

Created for a Purpose . . .

Is there any purpose in my life? People everywhere long to know the purpose for their lives. Yet for many, that sense of purpose seems elusive. As is true to life, one of Shakespeare's tragic characters sought his purpose through power. Macbeth murders the King of Scotland, seizes the throne, but swiftly descends to his doom. While ghosts from the past haunt him, civil war rages and his wife dies of insanity. In despair, Macbeth utters these dark thoughts about the lack of purpose in life:

*"Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing."*

(*Macbeth*, Act 5, Scene 5)

Life, however, is not a Shakespearean play . . . an hour on the stages and then heard no more. God created your life to have a supernatural purpose. As amazing as it may sound, you were created to reflect the Lord. . . . If you are a true Christian, you will increasingly be transformed to be like Christ.

*"We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory
of the Lord, are being transformed into the
same image from one degree of glory to another.
For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."
(2 Corinthians 3:18)*

Q: "I don't feel like my life has any purpose. Is there any hope for me?"

Yes. You have hope—you were created by the God of hope. In the Bible, God says that He created you with a specific plan for your life. Your life can be filled with hope and purpose when you choose to follow God's will.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
'plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.'"
(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)*

Q: "Do I have only one purpose in life?"

No. You will have several purposes, depending on the major roles in your life.

For example, a teenager's purpose may be:

- To grow in Christlike character
*"Those whom he foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to
the image of his Son."
(Romans 8:29)*
- To bring honor to his parents
*"Honor your father and your mother."
(Exodus 20:12)*
- To be the best student he can possibly be in order to bring glory to God
*"Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for men."
(Colossians 3:23)*

Myths about Your Purpose

- **Myth:** “The mistakes of my past have destroyed my chance for a meaningful life.”

Truth: When you became a Christian, God forgave you for all your sins. God erased your past, and He sees you as righteous. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- **Myth:** “The purpose for my life is gone, and I now have no sense of fulfillment.”

Truth: Every true Christian is complete in Christ and is being conformed to the character of Christ. (Colossians 2:9–10)

- **Myth:** “The purpose for my life has changed. What will I do now?”

Truth: When God brings a major change into your life, He also provides you with a new purpose. (Isaiah 43:18–19)

- **Myth:** “I am disabled and unable to be useful and productive. What purpose could I possibly have?”

Truth: God has a plan and a purpose for every life He has created . . . perhaps making you into a faithful prayer warrior. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Reasons for Not Finding Purpose in Life

Seeking to be *happy* vs. seeking to be *holy*

Seeking to be *religious* in a church vs. seeking to grow in a *relationship* with Christ

Seeking *cultural* Christianity vs. seeking *biblical* Christianity

Seeking *external* do’s and don’ts vs. seeking *internal* obedience of the heart

Seeking *human* approval vs. seeking *God’s* approval

Seeking *your own* will vs. seeking *God’s* will

Seeking to live for *present gain* vs. seeking to live for *eternal values*

“We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

Key Verse to Memorize

“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
(Romans 8:28)

Key Passage to Read and Reread

The Book of Ecclesiastes

You Were Created . . .

To be like God in true righteousness and holiness
(Ephesians 4:24)

To let God be the true King of your heart
(Matthew 6:33)

To be the image bearer of God (Genesis 1:27)

To be conformed to the character of Christ
(Romans 8:29)

To bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7)

How to Develop a Life Plan

Discern the eternal meaning of your life.

Discover the earthly purpose of your life.

Discover God’s leading through your circumstances.
(Proverbs 19:21)

Discover opportunity through obedience. (Isaiah 1:19)

Discover how to wait for God’s timing. (Psalm 27:14)

Determine the essential goals for your life.

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.”
(Proverbs 19:21)

God's Purpose for Your Life . . .

Realize God's promise to reveal His purpose for you.
(Psalm 32:8)

Realize the power of prayer to reveal God's purpose.
(Philippians 4:6–7)

Realize how God will use your spiritual gifts to accomplish His purpose for your life. (Romans 12:6–8)

Realize the value of asking practical questions of godly counselors. (Proverbs 12:15)

- What are your God-given responsibilities?
- What activities have been most fulfilling, bringing joy to your heart?
- What work has been most successful to you?
- What is your primary God-given spiritual gift for serving others?
- What desires do you often think about?

“We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
(Ephesians 2:10)

Related Topics . . .

- The Bible: Is It Reliable?
Truth on Trial
- Decision Making:
Discerning the Will of God
- Employment:
Be Extraordinary among the Ordinary
- Identity: Who Are You?
Do You Know Who You Really Are?
- Midlife Crisis:
Facing the Fork in the Road
- Workaholism:
The Beeline to Burnout

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