

Every Christian's Ultimate Purpose

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Have you been asking yourself, "What in the world am I supposed to be doing with my life?" You know that you're not satisfied with the life you're living but you just don't know what to do about it.

You may be feeling confused and frustrated trying to figure out God's purpose for your life. You don't have to do this alone. God has given Christians the Holy Spirit to help us when we're feeling frustrated or confused. He will guide and teach you along your journey.

Begin your discovery with the knowledge that every Christian's ultimate purpose is to glorify God in everything he or she does. Matthew 22:37-38 states, "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment." It is also your starting and ending point in determining how God wants to use you.

The next step in your journey of discovery is to evaluate your gifts and abilities. All Christians have been given spiritual gifts by God to be used to advance the kingdom. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10) Focus on your unique gifts. Assess what they are and how you can use them to glorify the Lord.

Your journey should also include guidance from scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16 is a reminder that "all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Word of God holds the answer to your questions. Take some time and go to your quiet place. Immerse yourself in God's Word and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you seek to find or confirm your life's purpose.

Along the way, don't discount the feedback you receive from the people in your life. Ask yourself these questions:

- ◆ What do people tell me that I do really well?
- ◆ What do I do for others that gives me joy?
- ◆ What gifts, talents and abilities have others said they've seen in me?

Others may often see things in you that you take for granted. A wise woman will gladly accept wise counsel. Proverbs 15:22 says, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."

Once you have identified your purpose, your journey still has another step to go. You will need to determine not only whether your purpose glorifies God, but how does it do so? In other words, if you identify a purpose that does not bring the Lord glory and is not a reality in your life, you may want to re-evaluate your conclusion.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)