40 years. So what we've gone through has been to the benefit of people who haven't even listened to the podcast yet.

Kevin: Amen.

Annie: Donovan, I've never thought about that. That Moses was in the wilderness... When he left Egypt, he went into wilderness as a shepherd. Why have I never thought of that in all my years? In all my years? You're exactly right. I mean, it's like Jesus had to do 40 days of fasting before He could launch it to His ministry.

Donovan: Come on.

Kevin: And not only that. Think about this. Jesus had that revelation at 12 years old, what He was supposed to do. And then He's in the darkroom, we don't hear about anything until He's 30, believing that first... I mean, obviously, he had the miracles that He had a little before that, but His first real word to the world on the sermon of

the mount, that was a 30-year sermon that He was preparing or 18-year sermon from the time He was 12 trying to figure out how he's going to speak the gospel of God.

That's why I feel like this darkroom that I know that Donovan and I were in, being in our own industries, having our own testimonies is so important. And I also want to say, I will be very honest, I didn't know if I wanted to do the podcast also because in the music industry, it is so unpopular to be talking about faith. Ed Sheeran's dad talked about this. He goes, he told Ed Sheeran don't speak about politics, religion because you're going to alienate your fan base.

Annie: Wow

Kevin: I understand that. But at the end of the day, are we trying to please the world? Or are we trying to please the Father, who wants to give the world the biggest blessing in life? So at the end of the day, that's what we're here to do. And we're not here to be preachers. We're here to just truly share what we've been learning. And we want people to join this journey with us because we're all on this journey of trying to be the best selves. We just believe that you have to do it by faith in God.

Donovan: And there's still things we're working on.

Kevin: Oh, yeah.

Donovan: I'm a big advocate for not just preaching from the mountaintop, but to share mid-mountain where I'm at. Do you want to join me? Because I know I'm going through something, you're going through some. Mid-mountain is a place that so many people neglect to share their story. And that's what we're doing. No matter what we've been through in life, even where we are today.

Kev is a dad, a husband. I'm still navigating getting rid of old habits that I picked up in my past life. And so right here, right now in the midst of it, I'm sharing my vulnerability to let you know, like, if you're going through it as well, we can go through it together.

Annie: I mean, don't y'all figure that in our lives... Let's use the mountain as an example. Today we're all at the top of a mountain somewhere, we're all in the middle of a mountain somewhere, and we're all at the base of a mountain somewhere.

Donovan: I like that.

Annie: My whole life isn't mid-mountain, but my whole life ain't in the top of the mountain either. But there are places that all three of those are true. I'm trying to not stand up

and yell amen as y'all are talking. But I'm like, Man, in places in my life I feel all of those things. I feel like I'm just starting and I've got the excitement of a brand new entrepreneur and I've got some successes, and I've got the majority of it is something in the middle.

Kevin: But isn't it funny? That's why we have to stay humble continuously on this journey. As we're learning, we stay humble and say, "God, I know that there is more for me to learn so that I can reflect your glory. Mid-mountain, I'm going to do my best to reflect your glory. At the base of the mountain, I've been messing up or I don't even know how I'm going to start this venture, I'm going to reflect to glory. I'm at the top of this mountain. I couldn't have gotten there unless it was your glory. So let that shine in the mid and in the base of the mountain, Lord, continuously shine. "

Annie: That's it. All right. Let's let our friends hear some of Episode 1 of Imagine Faith Talk. I mean, as if this isn't like lightning everybody up, let's let them hear some of that first episode.

[00:24:23] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just jumping in here for a second. We're going to get to the clip of Imagine Faith Talk Podcast in just a second. But first, I want to tell you about couple of our partners that we are so thankful for, like [Canopy](#).

You'll know that I'm really choosy about the partners that we share here. Like really, really choosy because you're my friends. I'm not going to recommend products or services to you if I don't genuinely believe in them.

And with that said, I'm excited to tell you about Canopy, a newer partner of ours that is doing some incredible work. Canopy is an app for families that uses state-of-the-art intelligence to make the internet safe for kids by detecting and blocking pornography.

On average, kids today are exposed to pornography around age 11. What? We've got to do anything we can to fix that, right? I mean, I'm no psychotherapist but we all know enough to agree that it's not healthy for kids to see content like that, especially since their minds are still developing. Some of the studies on this are pretty eye-opening.

Canopy is an inexpensive and easy-to-use tool that gives parents the confidence to let their children use the internet freely without fear of accidentally stumbling across any really graphic stuff. It works on most smartphones, tablets, and computers too.

Head on over to canopy.us/thatsoundsfun and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN at checkout to get a discount and try it free for 30 days. Again, that's canopy.us/thatsoundsfun, and use the code THATSOUNDSFUN at checkout.

Sponsor: And I have one more amazing partner to tell you about, Thrive Market. Oh, it's my favorite box when it lands on my door. Y'all, [Thrive Market](https://thrivemarket.com) is an online membership-based market on a mission to make healthy living easy and affordable for everyone.

They'll deliver what you need so you can spend more time on what matters. And with Thrive Market you can shop for everything from healthy pantry essentials to sustainable meat. They've got non-toxic cleaning and beauty products.

And do you have to check the weather, get ready, pack the kids in the car, figure out a time to make it list and then go to the store? No, you do not. It's all delivered right to your door.. And if you find a price lower elsewhere, Thrive Market will match it. The team at Thrive Market carefully vets each and every item so you can trust that if they sell it it's probably the highest quality available.

One of my favorite things about Thrive is knowing that eating gluten makes my body feel not great. They've made it super easy to filter their market by values or lifestyle and they have 90 different ones to choose from. So you can filter the over 5000 food, home, and beauty products according to what matters to you most and what helps you live the lifestyle that works best for you. Whether that's plant-based, keto, gluten-free, zero waste, BIPOC-owned brands, Thrive Market has you covered.

I love to keep my pantry stocked with the Thrive brand of staples like canned tomatoes, beans, and bone broth. You know what Mr. F. Down says about prior proper planning, right? My pantry agrees. Gotta be ready to whip something together and do not sleep on that nutpods French Vanilla creamer and a nice cup of chai. It's delish.

When you join Thrive Market, you're joining a community of 1 million-plus members, including me, and sponsoring a family in need. And with their fast and free carbon-neutral shipping, you are also bettering our planet. I know how generous and caring y'all are as humans, so I know that matters to you the way it is to me. Can your grocery store do all that? Listen, no.

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And now here is a clip of one of my new favorite podcasts, Imagine Faith Talk.

[00:28:06] <music>

Kevin: Welcome everybody to the inaugural episode of Imagine Faith Talk. This is the podcast where we believe that faith in God is the key to unlocking everything you've been called to be. My name is Kevin Olusola. And if you've heard a little bit about me, you may know that I'm part of a vocal band and acapella group called Pentatonix. And we've had some pretty unprecedented success in the music industry. I'm also a husband and a dad.

Donovan: And I'm Donovan Donnell and I've been fortunate enough to partner with this amazing man over here, but I have a story of my own. I used to be a male exotic dancer, a stripper, a fantasy salesman. God transformed my life and told me, "I didn't give you those gifts for that." And presently I am a certified life coach, two-book author, and public speaker.

Kevin: Donovan, this has been a long time coming, man.

Donovan: Oh, yes, it has. Oh, yes, it has.

Kevin: Look, now that you know a little bit about us, let's get straight into it.

Donovan: Let's go.

Kevin: Now, Donovan, you remember during the pandemic in 2020 you and I were hosting a Bible study over zoom. And that's how we met Core, our producer. I've actually known Core for 10 plus years in China. And he told us, "What y'all are actually doing is a podcast." And you and I had so much hesitation on this because-

Donovan: A whole lot.

Kevin: ...We've got such busy schedules and whatnot, what have you. But Core said, "Just pray on it for one week." So we did that. And at the end of the week, you and I both heard a resounding yes.

Donovan: At the same time, man.

Kevin: Literally at the same time. What in the world happened in that moment? And why are we starting this podcast Imagine Faith Talk?

Donovan: Listen, this is what happens when you pray. And I think Core was very strategic in that. He didn't just say, "Hey, here's my heart's desires. It doesn't matter what your desire is." He said, "Pray about it." Because our goal is really to align our hearts with God. That's how you find success. That's how you find fulfillment.

So once we recognized that God wanted to do it because of our relationship with God, we knew that it was going to result in a fulfillment, in an exceedingly abundantly above what we could ask or think. So the only reasonable thing we could say was yes to.

Kevin: And that's what we did. I mean, let's create a scenario. For everybody who's listening, we don't necessarily know your personal background. Maybe you're an entrepreneur, maybe you're an author, maybe you're a creative. We don't know. Maybe you're a student. But do you feel like you have something to offer your world?

Maybe you have this artistic genius that's inside of you that you want to birth out. Or maybe you have a business idea that you think could change the lives of many or maybe the thing you're trying to offer is being the best example to your family and to your kids.

At the nucleus of it all, what you're trying to be is a high performer. Now, I know that's a bit of an unusual term. And we didn't make it up. I heard this term from Brendon Burchard, who's one of the top high performance coaches in the world. He works with CEOs, top level athletes. You name it, he's probably worked with them. And he says that high performance is an elevated, sustained level of success. Without going through the highs and lows, the peaks, the valleys, the ups, and downs, it's a sustained level of success in any area that matters to you.

Donovan: That's good.

Kevin: So then, Donovan, what do you think keeps us from that high level of performance? What do you think keeps us from that sustained, elevated success?

Donovan: I think one of the things is not only our ego, but it's our lack of understanding of why we're here on earth in this generation. I think that once we have a relationship with God, then all these things become clearer and we're able to find consistency and sustainability and efficiency and all those wonderful words that high performers really want to walk in because the God who created us has given us clarity and insight to what He has put us here for.

Kevin: Absolutely, man. I mean, because without that, maybe you're just hitting a ceiling or a wall, maybe you're afraid of going to the depths that you know you need to go

to, maybe you feel like you don't have an inside of you. Maybe you've heard so many people tell you that you don't have it inside you. Or maybe you've told yourself that one too many times that you can't and that it's not possible.

Well, like Donovan said, one of the first reasons that we started this podcast is to tell you that there is a divine fulfillment waiting for you. Now, I know that sounds crazy because some of you have experienced things in life that feels completely the opposite of that statement. But there is a divine fulfillment waiting for you. What do we even mean by that, Donovan?

Donovan: I think that when it comes to fulfillment, we have to remember that there's something inside of us that wants to come out, like you said earlier. And fulfillment means that we're bringing something to completion.

Let's simply talk about it. High performers have potential, potential inside of them to make an impact to be of influence in their respective areas. And so fulfillment happens when what you know is inside of you comes out in a way it's supposed to come out and does what it's supposed to do. But how else would you know that unless you talk to the one who put it inside of you for a purpose. So fulfillment is closely tied to purpose and purpose requires your faith.

Kevin: Man, that is so good. On this podcast, we said that we believe that faith in God is the key to unlocking everything you're called to be. So throughout this podcast on the different episodes that you listen to, we're going to be going on a journey through the Bible to understand God's keys, biblical keys to success, and fulfillment.

Now, you can take notes if you'd like, or if you want to get your Bible, go get your Bible. Or if you don't even have a Bible, go download a Bible app. Now let's get into some verses about this divine fulfillment.

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." And Psalms 139:13-14, "For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works, my soul knows it very well." Donovan, what are you hearing when it comes to the context of divine fulfillment?

Donovan: Man, what I'm hearing is that God was so intentional about you. That He put a life together before He even put you on this earth. He says, "I knew you before I put you in your mother's womb." That means that he has something prepared for you.

And I'm telling you the life-changing moment for me was when I stopped praying for what I wanted and prayed for what God had prepared for me. Because I understood through my relationship with Him that He was so intentional, that He already had predestined certain things to happen, and I needed to come in alignment with that because that is what was going to bring me true fulfillment.

Kevin: Wow, that is so good. To all of us that are trying to grapple with this, this should bring you hope, this should bring you joy. You, my friend, are a one of one. You are not random. All the unique things that are about you, the idiosyncrasies, the quirks that you think, "I don't understand why I have them," or maybe you're still trying to figure them out within yourself, they were purposed to you by God because He had a specific plan for you. Donovan, you always say this phrase, well, we're hanging out. That our births are a strategy by God.

Donovan: Yeah, it was a strategic move, man, putting us on this earth. He put purpose inside of us. Purpose solves a problem or innovates, or it helps the thing move forward. Like it was strategic. Because you could have been born in the 1600s. Or you could have been born in the year 2237. But He puts you here and He put you now. It was strategic because there's things that He wants done in the earth.

The Bible says in His prayer "that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." How is God's will done on earth as it is in heaven? Through His vessels. That's what we are. There's something, in particular, He wants done right now and He chose you for it. And He gave you everything you need in order to get that thing done right now. It's strategic, man. It is strategic to take back the territory for His glory. You are not an accident. You were on purpose for purpose.

Kevin: Wow. Donovan, can you tell us a little bit about your story? How did you start to understand the divine fulfillment that was waiting for you? How did you start to see a glimpse of what God was calling you for?

Donovan: Man, in short, honestly, I was so frustrated with the outcome, with the fruit of what I was producing. That's what happened to me. Man, I always say that true frustration is seen not heard. People who are still complaining aren't really frustrated yet. People who are making the move, they've reached their limit.

For me, I had used my gifts to bring about every kind of success I could imagine. Kind of like you said, the fame, the cars, the money, and all this attention and stuff and it just did not equal fulfillment. I didn't have a joy of satisfaction. I was just in the club taking my clothes off for money, very robotic, very mundane. And I was just like, "There has to be more to this, to life. This can't be it."

And this is how you find people with all these assets and no fulfillment, and they end up committing suicide or end up taking a very dark path in life. Because what we're all looking for is that fulfillment, that satisfaction. And for me, it was not in the club. And no matter how much money I made, no matter how much I was praised, no matter how many opportunities I had to travel, God said, "I had something different for you."

But it wasn't until I actually took into account and said, "Okay, Donovan, something has to give," I stopped. I had a quiet day in a hotel by myself and I prayed to God and I said, "What do I have to do?" And He spoke one word to me. And that word was "quit."

Listen, I just had a birthday party at the club that past weekend. So I had made money in a very short amount of time. And all He said was quit. So me, I was going to church and stuff so I was kind of like, "Okay, maybe this is going to be like Abraham and Isaac situation where I act like I'm going to quit. God, I heard your heart, you can keep doing it, I'm going to bless you." But you know, no. He let me sacrifice that whole thing, just gave it all up.

And it was from that moment forward that God took me on this path. And that's when I really got stripped. That's when he took everything. And He told me this phrase that I want to share with you guys today. This is what changed my life. This is what I call my life quote. God said, "You'll never know what's within until you have to live without."

Kevin: Wow.

Donovan: And He took everything from me, I was able to see what He had prepared for me, what He had already put inside of me. But He had to take away all the distractions. And sometimes it's all we're doing on his path to be high performer just gathering up more and more distractions. And what we're telling you today is that through faith in God, He's going to remove all the distractions to show you where your true power, your true influence, and your true impact reside.

Kevin: Dude, that is so powerful, especially the part of having to be stripped of all the distractions so you can really understand your purpose. And I feel like sometimes, like you said, we have to be stripped of everything so we can fully see the clearest representation of what God had actually called us for so that we can walk in divine fulfillment. Whether it's a good distraction or bad distraction.

Because mine, I guess, in a way, you could call it a positive distraction. I thought I was made for medicine. And this is a little bit of a long story, but I feel like I have to tell it on this inaugural episode. My dad and my mom, they're immigrants and

they wanted me to be in the medical profession like them, because they wanted a better life for their children like they couldn't get in their own home countries.

And I wanted to justify their hard work and make them proud. I actually loved studying. I loved school. I loved learning. And I knew the path for becoming a doctor was something that was easily laid out. It made sense to me. And I loved music, don't get me wrong, and I had a natural knack for it. But I just never wanted that to be my career. I had no passion for that, in that sense. That's why I went to boarding school. That's why I went to Yale.

But while I was at Yale, God was stripping me, as you were saying, of the ideals of medicine and putting in me the ideals of what it takes to be a great musician. I had two opportunities. One with Yo-Yo Ma and one with KRS-One. They both spoke life into me in two different ways that made me realize, "Oh, my goodness, wait a second. Maybe God is actually calling me to music," because what they pointed out in me was the things that were unique about the way I did music. Whether it's playing cello and beatboxing at the same time, or whether it's playing cello with vocal stylings.

And that's when I started to have to ask deeper questions. "Okay, God, now that you're stripping me a little bit of this medicine crew, I don't understand how to go into music. This doesn't make sense to me. How are you going to take me out of everything that I know and bring me to a path that I have no idea for?"

[00:40:49] <music>

Annie: You guys, people are going to love this show. I'm so excited that y'all are making it. Oh, what a joy! Will you do something for me, Kevin? Will you define... One of the things I'll talk about as entrepreneurs and high performers. For our friends listening, will you define what a high performer is, so we can know if we fit in that category?

Kevin: Yeah, absolutely. A high performer is anybody who is looking to sustain an optimized performance in every aspect of their life. So whether it's career, whether it's family, whether it's health, God is asking us to be productive in all areas, not just one sliver of your life. But also sustain that performance. Not necessarily have just peaks and valleys and peaks and valleys, which we sometimes have if we don't have the tools to maintain that performance.

And once again, I didn't coin this term. This is something that we got from Brendon Burchard, who's a high performance coach, and I've been getting coaching for the past year on this. But I realized a lot of these ideas that I'm learning are actually biblical ideas.

So our whole thing is how do we contextualize high performance, if you will, from the way God thinks and feels and understands because God wants all of us to be successful? Donovan, remember, you and I talked about this. We feel like success is our spiritual worship.

Donovan: It is, man. And that's the part that we talk about in the podcast. The difference between any of us and any other high performance podcast that may be out there is that our goal is to talk to the high performers with higher values operating in their highest nature. So for us, high values come before high performance.

Kevin: Exactly.

Annie: Wow.

Donovan: High performers with higher values operating in their highest nature.

Annie: Listen, I just need t-shirts. Can y'all make me some t-shirts to say this stuff? Y'all are a quote factory. Donovan, will you talk a little bit about the Bible study? That's going to go along with this. Because I think our friends are going to love jumping in on this, too.

Donovan: You know what? I'm going to advocate for continued education. I'm not big on just getting hyped up and then being like, "Wow, how can I actually practically apply this to my life?" And that's something that I got from Kevin. He really always, "Practicum, practicum, practicum. How does it make it practical? We want to see fruit in your life."

So we have something that we're working on called The Lab. And it's an idea that I've been waiting to plant it. And it's just like in college. You have the lecture, you have the lab. The lecture, the talking happens, in the lab you get to test.

So we're creating an environment or a community where people can actually take what we say in the podcast, put it next to God's word, unpack it, put it under a microscope, and see how they can apply it to their life to see the fruit that He called you to bear. We're looking forward to doing role-playing, and all kinds of stuff to really get you interactive. Like, "Okay, oh, this is how I can reflect guys like more. This is what a high performer forgets in these moments of temptation and these moments of pressure and these moments of self-doubt. And the more I practice it..." I think I heard Michael Jordan say it. He said, "Where you fear, apply practice."

Annie: Oh, wow.

Donovan: And sometimes that's what we need to do. We need more practice to make it practical, to live it out so we can see more fruit.

Annie: And you know what I think would be really fun over there, as well as your friends listening to the show is that you're going to get to interact with people who are not like you, right? Diversity in jobs, in race, and gender. This is going to be a group of people who are coming from all sorts of different stories, which also that always makes me better. If I'm only listening to white girls who do my job, I'm not going to get better at it, compete in the global sense, right?

Donovan: 100%.

Kevin: 100%.

Annie: And y'all's circle a bunch of us up that are all doing different things from different points of view. And I think that's really exciting to me.

Kevin: If you want to find out more, go to our clubhouse. We have a clubhouse group that you can go. Imagine Faith Talk. Find that and we'll keep you updated. Also, we're going to have some outlines for that Bible study lab on our website. So you'll be able to find it there. Download it so you can get some practicum as you're preparing for that clubhouse Bible study.

Annie: So they'll hear episodes on Wednesdays. So every Wednesday there'll be a new episode that gets us lit, that gets us going, that is the lecture that makes us float out of the room into the lab where we do the work.

Kevin: Exactly.

Donovan: Exactly.

Annie: Where we change our life and therefore change other people's lives and moving the gospel forward around the globe.

Donovan: Yes. Kev, give them the love purpose impact.

Kevin: Absolutely. I think the last thing we would want to say, one thing we always say at the end of every single episode is that love transforms you, purpose defines you, and impact activates you by faith. The first thing that we have to know is that the love of God has to transform us from the inside out. So now we have a clearer vision to be able to see the way God thinks and feels.

Once we have that, then we can understand better the purpose of our life that's going to define us. And once we understand that purpose, now we're ready to impact the world. That impact is going to activate us. But now we have to do it with the faith of God. That's where, as it says in Joshua, be strong and courageous. In the face of fear, in the face of doubt, that is exactly the time God is asking you to apply faith, exactly the place where God is asking you to activate and execute what He's called you to do.

Donovan: 100%.

Annie: Y'all, I'm ready. I'm ready. I'm your first student. I'm your first client. I don't know. But I'm here. I'm very excited.

Donovan: She's ready to subscribe.

Annie: Y'all, thanks so much for trusting That Sounds Fun Network to come alongside y'all. I know you know this, Kevin because we've talked before. But Donovan, I want you to see my face say I do not take this lightly. Our team does not take this lightly. This is an honor and it is what we're called to do is to partner with shows that we really believe in, that we think will make an impact that the Lord will show us later. And so Thanks for trusting us to be a part of this team.

Kevin: Absolutely.

Donovan: Absolutely.

Annie: Okay, the last question we always ask that y'all both get to answer, because the show is called That Sounds Fun, because the network you just joined is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Kevin: Donovan, you go first?

Donovan: In general, just what sounds fun?

Annie: Yeah.

Donovan: Oh my goodness. The first thing that came to my mind was being in a hammock on a beach listening to live music with my favorite meal in my lap. That sounds fun.

Annie: What's your favorite meal?

Donovan: Peanut butter and jelly and spaghetti.

Annie: You're lyi-

Kevin: What? Wait, together?

Donovan: Listen, it could go together.

Kevin: I'm confused. Wait, a second. Donovan-

Annie: Are you elf?

Donovan: I might be. I might wait a second.

Kevin: Donovan, before we started this podcast, you should have told me that because that might have changed some things for me, bro.

Annie: Wait, I need you to define for Kevin and I because we're having some second thoughts.

Kevin: Yes, I'm confused.

Annie: Peanut butter on top of spaghetti?

Donovan: No, no, no, no. A bowl of spaghetti-

Annie: With meat sauce.

Donovan: Well, with shrimp because I only eat seafood. So a bowl of spaghetti and then a side plate of a delicious peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Annie: White bread? Certainly.

Donovan: One white and then one sourdough.

Kevin: I am confused, Donovan.

Annie: Kevin, what are we learning about Donovan?

Donovan: You've never asked me what sounds fun. And that's why you never have gotten this answer.

Kevin: You know what? That's true.

Donovan: It was the question.

Annie: I mean, on the beach with spaghetti. I don't know a person. I don't know a person who has taken spaghetti to the beach.

Donovan: In this vision, I'm all by myself. It's just me out there.

Annie: I can tell you why. I can tell you why. It's because you want spaghetti. I think you should go back and read that first book you wrote because you have been talking about spaghetti on the beach.

Kevin: Yeah, bro.

Annie: Oh my gosh. Okay, well, you know what? We don't judge fun around here. It's one of the things we promise, is that if it's fun to you we believe you. So if it's fun to you, we believe you.

Donovan: Live your life.

Annie: Kevin, what sounds fun to you. I'm terrified.

Kevin: Well, no, it's a little bit more tape. Mine it's honestly a spa day with my wife. That sounds so good and so fun. I love deep tissue massages, especially after I go lift weights. So to have that and then be able to go with my wife to just a nice cabana we're hanging out. We just went to Hawaii so that's why I'm picturing this whole thing over again. It was so good. That sounds so fun to me. Besides performing, that sounds like the most fun.

Annie: Also what people didn't see that Donovan I saw is when you said a massage, you immediately touched your underarm. Tell me more.

Kevin: Oh, no, no, no, I was trying to have my hand up and I was trying to knead... Like somebody was kneading my back. I was not trying to...

[crosstalk 00:49:25]

Annie: I was like, "Your underarms are your sore spot. Are you on crutches that we don't know?"

Kevin: Nah, bro. We good.

Donovan: The crutches wins when you perform.

Annie: Oh, y'all. I can't wait. Everybody can go subscribe today. On March 2nd, first episode drops. So excited, you guys.

Kevin: Thank you so much. Thanks for everything you're doing for us. We really really appreciate it.

Annie: It's so fun. It's so fun.

Donovan: Go and get some spaghetti.

Annie: Oh, my gosh.

[00:49:53] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, how much do you love Donovan and KO? I know, man. I think Kevin and Donovan are just two of the smartest dudes. I love what they do with their lives and I cannot wait to learn from them on their podcast. I'm telling you, I left this conversation fired up. I cannot wait to hear this show.

So I'm subscribing today, you should do the same. Go subscribe to Imagine Faith Talk right now so you don't miss a single episode. Rate and review the show. And be sure to share it with your friends.

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 is how you can find me, even today on a Wednesday. And I think that's it for me, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is going on a walk at Radnor Lake. I would love to do that.

Y'all have a great day. We'll see you back here tomorrow as we continue our prayer series with my friend Beth Redman. Listen, she is a teacher for me about how to live a prayer life. I think you're going to love this episode. Get ready to take notes tomorrow. We're talking about living a life of prayer. We'll see y'all then.