



Sunday January 22, 2023
Purposes, Plans, Pursuits (Part-2)

Quick Review:

Let's do a quick review of the main points mentioned last Sunday in Part-1 of this sermon:

GOD IS A GOD OF PURPOSE, PLAN AND DESIGN

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

GOD DESIGNED YOU FOR A PURPOSE

GOD REVEALS HIS PURPOSES TO US

OUR GOAL IS TO LIVE FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

ASK GOD TO REVEAL AND GUIDE YOU INTO HIS PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE

PLAN AND PURSUE THE FULFILLING OF GOD'S PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE

HOW TO WORK ON A LIFE PLAN

We also shared a simple example of a LIFE PLAN.

We then asked the question:

IS IT RIGHT TO PLAN?

We shared from Scripture these four references that teach us the importance of planning:

- A. Pondering our path (Proverbs 4:26)
- B. Preparing for the future (Proverbs 6:6-8)
- C. Having foresight (Proverbs 22:3)
- D. Planning with the help of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:17-18)

Today:

Today we develop this theme further and spend some time talking about the importance of pursuing God's PURPOSES for our lives.



Some may have the question how do I determine God's PURPOSE for my life. Note: We have a free APC Book: "Fulfilling God's Purpose for your Life" where we list nine sign posts to help understand God's direction and God's purposes. We encourage you to look at this.

Last Sunday, when we introduced drawing up a LIFE PLAN, we presented a simple example, of a student, looking ahead to the next 8-10 years.

Let us now expand the LIFE PLAN we had shared last Sunday, to someone who is in a different stage in life.

HOW TO WORK ON A LIFE PLAN

PURPOSE: state the overall purpose, calling, life assignment.

STAGES: Break time down into stages (or seasons or phases). So let's consider one particular stage, Age 30-35. Let's assume this person sees it as a "Growth Stage" of their life.

PLAN: the main theme/focus for that stage. So in this case with will be to grow to the next level.

PURSUIT: the specific goals, action items, objectives you will work towards in all areas of your life (spiritual life, personal health and finances, education, profession, family, ministry, etc.). For each area of life, list 3 things you would work on to help you grow to the next level.

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PURPOSE: <i>demonstrate Kingdom living in tech and business</i>		
STAGE	PLAN	PURSUIT
Growth stage (Age 30-35)	Step up (grow) to the next level in all areas	1, Spiritual Life
		a, b, c,
		2, Personal Life
		a, b, c,
		3, Family
		4, Children



		5, Finances
		6, Professional
		7, Christian Ministry

Now if you can extend this to the next stage, and then on to the subsequent stages, you will eventually have a LIFE PLAN, for each succeeding stage of your life.

IMPORTANT: We do not do this arbitrarily, but while listening to God. We also remain open to any changes/refinements as we continue to understand His purposes and calling. (Proverbs 4:18). So this is not “set in stone” so to speak.

While knowing God has a PURPOSE for your life is exciting, and drawing up a LIFE PLAN is good, we must understand that we must PURSUE the purposes of God. We are co-workers with God, and we must do our part. Let us talk a little about this.

PURSUING THE PURPOSES OF GOD

JESUS

The Lord Jesus lived with a sense of divine purpose.

Mark 1:38

But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because **for this purpose** I have come forth."

John 12:27

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But **for this purpose** I came to this hour.

PAUL THE APOSTLE

The apostle Paul recognized that the Lord Jesus had a “that for which”, a purpose with which He had laid a hold of Paul. Paul was committed to pursuing and living for that purpose.

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.



BOTH A WARRIOR AND A CHILD

In the Kingdom of God, we are called to be both a warrior and a child.

Mark 10:15

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Luke 16:16 "...and everyone is pressing into it.

We receive the Kingdom as children. We press into it with force like warriors. As children, we simply trust, and simply receive by faith what God has given to us.

But we are also warriors. As warriors we press in by faith, with tenacity, into what God has made available to us. We have to fight, because there is an enemy who tries to keep us away from the purposes of God. We have to fight, contending against the flesh and the world as we pursue the purposes of God.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE OF PURSUING THE PURPOSES OF GOD

Pursuing the PURPOSES of God is like a great adventure. While we do our best to plan, prepare and pursue, there are still many unknowns. There are many things we have to journey through.

(Graphics/media team please display this chart in one slide)

PERSONAL	PEOPLE
SITUATIONS	SATAN

We recognize that as we progress in this journey of pursuing God's purposes for our life, there can be many unexpected things along the way. Some of these could be due to our PERSONAL choices, decisions, sometimes mistakes we make. Some of the things we face could be the result of other PEOPLE's actions. There could be PEOPLE who support us,



and some who oppose us and try to harm us. As we mentioned earlier, there is an enemy SATAN who attempts again and again to tempt, distract, oppose, hinder us from pursuing God's purposes. And then there are unexpected SITUATIONS in life, some situations that are outside our control.

So we must learn to navigate through all of these and make our way toward the fulfilling of God's PURPOSES.

DISTRACTIONS – if we are clear about God's PURPOSES and have a written LIFE PLAN, it helps us avoid distractions. We know what we have to say 'no' to and what we have to say 'yes' to.

MISTAKES – we will make mistakes along the way, some small, some big. We have to remember that God is greater than our mistakes. We need to repent and get back on track, in surrender and He will see to it that His PURPOSES are fulfilled.

CHALLENGES – Jesus did warn us that in the world we will have tribulations. But we face life's challenges, knowing that God always causes us to triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14).

PEOPLE – We learn to work with the people God has set alongside us in life's journey and be a blessing to them to help them in pursuing God's purpose for their lives as well.

UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS

GOD APPOINTED SURPRISES – We learn to welcome these things that God orchestrates for us and we journey into these.

Learn to always believe in God at work in your life. God is for you, not against you.

In all things we stay focused on God's PURPOSES. We draw up PLANS and we do our part to PURSUE His PURPOSES. Like the apostle Paul, we wish to say "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith".

Romans 8:28,37

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.

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

SALVATION CALL



SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Sunday January 22, 2023 Purposes, Plans, Pursuits (Part-)

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Mark 1:38; Philippians 3:12; Romans 8:28,37*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



1, Discuss the example LIFE PLAN template that was presented. Are there ways you can improve upon this template? Are there other ways to help write out a PLAN and PURSUE God's PURPOSES, that could be useful?

2, Discuss the truth that seems paradoxical – to experience the Kingdom of God, we have to be both like a child, and like a warrior, as seen from Mark 10:15; Matthew 11:12. How do we live this out practically when pursuing God's purpose for our lives?

3, We mentioned 4 factors: PERSONAL, PEOPLE, SATAN, SITUATIONS that can impact the journey and affect our pursuit of God's purposes. Discuss a few practical examples, and how we can keep pressing toward the purposes of God as we navigate through such life experiences.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

Finding purpose in life and living life with purpose is key to living meaningfully and joyfully. This sermon reminds us that God has a purpose for each one of us. He designed us for this. We must do our part to discover God's purpose, and then intentionally plan and pursue the fulfillment of God's purposes for our lives. We present a suggested practical way to develop a LIFE PLAN. We discuss the importance of planning our way forward, preparing for the future, having foresight, and planning with the help of the Holy Spirit. We address common challenges we have to overcome as we pursue God's purposes.

KEYWORDS

Purpose in life, living with purpose, living with meaning, meaning in life, Planning, Life Plan, Pursuing your life dream, life assignment, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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