

Living On Purpose

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EASY TIPS TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY IN YOUR DISCOVERY OF YOUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE.



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I think one of the most important days of your life is when you realize what your life's purpose is. I believe we all have the same basic purpose: to love, to be loved and have our being in God. God is in the details, my friend, and how you love, how you receive love and how you have your being in Him is done in a way that only you can do it.

I want to share just a little about my own journey with finding my purpose so that you can see how I can help you find yours. The road to accepting my purpose and calling was a long and winding one. What used to grieve me was that it didn't have to be that way. I knew in the 6th grade that I was an artist. I knew in the 8th grade that I was a writer. I didn't accept that part of myself until about 4 years ago. Now I look back on those years and I am filled with compassion for who I was then. I really didn't know that living for God was the best way to live. I'm also humbled because God was patient with me. He didn't just decide that I would never "get it" and that I would just always be wayward and go my own way. He didn't give up on me, and because He didn't I am able to live out His purpose for my life.

Now that I'm walking in my purpose, I'm a lot more joyful. That doesn't mean I'm happy with every situation in my life, but it does mean that I'm focused on the fact that no matter what happens in my life God's plan for me doesn't change. As long as I continue to seek Him above all else, I can't go wrong even if I do get off track.

These are just some insights I've learned that I'd like to share with you so you can start your journey of finding your life's purpose.

I'd like to use 2 Scriptures to show you how I started my journey of finding my life's purpose. The first scripture is:

Psalm 139: 16, NLT

"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed"

In other words, God is the only one who can really tell you what your purpose, mission and calling here on earth are. Now, I believe people can help you uncover it especially if they are close to you and God has placed them in your life to help you grow. Only God can show you who He truly designed you to be.

The second scripture is:

1 Corinthians 3:7, NLT

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“It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow”

We will really only focus on Psalm 139:16. But I mentioned 1 Corinthians 3:7 to help you realize that discovering and living out your purpose does involve others. Whether they are put in your life to help you identify or develop that purpose, or they are the recipient of the blessings that come from you living out your purpose, it will involve other people. However, God is ultimately the one who determines what that purpose is. And this e-booklet was designed to help you do that. Step-by-step in a simple method, I want to show you how to discover and live out your life’s purpose.

With that being said, NOW it’s time to break this Scripture down line by line and draw out the deeper meaning for practical application. If you walk away with a different understanding or if you feel an “aha” moment that speaks something else, that is perfectly okay. Keep in mind this is not my opinion but my experience with these scriptures that have allowed me to “live on purpose”.

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1: “You saw me before I was born”

Find out how you got here...

If you don't already know, research your family background. Find out what brought your parents together. Find out the circumstances surrounding your birth. Many people had a rough start in life where the odds were stacked against them, yet they survived and went on to thrive. These are the types of situations that help you grow closer to God as you allow Him to reveal His truth about where you came from. These situations can help you grow closer to God as you allow Him to reveal His truth about your heritage. On the other end of the spectrum, many people have a strong, rich heritage that anyone would be proud of.

I believe that finding out about your family of origin and the circumstances of your birth help you do 3 things on the journey of finding your purpose:

- 1) You'll be less likely to be blindsided by Satan when He tries to make you feel bad about “where you came from” if your start in life was not good OR
- 2) You may find reason to feel good about who you are and where you come from OR
- 3) You may find “generational clues” of your calling (meaning it's literally in your DNA to be a singer, musician, entrepreneur, comedian, actress, scientist, dancer, etc.)

God already knows who you are – completely. He wants you to know too. Knowing and embracing all parts of yourself and your story will help you accept any parts of your family background that you might be ashamed of. Queen Esther was an orphan who was raised by her cousin Mordecai, yet she won favor with the king out of thousands of other beautiful women – many of whom may have come from more cultured families. Don't believe that certain situations or experiences automatically disqualify you from having “better” in life. The word of God says, “Don't despise the days of small beginnings”. God cares about every detail of your life. If how you got here bothers you, I challenge you to press your way into God's throne room, determine to have a seat before Him and pour your heart out. I guarantee that He will reward you with clarity and healing if you seek Him with all your heart.

Here are some tips to help you find out more about your family.

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- 1) **Find your oldest living relative.** When you do, ask them if you can interview them and let them talk about your family. When I interviewed my great aunt for this purpose, she was in her 90's. She was also fully aware mentally and was still determined to do what she could do physically on a daily basis. As I interviewed her, I realized she was fully aware of what went on in our family from the oldest to youngest generations. She told me about her brothers and sisters, her husband, her children. She even told me about her memories of helping to raise my mother and her brother – and even the times she kept me while I stayed with my grandmother. Likewise, your oldest living relative will be a source of knowledge as well as inspiration.
- 2) **Record everything by notes or voice recorder.** And make sure you don't lose them. This will keep you from forgetting the interactions and be an official record until you can make sense of everything that was discussed. And of course, make sure you ask them for permission first or at least let them know you're recording or taking notes.
- 3) **Interview other relatives starting from the oldest to youngest.** Everyone has different perceptions of the same experience. And if that oldest relatives had siblings, they may know something that elder doesn't or they may just have a different experience of the same matter. Either way, the Bible instructs us to get "both sides of the matter". In the same way, you want to get other perspectives by interviewing other members of your family.

After you're done interviewing and gathering information, review it and see if there are recurring themes. For instance, maybe you have a lot of military in your family. Try to find out if that was by necessity or if it turned into some sort of tradition. Or maybe you have a lot of professionals like doctors and lawyers. Whatever it is – whether it's positive or negative – take note. Then, look at your own life and see if you find any similarities. You could be honoring a sort of family tradition or culture, or repeating what's called a generational curse. Decide on how you feel about it, pray on the matter and allow God time to reveal what else the information you've found means for your life.

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2: “Every day of my life was recorded in your book”

Take the time now to discover your calling...

I think there’s a deeper implication within this part of the scripture. Yes, it could mean that God literally did know how each day of your life would play out, but maybe “every day” is referring to the plan He had in mind when He created you and your calling. Once you find out your family background, take time with God to find out what He originally had in mind when He thought you into existence. This could take a few hours, days or even years. However long it takes, be sure to pay attention to clues that God may be revealing to you during this time.

I believe that your calling is often two things: something you do well and something you “just have to” do. Stop now and take the time to read and answer the following questions:

Instructions: In a separate notebook, write down the answers to these questions. Then have them ready as a reference as we continue in this booklet.

What do I love to do (or what things do I love to do)?

What would I spend all day doing if I had a day off work? (sleeping, relaxing, watching movies don’t count)

What would I do for free?

What would I do for free if someone gave me the opportunity to do it for them?

What do I believe I’m good at?

What do my closest friends and family members tell me I’m good at?

What have others offered to pay me to do for them in the past?

What do strangers or acquaintances compliment me the most on? (Think abilities and talents, not physical attributes, character or personality traits)

What do I like most about my current job?

What do I dislike most about my current job?

What would be my “dream” work day?

Which tasks in my life are easy for me to complete?

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Which tasks in my life are difficult for me to complete?

What hobbies do I enjoy and actually partake in often?

Which tasks give me energy (even if I'm physically tired)?

What tasks drain my energy (even if I start them with a lot of energy)?

What makes me angry enough to speak my opinion or take a stand?

What do my closest friends and/or close family members constantly say I'm good at?

What do my closest friends and/or close family members constantly say I'm NOT good at?

What types of people do I enjoy helping?

What types of people do I NOT enjoy helping?

Now that you're complete, let's talk more about your calling. First, I believe it's something you do well. Some of the questions in the exercise are designed to help you see what you are good at as well as what you're not good at. Not every ability you have is your calling. For instance, you might speak well to an audience but you're really called to be a writer. So speaking is a skill that will help you engage your readers and fans as well as communicate what you write about. I also believe it's something you do well because God is a God of excellence. He gives us all different abilities, but what I've found is that the abilities we excel in are the ones that He often uses to reach others.

The second way to define your calling is to pay attention to the things you feel you "have to do". The prophet Jeremiah summed it up perfectly:

Jeremiah 20:9, NLT

"But if I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!"

In this passage he explains how his calling was easier to accept than to reject. Similarly, your calling will bubble up inside you. It's who you are, just like the color of your skin and hair, your height, or God-given personality. It's such a part of you that it may take others to point it out to you because it comes so naturally to you. So keep these things in mind. A calling is something you're good at. It is something that comes out of you with ease and it is something that takes great effort to keep hidden inside of you.

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Now let's go back to the questions you answered. Take some time and meditate on your answers. Do you see the same answer or the same few answers pop up more than others? If so, I want you to focus on those and think of one word to sum up each reoccurrence. Then meditate on those words and think about the ways that you can start exploring how to integrate activities that equal the words in your everyday life.

For example, singing and music are the two words that come up most. What activities are you currently involved in that allow you to sing and/or make music? Do you play an instrument? Do you want to learn how to play an instrument? If you're not involved in any activities now, how can you find activities that involve your love of music? Perhaps you could take music classes. Find a vocal coach. Volunteer for a local choir or singing group. This is an example of how you can begin pursuing the things that stood out when you answered the questions.

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3: “Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed”

Discover how God intended for you to live out your calling...

It's possible to have the same calling as someone else. But what sets you apart from anyone else is how you live out that calling. It includes your level of influence and who He's called you to teach, reach and serve. It also includes your unique makeup. Think of it this way. Each king in the Bible was called to be a king or placed in that position by events and circumstances that lined up in their lives. God used King David as a standard by which He compared all other kings because above all else David sought God's purpose for his life. David took worship to a whole new level when he danced his clothes off in a fit of praise! Even with every failure he experienced he made a full circle back to being who God created him to be – a worshipper desperately seeking His face.

Now that you know where you came from and what your calling is...take the time to think about how God intended for you to live out that calling.

*Here's a hint: **How** do you like to do the things you enjoy most?*

Maybe you're a singer. From sun up to sun down, you find yourself singing often because you love to do it. But how do you like to do it? In a band or choir? Alone on a stage? Then think once you've identified how you like to do it, seek those activities out and make them a routine part of your life.

What that will do is to make you think about your calling in a way that can benefit others. Maybe God called you to be a vocal coach of young girls or boys with exceptional talent; a chorus teacher in the public school system; maybe He wants you to sing backup with a popular group or band; or be a recording artist. There are so many ways you can use your gift or talent. But the best way to use it is in the way God originally wanted when He thought you into existence. To discover what ways that may be, follow your heart and try new things until you come to a knowing that what you're doing is pleasing to God for this season of your life.

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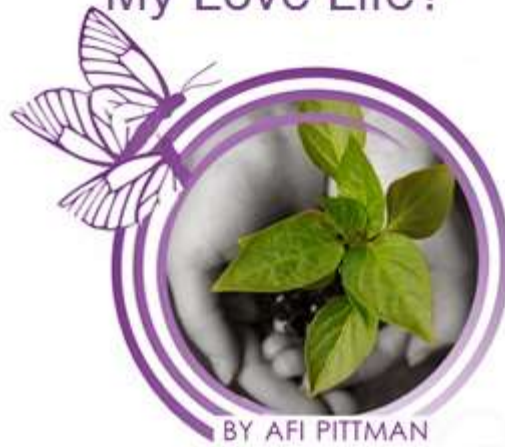
If you want more information about how to be happily single while you prepare for marriage, go to www.authorofmyfaith.com/findingmrright and sign up for the Unapologetically You series. Before you sign up, you'll find information on how this series could be of interest to you – one of God's singles!

As always, it's been a joy assisting you on your journey of "living right, loving life and finding Mr. Right." If you enjoyed this e-booklet, I've got more you might like. Go to the following link:

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