



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 1) Sunday March 26, 2006

Part 1 : Understanding that God has a Purpose for Your Life

1.1. God Is a God of Plan, of Purpose, of Design, of Objectives

Psalm 33:11

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.

God is a God of plan, of purpose, of design and of objectives. God does not work at random or arbitrarily.

Acts 15:18

Known to God from eternity are all His works.

Isaiah 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'

God knows the end from the beginning. He knows the destination at the beginning of the journey and how to get there.

1.2. God has His Purpose—The 'General Purpose' or 'The Master Plan' Which He Is Carrying Out on the Earth Today

Ephesians 1:9–12

⁹ Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 3:11

According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is an eternal purpose which God is unfolding and executing on the earth. We refer to this as God's 'master plan' which He is carrying out on the earth today.

God's master plan is to have people saved, to come to the knowledge of the truth and to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

¹ Timothy 2:3,4

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1.3. God has a Purpose for You—'A Specific Plan'

Psalms 139:16

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.



Psalms 139:16, Message Bible

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.

God has a blueprint for your life. God has a dream for your life.

He created you for a purpose. He designed you to be able to fulfil the purpose which He had in mind for you.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

There is a "that for which" for which Jesus laid a hold of you. He has a plan and purpose for you!

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

There are "good works" which God preplanned for you to accomplish on the earth.

There are places that God wants you to go to; people He wants you to touch; lives He wants you to impact; things He wants you to accomplish; cities to transform, nations to shake!

Living life is simple—find out what God has planned for your life and walk in it!

2 Timothy 1:9

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

God has called you "according to His own purpose." You have been called to partner with God in fulfilling His purpose. This is an awesome truth. We are living not for our own purpose—but for a higher purpose—"His own purpose!"

Along with His purpose, comes His grace to fulfil that purpose. His divine empowerment always accompanies His divine calling. His purpose and grace have been given to us "in Christ Jesus." Only when we come to Christ are we in a position to partner with God in carrying out His purposes.

God's specific plan for us is a piece of His master plan. As you go about fulfilling God's specific purpose for your life, you will help carry out God's general purpose on the earth.

1.4. God's Plan for Us Is Always Good!

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace (Heb. *'shalom'*) and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Have this unshakeable confidence within you. God's plan for you is good!



God is for you, not against you. His plans for you are always for your good—for your *'shalom'* (well-being, health, prosperity, success, peace). There is nothing better than God's plan for you!

1.5. We Must Cooperate with God to Fulfill His Plan

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

The fulfillment of God's plan for our lives is not automatic. We have to cooperate with God to carry out His plan for our lives. The fulfillment of God's plan and purpose for our lives is dependent on us. Some may never begin to do God's plan. Some may do just a small percent of His plan. The Bible says that Apostle Paul "finished His course."

God expresses His will in heaven. But He looks to His people on earth to execute it.

1.6. We Must Discover and Pursue God's Plan for Our Lives

God's plan and purpose for our lives need not be a mystery!

Some people are of the opinion that God's will is so mysterious that we cannot know it! This is absolutely untrue!

God is more than willing to reveal His will—His plan and purpose for our lives—if we are willing to seek Him for it.

We are going to learn about nine 'guideposts' that will help us discern God's leading and direction for our lives.

- Recognise the general teaching and instruction of God's Word.
- Recognise the 'seeds' in your life.
- Recognise the stirring within.
- Recognise the grace of God given to you.
- Recognise the circumstances.
- Recognise the leading of God's Spirit.
- Recognise godly counsel and wisdom.
- Recognise times and seasons.
- Recognise God's pattern of working in your life.

1.7. GOD WILL PREPARE YOU TO FULFIL HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE

The more thorough your preparation, the more likely you are to succeed.

Preparation time is never wasted time.

The greater the call, the greater the preparation needed.



1.8. We May Make Mistakes—But God Can Help Us Overcome Our Failures and Help Us Complete His Call

Any weakness that you do not conquer will be used by satan against you.

An unconquered weakness usually births a tragedy.

Our greatest enemies are not those outside us, but things that are internal – our weaknesses, our wrong attitudes, our wrong motives, etc.

Our greatest obstacles are those that we create ourselves out of our own weaknesses.

God is greater than time. God is greater than our mistakes.

2 Timothy 4:6–8

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul, the apostle, came to the Lord Jesus Christ at about 35 years of age, and yet he said that he had finished his course. Age is not a hindrance to fulfil the call of God.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

God is not looking for perfect vessels. He is looking for yielded vessels.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

It is the power of God working through us. We are earthen vessels.

1.9. Satan Will Do his Best to Stop Us from Fulfilling God's Purpose

A God-given dream will always face demonic opposition.

Delays are not always from God (Daniel 10: 2–14). Satan attempts to delay your miracle and thus weaken your desire to keep reaching out for God's highest and best.

Delays weaken our desire. They weaken our drive, our determination. Most of all during our times of delay we are susceptible to distractions.

1.10. We Must Remain Focused on God's Call

Distractions—broken focus will result in wasted time and energy. God said, “Do not turn to the right or the left” (Proverbs 4:27).

1.11. We Must Have Endurance



We must run with endurance the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1,2)

The taste of victory outlasts the memory of your struggle (Mike Murdock).

Your endurance is demoralising to satan (Mike Murdock).



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