

PURPOSEFUL LIVING - 2



DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE

I. Introduction & Definition:

Purpose can be defined both as a noun and verb.

Purpose as a noun is your reason, intention or motive for something. It can also be defined also as your aim, ambition, aspiration, resolution, goal, hope, objective, outcome, point, result and end - **1Jn.3: 8b**.

To purpose as a verb is to aim, decide, determine, resolve and will to do something or certain things - **Dan.1: 8**.

Why you need to define your purpose? Your purpose will decide or determine what you will purpose to do like Daniel, Joseph, John Baptist, Apostle Paul, Jesus Christ.

There are many areas of life where we can choose, purpose and decide what we want.

Don't allow people or life push you around, but purpose in your heart early enough as you grow up how you want to live your life e.g. Joseph, Samuel at Shiloh, David, the shepherd boy, Jesus at 12 in the Temple, Rhoda at a vigil, Paul's nephew, etc.

The Challenge of pastoral work. It's not a hobby!

We should also learn to trust God, relax and yield those areas of life that seem to be out of our control to Him - **Prov.3: 5-6; 1Tim.6: 6**.

Areas where we need to purpose in our hearts include the following:

1. Gender, Strengths & Weaknesses:

Purpose to accept and love yourself e.g. Gender - male or female, strengths and weaknesses. You have a purpose! You are not useless - **Gen.1: 27; Ps.139: 14**.

2. Age or Phase of Life:

Men are in sizes and life is in phases - **Eccles.12: 1; Jn.9: 4**. Purpose to accept your present age or phase of life and make the best use of every age/phase. Purpose to redeem the (remains) times of your life also - however long or short it may be.

3. Food & Drink (Diet & Fasting):

Make up your mind like Daniel and decide what you will eat or drink and what you will not eat or drink. Make up your mind and purpose to fast at times too e.g. Esau, Samson, Moses, Daniel, Jesus & Peter's vision.

4. Education, Literacy Level, Course, Vocational Training or Skill:

Make up your mind and purpose what level of education or vocational training you want. Decide your type of course or training also e.g. Moses, David, Matthew, Peter, Luke, Paul, etc.

5. Job, Vocation or Business:

For example - Esau was a hunter, Jacob, Joseph, Moses & David were shepherds, Elisha was a farmer, Peter was a fisherman, Luke was a physician, Paul a lawyer, etc.

6. Where to Live:

You cannot live everywhere. Purpose in your heart where you want to live - This includes traveling abroad e.g. Lot, Isaac & Manoah.

7. Life of Purity or Holiness:

Sin is sweet to the flesh and it is not easy to live a life of purity or holiness, but purpose in your heart and determine like Daniel to live a life of purity or holiness - **2Tim.2: 19-24; Phil.4: 13**.

8. Companions & Friends:

You may not be able to choose your parents, children or siblings but you can always choose your friends wisely - **Prov.1: 10; 1Cor.15: 33; 2Cor.6: 14-18**.

Learn from Biblical examples like - Dinah & the daughters of Canaan (**Gen.34**), Samuel in Shiloh (**1Sam.2-4**), Amnon & Jonadab, son of Shimeah (**2Sam.13**), etc.

9. Marriage & Family:

Purpose to accept your lot in Marriage - not everyone will marry. The person you marry will make or mar your life e.g. Daniel, Jesus Christ, John Baptist, Apostle Paul.

If you are married, purpose not to divorce. And, if you divorce, purpose not to re-marry!

10. Having Children:

Purpose to accept your lot regarding Children - not everyone will have children - **Matt.19: 12.**

Biblical examples include - Lot's daughters, Dinar & Tamar, Daniel, Mordecai, The Prophets, Jesus Christ, John Baptist, Apostle Paul.

Accept your lot regarding number and gender, etc. of children without desperation also.

Remember, the number of children you have will also affect the length and quality of your life.

Conclusion:

Life can be very easy if we understand it but it can also be very difficult, complex and complicated if we don't understand it. Purposeful Living is one major key or clue to living meaningful, fruitful, fulfilling, successful and satisfying life.

Always remember that you cannot be or do everything and you cannot be everywhere. So, always purpose by deciding and determining early enough what you want in life within the confines of God's word and provision.