

Living Life on Purpose:

Many books like the very popular ‘The Purpose Driven Life’ by Rick Warren can help us discover WHAT we should do with our life and WHY we should do it.

But **HOW** are we going to do it ?? And **WHEN** shall we begin ??

The answer to these two questions will determine if we truly purpose driven persons or risk living an unfulfilled life.

Are we going to face ourselves, along with our society and our fears, and take charge or continue to ‘excuse’ ourselves due to(fill in the blank)

This is very difficult!

Have you ever had that flash of inspiration, an urge or thought that maybe... just maybe you should be living your life differently ... On Purpose as opposed to just floating along. If so, it was probably followed quickly by another thought as to Why You Can’t !!! Until something changes ... until WE change something ... until WE change Ourselves ... our lives will continue down the same path as always.

If by some chance we happen to stumble into a path that leads us to fulfilling our Purpose, we will undoubtedly stand before God completely satisfied and be adequately rewarded for our efforts.

But if not... if our purpose was not fulfilled, which of our many excuses (reasons, limitations, hindrances, unmet intentions) will HE accept ?

Someone once said “ We do everything we do because we want something”.

Yes, even paying taxes!

Only two things are ‘appointed unto man’ and that is to die and face judgment.

Everything Else is either a circumstance or a choice.

We did not choose our parents, our upbringing, our skin color, our financial level early in life. We did not choose to be born in sin. We didn’t choose many of the early childhood events that have shaped us to this point in life. But God, in His supreme authority, has set before us and given to us the right to choose ... and these choices are critical !

Joshua said “I set before you this day Life and Death, Choose you therefore Life”.

This is always the case. Choices are made everyday by everyone. We choose the way of Wisdom, Understanding and Life.... Or the way of Convenience, Temporal Gratification and Death. Our reborn Spirit-man desires the way of life while our fleshly man is still attracted by the immediate gratifications which are often delivered by self-centered living.

This is as old as Adam & Eve in the garden. With all that God had provided for them, they were still tempted to reach for something else. Instead of fulfilling HIS Purpose, they began to think creation, and all that is in it, was here to fulfill THEIR Purpose.

This in essence put them *in the place of God* ... it’s the ultimate temptation.

We use the phrase “to have my cake and eat it too” to express a real Win-Win situation. We enjoy now and enjoy later. We have immediate gratification and long term rewards. We want the spiritual man to be assured of heaven while the physical still enjoys anything he desires on earth. No Pain – All Gain.

However, along with the great power God gave man to Choose, comes the awesome Responsibility to be Disciplined in his choices and Diligent in the carrying out of these choices ... just as God is.

If everything in this world was “created by Him and for Him”, and yet we as a mere creature (not creator) decide to use His goods for our own pleasure without allowing it flow through us and bring God Pleasure (Glory), then we have not only robbed God of glory ... we have positioned ourselves *as gods*, to receive glory (pleasure) from that which is not ours!

It's not that we are not allowed to enjoy ‘things’ in this life. Quite the contrary, God “delights” in giving good things to His children. But our focus should NOT be the ‘good things’ but rather the **Giver** of the ‘good things’. Our greatest pleasure should be derived from offering it back to God. It is always the First and the Best which is given to God. This brings Him greater glory and deepens our relationship with Him.

We have been given a body and in this body we are given life. Paul said “glorify God in your body”. But How? In our earthly body we are given many natural abilities which came from God. We may have ‘sharpened them’, that is...taken the raw talent and through training and use made it better ... but the ability came from God. In regeneration, God's Holy Spirit was placed also “in this body” as the ‘temple of the Lord’. With this gift came the ability to bear Spiritual Fruit. So then, all that is generated through or by a Christian should be for God's Glory. Our labor to build, produce, create – our intellect to think, write, communicate -- our spirit to know Him, to pray, to use His word -- our ability to Love, to create Peace, to be Patient and Longsuffering All this and more are made possible BY HIM and FOR HIM. Not for us, we are not God! “for it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves”.

And, so that we might discover these abilities on loan from God. So that we might develop them and so that His creation might be blessed by them while He is Honored with them, God gave us one other very necessary ingredient ... **He Gave Us TIME**. He Gave Us Today – Right Now! That which can not be bought or sold in the market. It can not be traded on Wall Street. Yet rich men would (and do) give up their fortunes for a little more of it.

TIME: Our most precious asset. And so often, our most abused and neglected.

“Work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man shall work”

“It is high time we wake up out of our sleep”

We may not all have the same amount in total or live the same number of years.

We may not all have the same opportunities ... but we all get our time given us in the same increments. It comes 24 hours per day, 7 days per week !

How is it that some people accomplish so much more in a Day, a month or a year than others do? Don't they have distractions? Couldn't the just “Kill Time” too ?

Unless we have a Purpose – and know what it is – and commit to it ...

I'm afraid that's what we will do ... just Waste Time ! What a Shame !

And should we spend all our time in Fruitful, but Selfish pursuits...

And spend little if any in pursuit of the Creator and His kingdom...

What lasting value could there be in that?

When OUR soul is required, what will our answer be ?

So here we are. God's ultimate creation. Living on God's Earth.

Endowed with many of Our Creators attributes,

Entrusted with much power and authority, Privileged with access to God

and Instructed in His Word on how best to accomplish the Most Important !

And yet we are tempted to rob Him of His Glory by choosing OUR ways instead of His ways... by not trusting, not hearing or not obeying

By making 'ME' the center of focus instead of HIM.

By wasting Time with a life of No Purpose – or -

By choosing to use time for my benefit

instead of fulfilling the purpose for which I was created.

We would all be wise to join the King in II Chronicles 34:31 to keep ALL of the Lord's commandments, testimonies and statutes AND to perform them (put them into action).

May God Bless you as you discover and live Your Life on Purpose.