

Purpose

Today I want to explore Purpose. Why are we here?

King Solomon who was seen as the wisest man in the OT once said:

Ecclesiastes 2:10–11 NIV

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

King Solomon tried everything to find happiness and contentment, but realised apart from relationship with God nothing satisfied.

Also to paraphrase Solomon in another part of Ecclesiastes, we entered the world bald, wearing a nappy and talking unintelligibly and often we leave in a similar manner!

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter” Francis Chan

But Solomon goes onto say in his final words, that what’s important is to respect and worship God and do what he says. Because eternity is in God’s hands and we will be judged by God in relation to what we have done or not done, both the visible and the secret.

The reality is we all muck up, we do things which separate us from God who is perfect, holy and righteous.

Romans 6:23 NIV

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we accept forgiveness and new life what is our response?

*“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then **no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.**” CT Studd*

Philippians 1:21 NIV

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

God not only gives us new life but also a new passion to serve him

Titus 2:14 TPT

¹⁴ He sacrificed himself for us that he might purchase our freedom from every lawless deed and to purify for himself a people who are his very own, passionate to do what is beautiful in his eyes.

Romans 12:11 TPT

¹¹ Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let him fill you with excitement as you serve him.

Jesus also gives us a new purpose for life:

Matthew 28:19–20 The Message

¹⁹ Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

Mark 16:15–18 TPT

¹⁵ And he said to them, **“As you go into all the world, preach openly the wonderful news of the gospel to the entire human race! ¹⁶ Whoever believes the good news and is baptized will be saved, and whoever does not believe the good news will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these miracle signs will accompany those who believe: They will drive out demons in the power of my name. They will speak in tongues. ¹⁸ They will be supernaturally protected from snakes and from drinking anything poisonous. And they will lay hands on the sick and heal them.”**

This is our purpose, to share the good news of Jesus, both with our words in sharing of what Jesus has done on the cross and the new life in relationship with God we can now have, but also with actions of undoing the enemies work through praying for people to receive healing and freedom from demonic oppression. AMEN

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed” Hudson Taylor

God desires passionate Christians who will burn brightly for him:

An old country preacher prayed before the sermon, “Oh, Lord, give thy servant this mornin’ the eyes of the eagle and the wisdom of the owl, illuminate my brow with the Sun of Heaven, possess my mind with love for the people, turpentine my imagination, grease my lips, electrify my brain with the lightnin’ of the Word, fill me plumb full of the dynamite of Thy glory, anoint me all over with the kerosene of salvation, and set me on fire. Amen.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The key to perseverance is passion. All the men and women who we read about in the previous chapter of [Hebrews 11](#) were passionate. They believed passionately in who God is and in what God’s purpose was. They faced crazy hardship but didn’t care because their love of God was greater than anything else.

To persevere takes passion, you can’t have passion without purpose. AND A Key to purpose is Perspective: There are 3 perspectives in this passage Hebrews 12:

1. Consider them (12:1) Since a great cloud of witnesses has gone before us, we must get serious about finishing well. The word witnesses could also be translated as martyrs. People have suffered greatly, have even been put to death to pass on the good news of Jesus.

According to OpenDoors 1 in 8 followers of Jesus experience high levels of persecution

In 2020 on average of 13 Christians killed every day, about 400/month, that’s only those reported, many more are unreported and in closed countries.

To face such hardship and possible death, how passionate about Jesus and full of purpose to share Jesus love with the lost do you think they are?

2. Consider ourselves (12:1) It is now our turn to run the race and watch for pitfalls. We must lay aside everything that would prevent us from finishing well. Both things which may weigh us down (these may not be sin but distract us), and sin which entangles.

(Image of a runner - how far will they get carrying a tv or something else? What about if there’s lots of pits/traps/snares on the route which could trip you over, if you fall not only are you delayed but may get an injury which makes the running more painful!)

3. Consider Jesus (12:2-3) Jesus ran His own race and endured hardship by fixing his eyes on the rewards; we must follow His example. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. The bible does not promise an easy life, in fact quite the opposite! It however promises a life full of passion and purpose and real meaning! AMEN

TODAY I want to challenge us to lift our heads high, to step up to God’s calling, to forget what is behind and push forward to reach our God given goal!

Being those who shine in the darkness, who draw others into Jesus light and life, who battle in prayer, who fight for those who don’t yet know Jesus, those who are held down and held back by the enemy.

To live a life of purpose filled with passion, not to retreat but to push forward empowered by God, overcoming any sin, any distraction, declaring the goodness of God, stepping out and praying for others to encounter the power and freedom of Jesus.

“I pray that when I die, all of hell will rejoice that I am out of the fight.” CT Studd