



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 5) Sunday April 30, 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.
3. Recognise the stirring within
4. Recognise the Grace of God given to you
5. Recognise the leading of God's Spirit

2.6. Recognise the Circumstances

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

Psalm 37:23,24

²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.

- God orchestrates the circumstances but you and I must respond.
- God orders circumstances and events in our lives that are in line with His plan and purpose for us.
- God is positioning people, places and things to help you walk in His way.
- Discern the circumstances and respond.
- Not every circumstance that God orders in your life is (sweet to taste) easy or pleasant, but it always has lasting value. For example, circumstances that remove laziness; circumstances that teach how to handle money wisely; circumstances that develop patience and so on.

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

¹ "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. ² And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man



lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you. ⁶ "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

- Not every circumstance that you face has been designed by God. Some are the consequences of your own actions, some are the results of other people's actions and some are arranged by the devil. You need to discern the circumstances.
- No matter what evil circumstance you may face, God is able to rearrange it to help you move further in His purpose for your life. For example, Joseph (Genesis 37; 50:15).
- Recognise or discern the circumstances and take appropriate action. Proverbs 4:26 says, "Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established."

2.7. Recognise Godly Counsel and Wisdom

- Counsel is advice, instruction, sharing of knowledge—given to you.
- Counsel is not a command.
- Godly counsel is counsel given to you by a man or woman—who has a deep, strong, firm, tested relationship with God—based on their knowledge and experience.

Example:

1 Corinthians 7:10–14; 25–28 (Notice verses 10, 12 and 25)

¹⁰ Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.

¹¹ But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. ¹² But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. ¹³ And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ²⁵ Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy. ²⁶ I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress—that it is good for a man to remain as he is: ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.

- The value of receiving counsel

Proverbs 5:23

He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Proverbs 10:17

He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray.

Proverbs 11: 14

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.



Proverbs 20:18
Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war.

Proverbs 24:6
For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

- God may use the counsel of godly people whom He has placed in your life to help direct you into His plan and purpose for your life.
- Be humble enough to receive counsel.
Example: Moses and Jethro (Exodus 18:13–27).

The three kinds of counsel:

2.7.1. Counsel based on a person's own knowledge and experience

- Be careful about whom you receive counsel from.

Psalm 1:1
Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

2.7.2. Counsel based on the written Word of God

2.7.3. Counsel based on prophetic inspiration

- The first and the third need to be tested, verified and explained.
- Not everything a prophet says is prophetic.

1 Chronicles 17:1–5

¹ Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains."² Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."³ But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,⁴ "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in."⁵ For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.



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