

Happy Mother’s Day! Has your mother ever told you that God has a special plan and purpose for your life? She was right!

**God has a purpose and plan for your life. It’s time to let your purpose shine!**

**Your Purpose Can Be Discovered.**

My prayer for you is what Paul prayed for the Colossian Church.

**Colossians 1:9-10** We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and **please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work...**

As I pray for you to walk in your purpose, allow me to share with you:

**TWELVE KEYS TO DISCOVER YOUR MISSION IN LIFE**

**1. Begin asking, seeking, and knocking for a spiritual revelation of your purpose.**

**Matthew 7:7** Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

**Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

**James 1:5 (NLT)** If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Turn your ear to wisdom **Proverbs 2:6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- Look for scriptures, books, materials, etc. that will inspire you, encourage you, and help you discover your mission in life.
- Begin taking notes on what you hear God speaking to your heart. (Proverbs 2:1 ...store up my commands within you...)

**2. Cultivate a strong desire to fulfill God’s plan for your life.**

Your desires, good or bad, will begin a process of producing the equivalent. **Proverbs 19:21** Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.

**Psalms 37:4** Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**NEXT STEP: This week I will answer Discovery Questions A:**

- What great ideas have come to you that you have not acted upon?
- If your life keeps going in its current direction, will you get where the Lord wants you to go?

**3. What are your desires and inclinations?**

God has already put His dreams in your heart. Ask the Spirit in you to help you discover those dreams.

**NEXT STEP: This week I will answer Discovery Questions B:**

- If you knew you would not fail, what would you set out to do with your life?
- What would you like written on your tomb stone about your life? What would you like people to say about you when you are gone, not what would they say about you now?
- If Jesus Christ were to swap places with you, what goals would He be setting for His (your) life?

#### 4. What stays with you for the long haul?

We all have some crazy ideas, right? But what sticks and you just can't shake it?

**EX:** Steven Curtis Chapman (in pre-med school) said, "I quickly realized that medicine was not my path," he said. "I was discovering that I didn't enjoy the science and math." https://www.pnj.com/story/entertainment/2014/02/21/chapmans-credits-career-success-to-god-and-gaither/5643517/

Your purpose is something that you just can't shake. It will be a lasting desire that continues with you.

**EX:** Pastoral call at seven. My friends wanted to be race car drivers, pro ball players, etc. Those dreams left them. Mine never left. I could not shake it.

- Later a dream to start a church. (Youth Pastor didn't satisfy.)
- Vogtle, money was great, but I felt like I had forsaken the Lord. Learned to be a minister at work, but the pastor dream still kept coming back. But my age made me panic.
- Successful churches made me green with envy. (I tortured myself reading all their books.)
- I would go to church conferences and suffer through them.
- I didn't like to hear other preachers because I wanted them to call me up to preach.
- 24 years later, we started Believers Church. And God is still expanding my vision.

**Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.**

#### 5. What are other people saying about you?

What do others see in you? What are their insights about you? What do they tell you that you are good at? What do people appreciate about you? What are they always thanking you for?

#### 6. Who are your heroes?

What people do you admire? Who is living the life that is closest to what you desire for your own life?

- If you could learn from any one person in the world about any subject, whom would you want to learn from and what would you learn?

#### 7. What are you passionate about? (Core Values)

What do you believe is a cause worth dying for? What do you get on a soap box about?

What angers you? God-given vision will begin as a concern; you hear or see something that gets your attention. Something will bother you, and you will find yourself thinking about it often.

- Jesus was angered by the misuse of the House of God
- Nehemiah, a cup bearer for the King, was heartbroken when He learned of the destruction of the city walls of Jerusalem. His sorrow turned to anger resulting in action and change!
  - Maybe it's the homeless, abused children, or families unable to afford food.

What brings you joy and satisfaction? When I would preach, I was energized!

I question people's "calling" when they talk about how they hate what they are doing.

*"God made me do this." or "I've tried to quit, but God won't let me."*

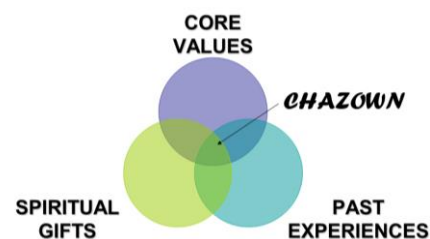
#### 8. What are your spiritual gifts and talents?

Take the Spiritual Gift Test and join us for Next Step Teams!

#### 9. What are your past experiences?

God will use your good and bad past experiences to help you fulfill your purpose.

Craig Groeschel teaches in "Chazown" that you will see God's vision for your life where your Core Values, Spiritual Gifts, and Past Experiences overlap.



## 10. Associate with positive successful Word people.

*“You can't fly with eagles if you are hanging around buzzards.”*

- People that love God's Word. People who talk about the Bible and get excited about the Word of God. You will become like the people you associate with.

**Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.**

**1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (NIV)**

- **EX:** A tuning fork is a good example of this.

## 11. Trust God for the provision and the helpers you need to fulfill your purpose.

Provision always follows vision!

God will always give you a mission that is bigger than yourself.

It will require help from others and cause you to trust God for provision.

### **NEXT STEP: This week I will answer Discovery Question C:**

- If suddenly you discovered that you had unlimited money and resources, unlimited time, and unlimited help, what would you do with your life? (All limitations are gone.)

Everyone will need help, because your purpose and mission will be beyond your natural abilities.

- Jesus had twelve helpers or disciples and He also had the seventy-two to help him.  
**Luke 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.**
- Jesus also had many women who helped provide for him and the twelve as they ministered the Gospel. **Luke 8:1-3**

## 12. Write down your ideas, your mission, or life vision.

This is where most people fall short. It's fun to daydream but writing something down seems to solidify it in your heart, mind, and soul. Having your mission in writing takes you to a higher level of commitment. As they say, "It's set in stone".

- *Next week you will write a mission statement for your life.*

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