

EMBRACING THE VISION: THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

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“It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for... part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.” Eph. 1:11 (Mes)

“Everything, absolutely everything... got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.”

Col. 1:16 (Mes)

Life is preparation for eternity

1. GOD PLANNED ME FOR HIS PLEASURE

“You God created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created!” Rev. 4:11b (NLT)

“The Lord takes pleasure in His people.” Psalm 149:4 (GN)

“Long before He laid down earth’s foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love.” Eph. 1:4 (Mes)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matt. 22:37-38 (NIV)

“I don’t want your sacrifices – I want your love! I don’t want your offerings – I want you to know Me!” Hosea 6:6 (LB)

THE 1st PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: to know and love God

“Some people have missed the most important thing in life – they don’t know God.”

1 Tim. 6:21 (LB)

To know and love God a little more is the most important thing you do today.

“People who don’t know God are always worrying.” Matt. 6:32a (CEV)

Worry and stress are indicators of disconnect from God.

2. GOD FORMED ME FOR HIS FAMILY

“God’s unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.” Eph. 1:5 (NLT)

“God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God’s own family.” 1 Pet. 1:3 (LB)

“That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.”

1 Tim. 3:15 (NCV)

“Love your spiritual family.” 1 Peter 2:17 (Mes)

THE 2nd PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: to learn to love others

“We belong to each other and each of us needs all the others.” Rom. 12:5 (NLT)

3. GOD CREATED ME TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST (Godly in character)

God is less interested in what you do than in who you become while you do what you do.

“From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him—and all along He knew who would—should become like His Son.” Rom. 8:29 (LB)

“We look at the Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created.” Col 1:15 (Mes)

“In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.” Phil. 2:5 (NCV)

Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.

God teaches us these characteristics through experience in the opposite.

How: *“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him.”*

2 Cor. 3:18b (NLT)

THE 3rd PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: to grow up spiritually

“Some people have such shallow soil of character that when their emotions wear off and difficulty arrives, there’s nothing to show for it.” Mark 4:17

(Mes)

4. GOD “SHAPED” ME TO SERVE HIM

“You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb.”

Before you were born, God had you in mind.

Ps. 139:13 (Mes)

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

“God made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.” Eph. 2:10 (NCV)

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.” 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

THE 4th PURPOSE OF LIFE IS: to serve God by serving others

What you do for the least is what you do for God.

5. GOD MADE ME FOR A MISSION

Jesus: “In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.” John 17:18 (Mes)

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Pr. 29:18 (KJV)

“Those who embrace My ways are most blessed.” Pr. 8:32 (Mes)

“Jesus included everyone in His death so everyone could be included in His life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.” 2 Cor. 5:15 (Mes)

“Open your eyes and see how good God is! Blessed are you who run to Him.”

Ps. 34:8 (Mes)

Jesus: “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me for real rest...and you’ll recover your life...and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matt. 11:28-30 (Mes)

“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.” Acts 10:35 (Mes)

A PRAYER OF PURPOSE

Dear God, thank You for creating me and loving me. I want to fulfill the purposes that You created me for. So starting today, I really want to get to know and love and trust You. I want my life to bring You pleasure and I want to become a part of Your family. Help me to grow more like Your Son Jesus, and to use my life to follow and serve you. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for me. In the weeks ahead, help me to understand Your vision and mission for the rest of my life.