



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 3) Sunday April 09, 2006

Recognising God's Purpose for Your Life

1. Recognise the general teaching and instruction of God's Word.
2. Recognise the 'seeds' in your life.

2.2. Recognise the 'Seeds' in Your Life

God works in accordance with the 'seed principle.'

The 'seed principle' is simply this – when a seed is sown, watered and nurtured, it germinates, sprouts and grows into a plant/tree to produce fruit it was designed to produce.

There are many things that God does or has put in place, that follow the 'seed principle'.

- God's Word is like seed (Luke 8:11)
- Life is like seed (John 12:24,25)
- Money is like seed (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- Actions are like seed (Galatians 6:6-9)
- The Kingdom of God operates in accordance with the seed principle (Mark 4:26-32)

Mark 4:26–32

²⁶ And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. ²⁸ For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; ³² but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

A seed appears life-less, small, insignificant. Yet, the seed is full of potential, full of promise. If the seed is sown, watered and nurtured it will grow into a plant that will bear fruit and be a blessing to many.

There are things that God does in our lives that follow the seed principle. There are things of the Kingdom that God initiates in our lives that are like 'kingdom seeds'. They may appear small and insignificant, and yet they are full of promise, full of potential.

We use the term 'seeds' to refer to things put into your life at an early age—which then began to influence many of the decisions and choices that you made. A seed is something that has shaped your life.

'Seeds' could be an early recognition of special talents or interests. They could be special opportunities that came your way at an early stage in life. Other 'seeds' could include special contacts (people whom God brought into your life), dreams, a prophetic word and so on.

Examples:



Joseph—Joseph had dreams at an early age indicative of what his future would hold (Genesis 37).

Moses—God supernaturally arranged for Moses to be taught and trained in Pharaoh's palace. This was God's 'seed of spiritual destiny' in Moses' life (Acts 7:22).

David—David was anointed while still a young boy, by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13). Even as a young boy, David was recognised to be a skilful musician, a strong warrior, wise in his ways and good looking (1 Samuel 16:18). These 'seeds' shaped what David became and what he fulfilled in life.

Esther—Esther's beauty was her 'seed' that enabled her to become queen. This positioned her to become a woman of influence for the sake of her Jewish people.

Paul—Paul was taught under Gamaliel, one of the best scholars of his day. Later, after his coming to Christ, God used the knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures that Paul had to prove to people that Christ was indeed the promised Messiah.

Recognise the 'seeds of spiritual destiny' in your life. Take time to reflect and see if there are kingdom seeds that God has sown into your life. What are the things that have shaped and influenced your life?

The seeds in your life are conveying a message to you concerning God's plan, purpose and direction for your life.

Warning: The enemy sows 'weed-seeds' into our lives. These are seeds that are destructive and intended to destroy the work of God. Examples: abuse as a child, wrong influence, destructive experiences, etc. If there are weed-seed of jealousy, anger, hurt, bitterness, resentment, selfishness, etc. – be sure to root them out.

2.3. Recognise the Stirring Within

Nehemiah 1:1–4

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, ² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:12

Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

Like Nehemiah, there were probably many others in captivity who had heard about the condition of Jerusalem. However, something stirred in Nehemiah when he heard about the destruction of the city walls. Something stirred in him that made him want to rebuild the city walls.

Nehemiah recognised this as something God had put in his heart.



Often, God's direction for our lives comes through an unusual, persistent and deep stirring in our hearts.

It is more than getting stirred up 'emotionally' about something. An emotional stirring is like the weather—it changes and fades away. However, a stirring from heaven is deep. It is lasting, it keeps coming back and it demands action!

Acts 17:16,17

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. ¹⁷ Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

Acts 18:5

When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

Notice the different 'inner heart feelings' of being stirred, provoked and compelled. Such inner heart feelings can originate in the heart of God—when you feel what He feels, when you feel the pulse of heaven and are moved into action.

We see in several Old Testament Scriptures that God is able to shape, form and influence our inner feelings.

Psalm 139:13

Inward parts literally 'kidneys', refers to the thoughts, the mind, the soul, the seat of desires, affections and passions.

God formed (shaped, made) your inward parts.

Psalm 16:7

God's counsel often comes to us as He shapes and influences our inner desires and passions.

Proverbs 20:27, Psalm 18:28, Job 32:8

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. The Lord lights our candle giving us light, illumination and understanding.

What are you really passionate about? What is it that really excites and energizes you? What are you stirred up about? Pay attention to this, because it could indicate what God has designed you for.

A word of caution: Usually when God stirs you up about something you will find the required gifts and abilities to follow through on that. However, in some cases you may not have the necessary gifts or abilities. In that case, you will have to walk with wisdom and determine how to go about pursuing what God has put in your heart. As an example, some one may be passionate about bringing relief to those who are suffering physically from sickness and disease but may not be qualified as a medical doctor. In this case, perhaps God will use this person 'behind the scenes' to co-ordinate things so that relief and aid can reach those who are suffering without being the one who actually administers relief. As another example, some one may be passionate about reaching young people with contemporary music, but may not be gifted musically. In this case, God may use this person 'behind the scenes' to help organize events where those who are gifted musically can minister to the youth and reach them for Christ. Wisdom is very important in such situations to determine the right course of action.



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