

Trumpets, Torches, Triumph

John 4:10, Judges 6-7 Gideon, many more!

Bible version: NLT and a couple in KJV (for illustration)

Our purpose in Christ is to “Be fruitful and multiply, go unto all the world and preach the Good News,” identifying/exposing your purpose, living out your purpose and canceling all the lies of the enemy (God gives you a hand up), knowing God’s purpose for your life, making the Lord Savior of your life.

There was a lady who lived in an apartment and the electric company wondered why she was using so little electricity. So they went to check and knocked on the door, she answered and they asked, “Does your electricity work?” She said, “Yes, I switch the light on to light my gas lamp and then turn it off.” Most people walk thru life like this. You have so much power at your fingertips; **you have a great purpose but don’t use it.**

We’re all searching for something in life. Whether you want to call it significance, purpose, meaning or something else, there is an innate desire in each of us for our life to matter, to have significance and purpose. We long to be something, to be someone. But all too often we look to things such as career, status, wealth, relationships and accomplishments to give us a sense of purpose and significance.

We look to temporary solutions, rather than permanent solutions.

As followers of Christ, we know the truth: Nothing on this earth can fully satisfy our longing for significance and worth — nothing apart from Jesus.

John 4:10: *“Jesus replied, ‘If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.’”*

God has created you to fulfill a specific role in this world. There is no one else who can achieve completely what God has purposely created **you** to do. In **1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)** the Apostle Peter gives us this admonition: *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”*

God has gifted every one of us to perform a special mission for which we alone were created! So, when you seek to discover God’s will for your life,

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pay attention to how He has gifted you. We are all wired differently and have different gifting and callings. **His plan for you** will always be directly related to the gifts that He has bestowed upon you. **The great news is that you will automatically be good at whatever it is that He has called you to do!**

Be Carriers of the Light, Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT): *“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”*

Holding the Light: “My dad would always ask me when fixing something, to hold the light, but Dad, why can’t I fix it?”

Don’t be so focused on being in the picture (spotlight) that you lose out that you could hold the light!

REMEMBER YOU WERE BORN INTO PURPOSE

Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT): *“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”*

Galatians 1:15 (NLT): *“But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace.”*

Your Purpose Always Comes With A Promise!

Hebrews 13:5 (NLT): *“Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”*

Obey What You Already Know To Be God’s Will. Many people seem to want to know what God’s plan is for their lives, but they overlook the fact that 98% of His will is already outlined carefully through His Word. God is very clear about many, many aspects of His will. For instance, it is clearly His plan that we abstain from sexual immorality.

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1 Thessalonians 4:3 NLT: *“God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.”* If we do not obey the things that God has shown us clearly to be His will, why would we think He would reveal any further information regarding His plan for our lives? Obedience is an important first step.

What Is In You, Needs To Be Bigger Than What’s Around You

“But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” **1 John 4:4 (NLT)**

PURPOSE

The definition of purpose: the reason something is done or created or, for which something exists, and have as one’s intention or objective

**Life without purpose is life without existence
You got to have a purpose!**

Everything God makes He makes with a purpose
God does not make junk

For starters, if you are interested in knowing God’s plan for your life, then you must learn to walk with God. You need to develop a relationship with Him. Christianity is all about relationship rather than just religion is all about rituals and rules. Cultivate your relationship with God, seek to know Him and not just seek to know about Him. Don’t just carry Jesus around--live with Him.

You will cultivate that relationship best by spending time in His Word, taking time for prayer, and taking every opportunity you can to be involved in church, Growth Track and connect groups. When you seek these disciplines in your life, God will begin the first steps to revealing His plan to you.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT): *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

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WORD OF THE LORD: Are you receiving the word the Lord gave you and living out the instructions or, because it doesn't match up with what you plan, you haven't followed through?

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,' says the Lord. 'And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.'" Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

Ask ourselves: Are we following the instructions the Lord gave to us?

When you are active in your God given purpose, you will receive your promises, and along the way God gives protection and provides provision.

Passion Tied Into God's Purpose = Promotion

Listen To The Lord, Get Alone With Him

In addition to listening to the Spirit, I also recommend listening to your heart. To understand my point here, consider the following passage: *"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you."* Psalms 37:4-5 (NLT)

I love this passage, because it shows me that, when I am walking with the Lord, He will actually let me do a lot of really cool things that I actually love to do! When you are close to Him, He actually begins to shape your desires so that you desire the things that He has already called you to do.

To Take Back Your Mind You Have To Humble Your Heart -SF

I am holding it but not controlling it

Someone I can't see is in control of it

What I can see is controlled by the hand I can't see.

All you need is a Word!

So then, His plan actually becomes a super-exciting adventure. I always have the most fun in life when I am doing God's will. And that is because He shapes me to want to do the things for which He has actually created me. Then when

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God gives you a word, run with it. *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."* **Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)**

God always tucks a little hope in your plan. God always puts His promises in a hand's reach, not always in our hands because **there's a process to getting to the promise.**

God knows how to turn a:

murderer into a Messenger - (this is what He did with Moses),

a shepherd boy into a giant slayer - (like He did with David),

God knows how to make a prostitute into a preacher (like He did with the woman at the well)

Your Gift Will Always Make Room For Your Calling

Do you know why God's plan has a future? Because you don't like your past. Don't let your past dictate your future. He needs to give you a future because He knows your past won't help you! When you meet up with Jesus He creates a new past.

We Move From Glory To Glory

When God gives you an opportunity, most of the time it is tainted by your history-- keep the past under the Blood. Remove everything that hinders your calling.

Be less concerned about what table you're invited to sit at and be more concerned about whether or not God told you to sit there!

You can't just say you have purpose; you have to choose to walk in it. I have a car, but if I don't use it, what good is it to me?

In the book of Judges a cycle is shown throughout the whole book. The people sin, provoking God's wrath. As a result God allows their enemies to attack, then the people cry out to God, God raises up a faithful and courageous judge, military leader and counselor to lead the people against their enemies. After

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victory is secured the people sin and the cycle begins again. Although God remains faithful, sin always has consequences.

Judges 1:1-8 In everything God is to be glorified, and you will know that He did it

Judges 1:9-15 God will show up and show off

Judges 1:16-22 God defeated the enemy from within

The same thing the enemy uses against you, the enemy is destroyed by it.

Judges 1:23-25 we need to work together (Team work makes the dream work)

Judges 2:15 lost their way

Judges 3:12 did evil in the sight of the Lord

Timeline of the story of Gideon:

The call of Gideon

God's response to his fleece

God's direction in reducing his army

God leading Gideon to overhear the dream of the Midianite soldier

And the Lord confusing the Midian army causing the miraculous victory of 300 men against 135,000 Midians.

Judges 6--God gave them over to the Midians for 7 years

God will remind you of what He did in your past to get you through into your future.

Judges 7:2 - sometimes you need to lose things you deem as important so that God can show you the importance of what you really have, that you already possessed what is important

It's pretty crazy when you get a word from God and then you question it, then you go back to the Lord and then afterwards the Lord gives you another instruction... You follow it, then immediately people hate you and you get a target on your back. See the trend here; **God always comes through, God always makes a way. He turns the weakest into the greatest.**

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“Each time he said, ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NLT)**

But I love our responses sometimes: “OK God but, OK God, but...”

“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” **Prov 16:9 (NLT)**

“You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.”

Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

Surrender your will to God’s

Many times when we say we are seeking God’s will, what we are really wanting to say to God is this: “OK, God, here’s what I’m planning to do. Now I need you to do the rest, all right?” I must tell you that this is not really effective in finding His true will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT): *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

Jesus was willing to die for us, so shouldn’t we be willing to live for Him? When we surrender to Him, that is when He really begins to direct our steps.

“But you are not like that (stumbling), for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

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**Sometimes you have to pass by your own plans to get to God's Purpose.
Flesh will try to always talk you out of faith.**

"But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken."

Psalms 33:11 (NLT)

Then don't you love when God gives you a little insight about your purpose and excites your passion and pushes you forward in faith? God knows the next step-- just take that step of faith.

And when God gives you more instruction towards your purpose; this shows us that only till you follow that instruction, God will then move you forward and give you more Instruction!

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..." **Isaiah 28:10 (KJV)**

God never abandons his ultimate purpose. It is God's mission in the first place.

Run in the direction of your dream, not in the direction of your disease," - TD

Get out of your comfort zone and go after your dreams.

Even when people have a target written on your back, continue to run (they might be able to see it but you can't).

Turn your adversity into an opportunity

Don't let others hinder your purpose

If you hang with chickens all you will do is cluck

BUT if you hang out with eagles, you're going to fly.

Our purpose is to soar not sit.

Prosper where you are planted

You can prosper in captivity when you are in Christ. We are overcomers

Stop searching for what you already have

A prayer I pray every night: *"Give me Passion Power for my Purpose"*

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“If you have a strong purpose in life, you don't have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there.” - Roy Bennet

Nothing can stop your purpose
(Your life has value)

You got to value it!

Don't expect people to empower your purpose if you don't expose it!
You have to expose it, get into Growth Track, join a Serve team, Tell a leader!

You got to believe in what God has placed in you enough to expose it.
(It has to be in you, **before** it falls out of you)

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

“For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

Pastor Bryan always tells us to, “Go up, not out!”
Seek godly advice

One key component to finding God's will is to seek the input of godly mentors in your life. Think of it this way: you should understand that **you are basically a mixture of the five people you spend the most time with**. So, then, it is vital that you choose those five people well. If you choose to surround yourself with godly mentors, they will be instrumental in helping you discern God's plan for your life. But if you surround yourself with people who are far from God, your hope of finding His best for your life will be greatly diminished.

“Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.”

Proverbs 11:14 (NLT)

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The church is designed to help you greatly with this. I would encourage you to be in church every single time the doors are opened. Connect Groups are great ways because the more you involve yourself with a community of believers, the greater your chances will be of finding godly men and women who can help you discern God's will.

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." ~Dr. Seuss

Don't be a person that just does it to check the box off, but be a person who lives it out. Don't miss the bigger picture.

There are general purposes **but there also is a Divine purpose**

**God is going to make your natural - supernatural
And your ordinary- extraordinary**

When you know the outcome before the conclusion, you will have more confidence and it's just like David and Goliath to start naming your situation Goliath and you'll know the conclusion and you'll have more confidence because of the *identification*.

Your problem is not your crisis, the problem is that the only thing you are seeing is your crisis.

What is important to you does not always have to be important to someone else.

When no one is encouraging you, encourage yourself

God often clearly demonstrates His plan for our lives by lining up circumstances in obvious ways. And He also shows us what His will is NOT for us to do in that same way. Over the years, I have discovered that God is pretty good at opening and closing doors. He even did that for the Apostle Paul and his enterouge in Acts:

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“Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us!’ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.” **Acts of the Apostles 16:6-10 (NLT)**

So, even Paul had to face closed doors in his ministry. God often uses closed doors to show us clearly what He does NOT want us to do. And He also uses open doors at times to show us what He DOES want us to do. Of course, this does not mean that every open door is definitely God’s plan, but it does help to give you some basic direction.

In Closing:

The next time you begin to ponder God’s plan for your life, I would encourage you to go to God and the revelation from God’s word you received today. Use these principles to help you identify His plan. And when you seek His purpose for your life, you will find it!

Prepare yourself for what God has for you.

“But I don’t have an opportunity yet.”

Well, **practice like you have one... then to have one and not be prepared.**

It’s better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one, than to have an opportunity and not be prepared.

No matter who you are, relationships are critical to your existence as human beings. God created you to have relationships with others, and Him. He wants to be connected to you through his son, Jesus. A relationship with your Creator is to be known by God himself.

"If God is your partner, make your plans BIG!" –D.L. Moody

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