

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.

Most Christians don't purposely walk away from God, rather they drift away. We miss the abundant life Jesus promised and simply settle for "good enough". We choose to hold tightly to our wants and desires, our time and treasures, unwilling to release it all to Christ, not realizing by hoarding our lives, we lose it all.

Our good and giving God is raising up a new generation of men and women to follow Him fully. God's desire is that you would tap into the passions Christ Himself has for your life. That you would use these gifts and talents for His good and His glory, leaving an enduring impact over the long haul. We truly believe that God has put His hand on your life for "such a time as this".

When dreaming of walking with Christ for a lifetime and creating long-term influence, the first thing you want to evaluate is whether you are fully surrendered to the Lord. Since few New Years' resolutions last into February, we need to be honest and intentional. First, are you fully surrendered to Jesus Christ? Have you wrestled with God about your life and future? Are you willing to do anything that the Lord will have you do and go anywhere the Lord will have you go?

Answering these questions is not easy, but as you look at what you want to be true of your life in 5 years, 10 years, etc. you need to think about the immediate steps and decisions you're making today that will allow you to get there.

In John 15 Jesus talks about producing fruit that remains. What is this type of "fruit" that Jesus is referring to? A spiritually fruitful person expresses love for Christ over a lifetime and sees others become His disciples. For more resources and encouragement on how to live a surrendered, fruit-bearing life check out allcallings.com. We suggest you think through the 5 things as a way to facilitate being a lifetime laborer in God's great harvest.

HAVE A KINGDOM IMPACT LIKE YOU DID IN COLLEGE.

THE 5 THINGS

THAT ENABLE YOU TO LIVE LIFE ON A MISSION

Jesus calls every believer not only to follow Him wholeheartedly, but in doing so, to go out into the world as a "sent one". Eph. 2:8-9 talks about the amazing gift of life God gives us through faith in His son Jesus Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith! Verse 10 goes on to say that we "are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works." So this begs the question: What would it look like for you to live this out on a daily basis? What would it look like to have an impact for God in your workplace or neighborhood?

The 5 things is a great way to think through your unique gifts and talents, how to involve yourself in meaningful community, and ways you can make God known in what ever sphere of influence he may give you. Applying the 5 things to your life is definitely a process, but we truly believe by doing so you will have significant impact in every area of your life for many years to come.

KINGDOM VISION

The movement you were a part of on campus helped shape the vision you have for making a kingdom impact. It helped you fulfill God's purposes for your life while in college. The kingdom vision you developed then is NOW affecting how you use your time and talents, your gifts and resources. It's this idea of seeing how you best fit into God's big plan in whatever context you find yourself. As you take inventory of your life today, how are you living out the kingdom vision God has given you now?

RESPOND:

- >Who has God called you to be? How has God called you to serve?
- >Where/How do you see yourself fitting into the Great Commission?
- >How has God gifted you to make a difference?
- >Do you have a distinct vision for your workplace/community/people group/cause?
- >Do you have a specific, practical vision that others can believe in and therefore join with you in fulfilling?

TEAM

Without a compelling community, few people can survive for long on their own. Ecc. 4 says, "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work...and if one falls down, the other helps." Don't just warm the seats at your church, get in there and serve! Is there a small group in your church that is committed to living missionally? Join them! Check out allcallings.com to see if there are others you can partner with in your city who are living out their Kingdom vision.

RESPOND:

- >Who shares your heart, in that they, too, are surrendered to Jesus?
- >Who are you friends with from your church, or college, or place of work? Do they share a similar vision? How can you connect with them and be intentional about living missionally?
- >Talk to three friends that can join you on mission. Who are they? List them now as application.
- >When can you pray with and plan with your team?

PLAN

"If you aim at nothing you'll hit it every time." Unless you're a trained chef or just incredibly gifted, most people don't walk into a kitchen and whip up a gourmet meal without a recipe. It doesn't have to be elaborate, but the plan should have simple, doable steps that will help you begin to implement your God-given vision. Plan with the end in mind. What do you believe He wants to do through your team? Having some sort of plan is all about being intentional, and taking steps toward your Kingdom vision.

RESPOND:

- >What do you believe to be the end that God wants you to pursue?
- >What are your first three steps to bring about your vision for God's Kingdom in and through your life?
- >Do you have friends who share this vision and have an idea of how to get there? How could you bring them into the process?

ONGOING EQUIPPING

Just as teachers, pilots, and doctors need continuing education, so you will need ongoing equipping in order to make your best contribution to the Kingdom. Resources and ideas are available in many places, including allcallings.com. These articles and tools will help you in your journey of walking with God and serving Him for a lifetime.

RESPOND:

- >Are there others who share a similar vision or have been down the same road?
- >Who can speak into both your vision and plan periodically? What books or articles should you be reading? Are you meeting with God and asking Him what He desires for you to pursue and do?
- >Are there any conferences, retreats, or other training sessions that you can attend that will help?

COACH

Proverbs stresses the importance of gaining wisdom from others. We can never underestimate the blessing of another who has gone before us and learned a thing or two along the way. A coach is just that person: someone to answer your questions, help you and your "team" when you are stuck, and/or encourage you when the going gets tough. If there is someone already out there doing what you have a vision for, can you learn from them, or even join them?

RESPOND:

- >Have you looked on allcallings.com to see if there is anyone who is already doing what you have a vision for? Can you join them?
- >If allcallings.com doesn't have what you're looking for would it be possible for you start a team and begin to look for a coach and team members at your church that will help you fulfill your God given vision?
- >Is there someone at your church who can mentor you and help you accomplish your vision?