

Success in Christian Leadership

Key #4: Knowing your Purpose in Life... and acting to Fulfill It

A Critical Question for Every Leader: “What is my purpose in life?”

Christian leaders spend a great deal of time, major portions of their lives, trying to resolve this question. We may spend years pursuing purpose only to find that we have been going in the wrong direction. We may eventually find we have been pursuing essentially unfulfilling, and in some cases, even meaningless purposes. Finding out that we have been pursuing wrong or meaningless purposes will inevitably bring feelings of failure, discouragement, confusion and perhaps even worse.

(Proverbs 14:12 NKJV) “There is a way that seems right to man but its end is the way of death.”



Have you thought about how you determine your purpose? Because none of us lives in a vacuum, nobody determines his or her purpose in a vacuum. We all find our life’s purposes in the context of what we experience around us.

Out of our experiences, we formulate the courses of action for our lives that seem right for us. For Christian leaders, significant parts of this come from experiences with others they minister to. We interact with their lives and listen to their voices. Consistent and serious influences upon our decisions about purpose often come from those around us. Our teachers, our elders, our relatives, our peers and those we minister to - all influence our perceptions of our purposes. Their voices have a great effect on how and what we think about.

Your Daily Agenda

Christian leadership success happens “on purpose.” It is never an accident. Is being like Jesus foremost in your daily agenda? Being like Jesus is never an accident. It is purposeful behavior. If wrongful purpose determines and drives your daily agenda, you will miss your chance to be more like Him that day.



How much thought do you give to what things you should accomplish each day? Is God your number one priority every day?

Being like Jesus is never an accident. It is purposeful behavior.

If you are to fulfill the will of God and be fulfilled and successful with your life, you must know what to focus your efforts upon. Success demands a two-step process: First, knowing God's purpose for your life and ministry; and second, acting upon what you know.

Created For a Purpose

Purpose #1 To show God's power, to declare His name.

*(Exodus 9:16 NKJV) "But indeed **for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**"*

New Testament Confirmation of Exodus 9:16

*(Romans 9:17 NKJV) "For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, '**For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**'"*

He sticks a label on you!

At times God moves sovereignly. Usually, however, He chooses to get things done through people. God's desire is that you be a demonstration of His power, through His name. There is power in the name of Jesus. He chooses to apply His power and label the application of that power with His identity. He sticks that label on His servants whom He moves through. That is why you are called a "Christian." One way Christians find their purpose is in the distribution of the power of Jesus, accompanied by their declaration of the name of Jesus. This application of God's power and declaration of His name brings Him what He will never share with others - His glory. Begin with this purpose and *build on it!*

Purpose #2: To give God Glory

*(Isaiah 43:7 NKJV) "Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created **for My glory**; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."*

God never asks us to understand why He wants His glory declared, or why He is jealous of His glory. He simply declares this to be the case. The Creator has every right to do so without explaining it to His creation. In fact, as His creation, we find ourselves in trouble when we question God's right to have His glory, and not explain it to us. Your heart's desire as a Christian leader ought to have some worthwhile and lasting purpose that ultimately gives God glory. Add this to your purpose. *Build on it!*

When God is glorified, the devil is horrified!

(Psalms 20:4 NKJV) "May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose."

It is your Purpose, but it is always in His timing!

(Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV) "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:"

*(Ecclesiastes 3:17 NKJV) "I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, **For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.**""*

An Incubation Period

Do not get ahead of God. He places purpose in your heart and then provides an incubation period for it to come to full term. This may be because the circumstances are not yet ready for the purpose. It may be that others have to be prepared. It may be that you are still being prepared. Be anxious for nothing. Wait upon the Lord. He knows what he is doing.

Make His purpose your purpose. It will bring good results to you.

*(Romans 8:28 NKJV) "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called **according to His purpose.**"*

Purpose #3: To destroy the works of the devil

*(1 John 3:8 NKJV) "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**"*

If you are feeling a need for more purpose, find some evil and destroy it with good. You have within you the ability to bring much good to others. Do it! Then move ahead in your success and make the destruction of more evil your next purpose: *Build on it.*

Purpose #4: To praise God

(Isaiah 43:21 NKJV) "This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise."

(Psalm 139:14 NKJV) "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."

(Psalms 139:13 NKJV) "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."

When your purpose is to praise God you will soon find an additional purpose: To serve God. Then, *build on it again.*

- You will find yourself destroying the works of the devil in the midst of praise for your God.
- You will feel satisfaction, self-assurance and be positively motivated.
- You will begin to search for additional God-pleasing purpose and it will help you be a good success! You will be a winner and a champion for Jesus! *Build on it again.*

Purpose #5: To live a life of obedience to God

Christ is worthy of being obeyed simply because of Who He is. However, if you love Him, you will obey Him for much more than just submission to His holiness and deity.

(Romans 9:-21 NKJV) “Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?”

God’s Divine Insurance Policy for You

Purposeful living for Christ is the only way to insure the will of God in our lives as we journey in safety and prosperity.

(Isaiah 54:17 NKJV) ““No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.”

Fulfilling Your Purpose is the Way to Blessings

Blessings are the fruit of success.

(James 1:16-18) “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. {17} Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. {18} Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

*(James 1:20-25 NKJV) “for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. {21} Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. {22} But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. {23} For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; {24} for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. {25} But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, **this one will be blessed in what he does.**”*

Begin with these purposes. Make them part of your life:

Purpose #1: To show God’s power, to declare His name

Purpose #2: To give God Glory

Purpose #3: To destroy the works of the devil

Purpose #4: To praise God

Purpose #5: To live a life of obedience to God

Now, search your heart for other specific, personal purposes you can identify with and add them to the list.

Look into God's perfect Law of Liberty. Be doers of the Word. Be doers of the work. You will be blessed!

