



INLIGHT
CONSULTING

Finding Our Purpose in Surrendering to His Reign

Spiritual Exercise

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,

And He shall bring *it* to pass.

⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37:3-6

The 37th Psalm contains an abundance of promises to the man that trusts in the Lord. Here, near the beginning, we again see His way toward joyful, Spirit-filled ministry. There are requirements: Trust, delight, and commitment; but the promises are well worth the investment. Let us prayerfully choose to invest in the kingdom purposes of God.

Prayer

Introduction

Finding purpose in life is one of man's greatest pursuits. It is a part of our DNA. Regrettably, we seek to find purpose in many of the wrong places. Don't misunderstand; it's not necessarily because all these places are wrong. Many are quite noble – work, family, church, service.

The problem lies the origins of our search for purpose (and in the consequential motivations and measures). If our purpose begins with our work, then we will become performance driven and prideful. If it begins with our relationships, we will become controlling and self-indulgent. Even service toward others – if it is the source of our purpose – will result in people-pleasing codependence.

For our purposes to be right and virtuous, they must originate in the One that has ordained and orchestrated them. The truth is: Purpose is not found in a "place", but in a person. Only God is the source of the purposes that are good, praiseworthy and worthwhile. Therefore, it is critical that we discover God's purposes for each season of our lives.

God's purposes must be searched out; and **searched out with Him.** For the next three weeks, we will be encouraged to ask God for revelation and understanding in light of the preparations He has made for us in the areas of desire, fellowship, and role. Later, we will consider abilities and gifts. Think of these perspectives as points of triangulation on a map, or lenses incrementally added to a microscope or telescope (to empower a clearer view). Together they bring understanding to our purpose.

Re-establishing His reign is one of God's greatest pursuits. It is part of His DNA. As we mentioned last time, the first step in the journey towards joyful, Spirit-filled ministry is our surrender to the purposes of God for this season of our lives. This is no coincidence. It is a big part of His master plan. Similar to last week, when we discovered that the power of prayer is dependent on proper relationship with Him, we will now search out the connection between Him giving us the desires of our hearts and His reigning there.

Finding Our Purpose in Surrender to His Reign (continued)

Our surrender must be complete for in it God re-establishes another thing that was lost in the Garden – His reign in the hearts of men. Out of His reign, God then reveals the desires of our hearts. In this surrendered state, we are positioned to receive all that God has purposed for our lives.

Definition

Kingdom (*basileia*): royal power, kingship, dominion, rule (not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom; of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah; of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom); [secondarily] a kingdom, the territory subject to the rule of a king; used in the N.T. to refer to the reign of the Messiah.

Purpose (*prosthesis*; *Greek*); a setting forth of a thing, placing of it in view, the showbread ("bread of faces", in the tabernacle, showing the offer and necessity of fellowship with God)

Searching Out the Matter

(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes excluded)

Reign

Surrender is easier when we understand the Gospel of the Kingdom, its place in the Story, and our place in it.

Gospel of the Kingdom

Mark 1:14-15

Matthew 4:23

Luke 4:42-43

Acts 8:12

Acts 28:23

Also Matthew 9:35; 10:7; 24:14; Luke 8:1; 9:2, 6, 11; 10:9; and Acts 1:3; 8:12; 19:8; 20:25

With Christ as Its King

1Corinthians 15:24-25

Ephesians 1:19-23

Acts 2:36

Revelation 11:15

Over a New Creation

Isaiah 65:17

Matthew 19:28

2Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 6:15

2Peter 3:13

Revelation 21: 1-5

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For a Purpose

Luke 4:16-21

Isaiah 58:6-9

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Purpose of Purpose

Ecclesiastes 3:1

2 Timothy 1:9

Exodus 9:16

Romans 8:28

Job 42:2

Assignment

1. Review the Bible passages for this week. Share at least one of the concepts with someone you are discipling.
2. Each day this week, ask the Lord to show you the purposes you have assumed. Set these aside.
3. Intentionally surrender (verbally to God) to the general purposes He has for all Christians. These include:
 1. Existing for His glory;
 2. Agreeing with Jesus for Unity;
 3. Disciple-making; and,
 4. Others He will bring to your attention.
4. Ask God to show you the desire/burden He wants to share with you. Ask Him to break your heart for what breaks His.
5. Make the following devotion a "spiritual exercise": Turn to the Father (relationally), surrender to the truth He has for you in it, and then listen for His voice as you read it. Speak to Him out of a thankful heart. Notice the desire in your heart for this communion with Him.

Devotion

From Os Hillman TGIF: Discovering Your Purpose

If you are going to discover how God wants to use your life and work, you must know why you were created. If you start trying to determine your purpose in life before understanding why you were created, you will inevitably get hung up on the things you do as the basis for fulfillment in your life, which will only lead to frustration and disappointment.

First and foremost, God created you to know Him and to have an intimate relationship with Him. In fact, God says that if a man is going to boast about anything in life, "boast about this: that he understands and knows me" (Jer. 9:24). Mankind's relationship with God was lost in the Garden when Adam and Eve sinned. Jesus' death on the cross, however, allows us to restore this relationship with God and to have an intimate fellowship with Him. The apostle Paul came to understand this when he said, "I gave up all that inferior

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stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself" (Phil. 3:10, THE MESSAGE).

Establishing this relationship with God is vital to understanding your purpose. If you don't have this relationship with God, you will seek to fulfill your purpose out of wrong motives; such as fear, insecurity, pride, money, relationships, guilt, or unresolved anger. God's desire is for you to be motivated out of love for Him and to desire to worship Him in all that you do. As you develop your relationship with God, He will begin to reveal His purpose for your life. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" (Jer. 29:11).

From Rob Streetman, inLight Adventure Blog

God has not left us to our own devices to understand the desires that He has for us. He has been orchestrating events for a very long time so that we would discover what He wants to give us in this very season! Why would we consider for even a moment that He would not do all in His power to manifest these very desires?

It is so very important that we receive the faith that He has given us. It is a faith proportional to the sum of every desire. It is the faith of Christ!!

Of course, these desires are not necessarily for us. They are primarily for His Name sake, His glory and His kingdom. Beyond that, they may be for our children's future, our neighbor's salvation, our spouse's spiritual strength or for a thousand other people.

Having said that, let me tell you what gets me up in the morning (literally). Every desire is also very much about us. What can I say? It is a wonderful, amazing mystery. Now don't miss this:

The desires that He gives us are absolutely and directly out of the desires of His own heart!!

Read that at least one more time. Read it in light of your strongest desire. He not only put it there, but He shares it with you. I ask again: Why would we consider for even a moment that He would not do all in His power to manifest these very desires?

You might be wondering if this could possibly be true. Why me? Why now? The answer can be found in the hidden meaning of the condition for the promise:

"Delight yourself also in the LORD..."

You see, the Hebrew word translated as "delight" has a special meaning in the 37th Psalm. It is not the *chaphets* (to take pleasure in) that is found in the other Psalms. It is *anag* (to be soft, delicate or dainty). It is an effeminate word in the Hebrew language.

Do you see it? It is the definition of the Bride's heart toward the Bridegroom – soft, delicate and surrendered. It is the Bride trusting her Husband King with all Her heart, mind, soul and strength. This sharing of His desire is the way in which He woos us and melds our heart into His. Yes, it is the melding of two hearts in the most intimate love we will ever know.

And so I encourage you: Find the time to be softly surrendered before your Bridegroom. Let Him show you the desires of your heart, and His, for this season of your life. Recognize that these are the desires that were put in you before the foundations of the earth. Surrender and He will give you the desires of your heart. He will include all the faith and courage you need to take the adventure with Him. And in the process, you will find a love for Him that you could never have imagined.

Dream with Him! Dream big!! He is the Dream Giver!!!