

PURPOSE:

***MEANING and PURPOSE are about
how you impact the lives of others.***

*For I know the plan I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11.*

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **John 15:16***

This is where the *Why does it matter?* question comes into play. Is there a reason or a point for your life?

Knowing your STORY and how you’ve shaped your IDENTITY is important, enabling you to put your life’s journey into perspective. When we have perspective, we can ask about the purpose of all this. As our PURPOSE in life becomes more apparent, we are getting to a place where we know better how God has equipped us through wiring and experiences. We have better insights into what paths lead to what ends. And we can now better start to discern why God created us the way he did. As we put MEANING to our life experiences, we now begin to understand a PURPOSE or PURPOSEs for our life.

Discovering our PURPOSE helps us collect our STORY, IDENTITY, and MEANING as a disciple of Christ and look to what is next. Knowing your PURPOSE points you on your Road Map toward CALLING. Discovering your PURPOSE and CALLING gives you a clearer understanding of your whole and holy self.

Are you struggling with the idea of your PURPOSE? You are not alone. Very few humans get to this level of drilling down inside your core. If it seems hard, it’s because it is. Knowing PURPOSE is being able to answer the question, what do I do with my life knowing better who I am?

You may wonder what the difference is between PURPOSE, CALLING, and MISSION. Your PURPOSE is a more general statement of direction. Your CALLING clarifies the context and the nature of your ministry. Your MISSION is a more specific definition of your destination.

Understanding God's purpose **of** our life unfolds as we begin to recognize how each event, joy, struggle, and detour contributes to discovering the meaning **for** our life. Often,

we seek a clear, immediate answer to why we exist, but God reveals purpose through a journey rather than a single moment of clarity. Every experience—whether triumphant or painful—shapes our character, refines our faith, and directs us toward what truly matters. When we look back, we begin to see patterns, connections, and divine threads weaving together a story far greater than we imagined. What once felt like random hardships or blessings become signposts pointing toward our calling. As we walk with Christ, we learn that God's purpose **of** our life is not just about what we do, but about who we become—people shaped by His love, equipped to serve, and called to glorify Him. It is in this unfolding journey that we discover the meaning **for** our life, aligning our deepest longings with His eternal plan.

Let's again look at the Apostle Paul to gain a sense of how clear his understanding of PURPOSE was.

"But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'" Acts 9:15-16 -

"But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being." Galatians 1:15-16 -

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith." Philippians 3:7-9 -

Clearly, Paul understood his PURPOSE and knew God had chosen him. That PURPOSE? 1. To proclaim His name to the Gentiles and suffer for Christ's sake, 2. To reveal His Son to the Gentiles through preaching and to know Christ, and 3. To receive the righteousness coming from God through faith in Him.

Let's return to James' STORY. As a child in an alcoholic family, James' STORY presented a distorted view of his parents and himself. James made incomplete and erroneous conclusions about who he was as a child. That became his IDENTITY. Leaving home, he also took a distorted and ill-formed view of his MEANING in life. He had taken on the IDENTITY of a victim. He was joyless, pessimistic, living for the moment in fear of the future, serving others while resenting and judging, and insecure while taking himself too seriously. Yet James is a helper and a servant. Unfortunately a resentful and confused servant.

As a disciple of Christ, whether it be James or any of us, we cannot find true PURPOSE until we allow Jesus to heal the wounds of our past and the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts, minds, and will and heal our wounded souls. Allow your discipling friend, like

Obstacles: There are significant obstacles hindering or preventing you from discovering your PURPOSE.

Name some fears holding you back from taking risks and experiencing adventure.

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Next, to the right of your belief values, write down a behavior reflecting or giving an example or proof of the belief value. For example, if your belief value is honesty, your behavior values would be not stealing, lying, or deceiving.

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What's Next?

A mark of growth in the life of a disciple of Christ is you gain an increasing sense of spiritual hunger. Spiritual hunger is not just to consume but also to serve. As you grow as a disciple of Christ and have been influenced by your relationship with your intentional discipler, have you thought about how to pay it forward?

*“Learn the unforced rhythms of Grace. Matt. 11:28-30 (MSG). All of life has rhythm. For example, our lungs take in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Our heart chambers pull in blood and then pump it out. And as a disciple, there is a time to be refreshed and strengthened in knowledge, understanding, and faith. And there is also the time to let it out and to strengthen others by giving someone else the gift of your time. There is a time to rejoice in seeing God at work in you—your *being* experience. There is also a time to see God at work through you—your *doing* experience.*

It is natural to experience a growing desire to be a disciple maker and to put your spiritual awakening into action. You are increasingly experiencing the Shalom peace of God. Who is someone who keeps coming to your awareness you would like to have the same deep friendship with as you now have with your discipling friend? Start a discussion with your discipler. Who is that person? How should you approach them? Ask your intentional discipler to be praying as well. Disciples come from a variety of experiences. The person you are thinking of may be in your Oikos, the eight to fifteen people God has strategically placed in your traffic pattern of life. It may be a person who is also hoping and praying somehow the moment would occur, and you would ask them if they want a person of spiritual influence, like you, to be present in their life. Regardless of how it begins, your discipleship journey isn't complete until you have also made a disciple who also is making a disciple. In the Great Commission, where we read Jesus' words to *“make disciples,”* a more accurate translation is to turn the word into a verb—to disciplize. To be a part of a self-replicating experience where the product of replication is an authentic copy of the master.

As you work through the questions, establish a daily practice of going to the **Lectio Divina**. Click on this QR code for reflection on your PURPOSE utilizing the practices of Silence, Read, Meditate, Pray, and Contemplate.



Notes from my Lectio Divina on my PURPOSE
