



YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S PURPOSE

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Psalm 57:2 says, "I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me." This is key in understanding God's purpose for your life. God has numbered your days and will fulfill every purpose He has for you.

However, our choices and actions also really matter. In some ways, this is a mystery we can't fully understand, but that doesn't mean it's not true. We can choose to do things that will bring us more joy and give us more of a sense of purpose. That's where we're headed in this post. We want to help you identify those choices you can make to bring more excitement and God-given purpose into your life.

SIGNS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH PURPOSE IN

BLATANT SIN

Let's start with the obvious here. If you're blatantly disobeying the Bible, you're not living in God's purpose and you will certainly experience a sense of aimlessness in your life. This one is pretty straightforward so we don't need to spend too much time here.

LACK OF JOY AND/OR FULFILLMENT

If you wake up every day filled with apathy or dread or total boredom, you're probably not doing what you were meant to do. God has created you uniquely, has really good things planned for you and one of the fruits of the Spirit is joy (Galatians 5:22). Sure, there will be difficult things you encounter that require patience and persistence, but overall you should have a sense of joy and excitement that fills your days, your work and your relationships.

YOU FEEL STUCK

If you desperately want a change but also feel totally stuck in your life, that's almost certainly a sign that you're not walking according to God's purpose. Those who are stuck want to go in a particular direction but don't know how to get there. So they spin their wheels, feeling endlessly frustrated but unsure of how to make the frustration end. Do you feel trapped?

Again, let's start with the obvious. If you feel purposeless, ask God to give you wisdom and direction. James 1:5 states, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

THAT'S INCREDIBLY GOOD NEWS. GOD IS INVESTED IN YOU.

The primary way God speaks to us is through the Bible. This means that one of the first things you should do in your search for God's purpose is to start digging into scripture. You will begin to understand the heart of God.

Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God's word brings light to paths that otherwise seem dark. In the Bible you learn how to live wisely in God's world, which is the first step toward finding your purpose.

DETERMINE YOUR GIFTS AND STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS.

God has given you very specific gifts and strengths. Maybe you're a math whiz or a wise counselor. Maybe you have a mind for electronics or business. Maybe you're great at organizing people and getting things done. God's purpose for you probably involves the things you're already good at.

BRING OTHERS INTO YOUR LIFE.

Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." In other words, one of the main ways God will help you find your purpose is through others.

Rick Warren is a pastor and author who wrote the book "The Purpose Driven Life." In it, Rick talks about God's intentions to use our talents to do good in the world and explains God's 5 purposes for us.

We were planned for God's pleasure
so your first purpose is to offer real worship.

We were formed for God's family
so your second purpose is to enjoy real fellowship.

We were created to become like Christ,
so your third purpose is to learn real discipleship.

We were shaped for serving God
so your fourth purpose is to practice real ministry.

We were made for a mission
so your fifth purpose is to live out real evangelism.