

The Spirit of Purpose

Dec. 6th, 2023

Jeremiah 29:11

I. God designed us to need purpose

A. Studies have shown that people with a strong sense of purpose are better able to handle the ups and downs in life. People with purpose have greater resilience.

1. Glorify God in all of our contributions to life and all of our efforts to fulfill our creative desires.

a) Exodus 31:1-6

B. We were made to work. Gen 2:15

1. Think about how technology and mechanical advancements have made work easier and easier. They are “saving” us time and effort, but are they really helping us to truly live the way God intended us to live? What are we doing with that “saved” time that we no longer have to spend working?

a) Staying motivated to work hard and do a good job becomes harder and harder because we don’t HAVE to.

b) Proverbs 21:5 (ASV) “The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but everyone that is hasty casteth only to want.”

(1) Those who only want to finish the task as quickly as possible are doing so for selfish and lazy reasons, and this is not how we glorify God.

(a) A lazy and selfish lifestyle is never a fulfilling one. It is a downward spiral of hopelessness.

c) Proverbs 6:6-10

II. God’s plan and purpose for us is to be a more and more perfect reflection of His glory

A. Purpose in the New Testament = prothesis - Purpose; plan; setting forth, show exposed

1. Can also be translated Showbread (Heb. 9:2 - same word)

a) Showbread (Bread of the Presence) - 12 loaves set on a pure gold table in two rows. Always placed right next to the Holy of Holies. (Lev. 24:5-9)

b) What made the showbread special was it’s exposure to the presence of God. - Like Moses

B. Empowered to serve

1. Life becomes more meaningful when it’s no longer about you.

a) Romans 8:28-29

2. Boldly Proclaim the Gospel to those outside of the church

a) Acts 1:8

3. Edifying the church

a) 1 Corin. 12:4-7

III. Examples of God’s Call in Scripture

A. Ruth 1:15-18

1. Ruth had it in her heart to honor her mother-in-law. Where did this desire come from?

- a) Just the process of Ruth being faithful led her down the right path to becoming exactly who God had called her to be.
 - (1) Ruth 4:13-17
- 2. Be faithful to live out the things that God places in your heart to do. Be willing to stick to your core values unapologetically.
- B. King Saul - 1 Samuel 10:6-9
 - 1. "... do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee."
 - a) With the call comes the anointing and the power to achieve it!
 - 2. "...God gave him another heart..."
 - a) We must allow God to change us and continue to be moldable by Him.
 - (1) Compare this to when David was anointed and King. He had a heart after God to begin with.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."