

Discover Your Purpose

God has a plan and a purpose for us

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

- The word “thoughts” in its Hebrew context means “plans or purpose.”
- The word “think” means to “plan or calculate.”
- The word “peace” is shalom and it means “completeness, safety, soundness, welfare, health, prosperity, friendship and peace.”
- The word for evil means “sad, unhappy, or bad.”

What we must understand from this passage is...

1. God knows our purpose.
2. God thinks about us.
3. God has a plan to prosper us. (and this is through our God-given-purpose)
4. God doesn't want us sad or unhappy.

- God alone has our purpose in His mind, for He is our Creator.
- God has a design and a purpose for everyone's life.
- God's plan includes peace, happiness, and health not sadness.

God has a precious plan for you

Psalm 139:16-18 “And in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” “How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God? How great is the sum of them!” “If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.”

- God is a very methodical and purposeful being. He doesn't do anything by chance nor does He make mistakes. Before you and I ever existed, God had a very well thought out plan and purpose for us.
- “How precious are your thoughts,” literally means “how valuable [or priceless] are your purposes for me?” They out number the sand.

Before you were born, I knew you...

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

- God intimately knew us before we were conceived in our mother's womb. He sanctified [that is, He set us apart] and He ordained us, that is, He appointed us for a prophetic work to a nation.
- God calls us to Himself. After we respond to His call, he reveals our God-given purpose to us.
- We should understand that our purpose will always be prophetic in nature. That is, our purpose should always be God-inspired and God-directed.



Our First Response...

Jeremiah 1:6 “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

- Typically our initial response to God when He reveals to us our purpose in this life will be one that is reflective to that of Moses and Jeremiah. Both focused on who they were at the present time by showing their inadequacies and unqualifications when God spoke to them about His purpose for them.
- This sense of inadequacy is common in most cases and it is simply because a Great God always calls ordinary people to extraordinary works.

God qualifies us to walk in His purpose for us.

Jeremiah 1:7-9 “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth and the Lord said to me...”

- God will continually speak to us regarding our purpose.
- God encourages us to not be afraid [avoid fear] so that we can walk in our purpose.
- Fear’s number one objective is to cheat us out of the wealth of our purpose.
- It is important to know that God will always be with us to equip us with what we need to walk in our purpose.

God uses our gifts to accomplish His purposes in us. It is our gifts and talents that point us to our God designed purpose.

Matthew 4:18-19 “And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.’”

- God will use what we are already skilled or gifted in for His glory. In this case, Peter and Andrew’s skill-set was in catching fish—this was something that they were good at and something they had experience in. Therefore, God called them so that He could bring them into their ULTIMATE PURPOSE—that is to catch men for the glory of God.
- Today, God is still the same. He has not changed in terms of the way He deals with us. God still uses what we are good at or have a talent for, to ultimately accomplish the purpose He had pre-ordained for us before time ever began.
- We see this in the life of Jeremiah, Joseph, David, Peter and even Paul. All of them were passionately good at something and out of their passion God called them. He re-directed their steps by simply coaching them to FOLLOW HARD AFTER HIM.
- An important principle for us to remember is that our God given purpose will typically correspond with our gifts. Let me say that again, “our purpose corresponds with our gifts.”



We must spend quality time with God in order for Him to make us into what He has purposed for us to be.

Matthew 4:19 Jesus says, “**Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.**”

- If you think about it, what did following Jesus really mean? It really meant that for 3 years the disciples would spend all of their time with Jesus. This included them serving Him, sitting at His feet to learn of Him, imitating His heart/character and also learning to eventually walk in His steps.
- To ultimately fulfill our God given purpose, we must follow the pattern that has been set in Scripture and that is for us to become servants, learners, lovers and imitators of Christ.

Our God given purpose will not only correspond with our gifts but it will demand four things. It will demand that we serve others; learn as much as possible; love as much as possible; and imitate Christ as much as possible.

Our God-gifted-purpose is a four-fold demand.

1. We are to serve others,
2. We are to become life-long learners (particularly of God’s Word).
3. We are to love others and love what we do.
4. We are to step as Jesus stepped, that is we imitate Him on earth so that we can fulfill His word of “greater things you shall accomplish.”

Our God given purpose is a God-financed plan.

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and he shall add all these things to you.”

Mark 10:28-30 “Then Peter began to say to Him, ‘see, we have left all and followed You.’ So Jesus answered and said, ‘assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.’”

- God will finance and provide for the calling He has called you into. There is a saying that says, “when He guides, He provides.”



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