

Living a Life with Purpose

What does it take for each of us to live a life with purpose? I think, first, it takes asking ourselves what makes us come alive. Harold Whitman wrote, "Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." In order to live an abundant, purposeful life, I believe we all need something to believe in, something which motivates us beyond a mere existence- a dream.

If you need a dream, ask yourself "Given my upbringing and circumstances, what good am I especially qualified to do? What makes me come alive?" Then make it your purpose in life to go and do it!

Living an abundant life, a life with purpose, is something which we all can achieve. Jesus came to offer us abundant life ¹, but we must first be willing to believe that we can have it. Do you believe? Or are you held back by old misconceptions, false teachings, low self-esteem, or negative thinking? As children of God, each and every one of us has an inheritance. ² Not only do we have a heavenly inheritance, but an earthly one, too! The Bible promises us that, through Christ, we can do ALL things! ³ That applies to our lives today, right here and now!

Because of our inheritance, we have the power to overcome our limitations. Yet, too many people, Christians included, suffer from a poor self-image. We were created in the image of God. Yet, many times, we lack the motivation to live a life with purpose because we haven't learned to see ourselves as God sees us. We have failed to tap into His abundant resources, which are powerful enough to help us overcome any obstacles which might stand between ourselves and success. I believe the most common reason for this is that we have never learned to grasp the most fundamental of God's principles, the principle of LOVE. ⁴

Jesus Christ, Himself, described it best, not only in His words, but by His life. Matthew 22:37-40 " Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." When we truly seek to know and love God, we learn to love ourselves and others according to the way God loves us. As our view of self and others is brought into proper perspective, our focus changes, and we begin to discover with greater depth our own unique purpose. The pathway toward becoming the person God created us to be begins to unfold, and His super-natural blessings begin to flow into our lives! ⁵

If you want to live a purposeful life, ask God to give you a dream today. Seek to know and love Him like never before. And ask Him to help you love yourself and others, according to His love. Then answer this question, "Given my upbringing and circumstances, what good am I especially qualified to do?" When you have the answer, pray for God's continued help and guidance. Then reach for the sky! ⁶

May God bless you abundantly!

Love in Christ,

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Scripture References: **1.** Jn. 10:10; **2.** Rom. 8:15,16; **3.** Phil. 4:13; **4.** 1 Jn. 4: 12-16, Eph. 4: 15,16; **5.** Jn. 14:12, Eph. 3: 17-21, I Cor. 12:4-31, 1 Cor. 13; **6.** Ps. 139:13,14

Additional References: Jer. 29:11; Prov. 19:21; 2 Tim. 1:7; Ps. 37:4,5; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58; Ps. 138:8; Jer. 33:3; Prov. 29:18; Mat. 5:16; James 1:5