

The Power of Purpose

SUMMARY

Our life finds its meaning in Christ. When our purpose and work are connected to Christ, we have a reason for living that is not about us, our “pile,” or our needs. We fit into His plans. The Lord is not impressed with our grand plans and abilities. He is looking for our availability and our commitment to a Kingdom focus. C.S. Lewis said, *“Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”* Bruce Witt shares some principles about purpose, and gives us ways to define and live in it.

NOTES FROM THE VIDEO

Lack of purpose in a person’s life leads to:

1. Frustration, because you are stirring dust and not making any progress, can’t get ahead.
2. Busyness, because you have no time and you have no clear priorities.
3. Discontentment, because life is not turning out how you thought. Missed expectations.
4. Unhappiness

All of which leads to more pleasure seeking, diversion, or escape.

4 Key Principles about the Power of Purpose:

1. **Purpose GIVES MEANING to our lives by connecting us to God’s purposes.**
 - a. **Application #1:** Die to yourself and submit yourself to God’s plans.
 - b. **Application #2:** Go out 200 years and define the legacy of your life. Then come back to today and live it forward with that end in mind. Define life backward and live it forward.
2. **Purpose helps us SET PRIORITIES to make wise decisions.**
 - a. Wanting our way leads to busyness and entanglement. Goals don’t equal outcome, priorities always equal outcome. We find time to do the things we want to do. A clear purpose gives clear priorities, and clear priorities mean we can say yes or no without guilt.
 - b. **Application #1:** Gain a biblical view money. “How much is enough?”
 - c. **Application #2:** Intentionally choose to invest in the eternal. Invest in people.
3. **Purpose ENGAGES our TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE to fulfill God’s purposes.**
 - a. **Application #1:** Know your design, experience, and skills to see how God may use them.
 - b. **Application #2:** Help your employees find *their* personal purpose, and how that purpose fits into the mission and vision of the company.
4. **Purpose CLARIFIES our HOPE so we can WALK BY FAITH in trials and triumphs.**
 - a. **Application:** Write out your life purpose. Writing out your purpose disentangles your thoughts. The most critical component in the process of discerning our unique purpose is **prayer**. Ask yourselves 4 questions:
 - i. **OUTCOMES:** “How do I want to be remembered?” Begin with the End in Mind. Select key constituents or audiences that matter to you: i.e. God, spouse, children, parents, colleagues, and friends. Visualize your own funeral.
 - ii. **PRIORITIES:** “What is most important to me?” Identify and prioritize.
 - iii. **RESOURCES:** “What has God given me that I can use?”
 - iv. **PLAN OF ACTION:** “What opportunities do I have to serve?” Think through where you are and where you want to be.

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SCRIPTURES

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

— *Ephesians 1:18 (hope and motivation)*

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:17 (Joy and Contentment)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (Peace and Security)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (Significance and Satisfaction)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5 (Fruit and Legacy)

QUESTIONS FOR TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. As a business owner: Why are you doing what you do? Are your motives a bigger business, or more money? How does your business fit into God’s plan?
2. What are you exchanging your life for?
3. Do you have a plan to engage your employees in finding their purpose and living it at work? If not, how could you do that?
4. Which of the 4 Questions under “Writing Your Life Purpose” is easiest for you? Which is the hardest? Why?