

It is a “No No” to miss your purpose!

*Form your purpose by asking for counsel, then carry it out using all the help you can get.*¹ Solomon

Discovering your purpose is essential to being in business. However, whether you wash windows, kill pests, educate, or sell products you have a greater purpose than just the business you are in. Discovering your purpose is greater than finding business success. We talked a few weeks ago about discovering your niche in business, but that is not your purpose. You work is not your purpose. You were made for greater things than just work.

The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose. -- P.17²

What is your purpose? It is possible to go your entire life and never discover your purpose and to come to the end of life and to never have answered the question. Do you really want to wait to the last minute only to discover you missed it? I want to help you discover your purpose! You were created for so much more than just business!

Life is full of people for whom you think what a great purpose they had for their lives. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington all served a great purpose. However, the cause they served was not their purpose. Why did such men exist? Why do you and I exist? If we can answer this question then we can discover our purpose.

First, purpose is eternal and not temporal. What we do is temporal. Who we are is eternal and so is purpose. People often ask me why another church and that is a question of purpose. What if we reverse this and ask this question? Why do we need more people? Don't we have enough already? Some people you meet and you leave asking yourself, “Why God do we need people like that in the world?” So, what is your answer? Purpose is found in answering the question, “Why do I exist?”

One of my favorite authors is Pastor Rick Warren. He wrote the book, ***The Purpose Driven Life***. This is a book that was life transforming for me. In his book he answers the question “Why do I exist?”

Have you ever at the end of a long sat down and looking at what you have accomplished in life looked back and asked the question, “Why do I exist?” You may be successful in life, you may not be successful in life but you just feel like something is missing. What is missing is your purpose. Which of the following quotes from Pastor Warren’s book describes you best?

I am aimlessly distracted with life.

It's human nature to get distracted by minor issues. We play *Trivial Pursuit* with our lives. Henry David Thoreau observed that people live lives of “*quiet desperation*,” but today a better description is *aimless distraction*. Many people are like gyroscopes spinning around at a frantic pace but never going anywhere. -- P.32³

I hate my job, but someday I will quit and do what I want.

We have all heard people say, “I took a job I hate in order to make a lot of money, so someday I can quit and do what I love to do.” That's a big mistake. Don't waste your life in a job that doesn't express your heart. Remember, the greatest things in life are not *things*. Meaning is far more important than money. -- P.239⁴

I was on a plane flying back to Miami after performing my Grandfather’s funeral and my seat was in the middle in the back because it was a last minute ticket on Southwest Airlines. However, I met a young lady who was holding in her hands “The Purpose Driven Life.” I found out that she was highly successful in liquor sales and that she travelled extensively for her company. Out of the blue for some reason she asked me what I do which made it only more awkward until I told that I too had read the book TPDL.

I began to share with her that God had created her for a great purpose. Her eyes which were filled with depression began to beam and her countenance began to change. I share with her the reason I believed I exist. I told that I believed we were all created by God to know God and His

¹ MSG, Proverbs 20:18

² The Purpose Driven Life: Rick Warren. (pg 17)

³ Ibid 2.

⁴ Ibid 2.

Son Jesus Christ. I shared with her that when I was seven God came into my life and saved me from my sins and that knowing God was the reason I exist.

As we chatted she asked how I could be so sure and I got to share with her that I was a faithful skeptic. What I mean by that is this. I don't have 100 percent certainty that I am right about Christ and Jesus, God, The Bible, and even prayer. Again her eyes beamed. I shared that faith without doubt is no faith at all. Rather, my doubts are a means to an end that God uses to engaged me in the pursuit of knowing Him.

Now, I shared once you have discovered why you exist you can begin to grow to know the Lord, God will thenl move you in your heart to demonstrate this to others. I told her, and it shocked her when I did, that God had put me on this plane next to her so that I could fulfill my calling to him by sharing these things with her. I asked her if she had ever prayed to receive Jesus into her heart and she confessed that as a child she grew up in church but had never made that profession. I encouraged her to make a decision as life is short and our time is like a puff of smoke. We all live such short lives.

We exist to know God and to make him known to others. This is your purpose and it is my purpose. Nothing on this planet will fulfill you till you know Christ Jesus as your Savior and in engage in that Great mission of making him known.

John Wesley was a devoted follower and Pastor of the Methodist movement. After he came to know Christ this was his motto as quoted by Rick Warren.

His motto was "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." -- P.259⁵

Most of you are very much like this, but at the end of the day have you missed your purpose? You exist for greater purposes than the business you run.

If you have any questions about your purpose please email me and let me know. I would love to sit down with you and help you discover the purpose for which God created you.

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Round Table:

Has there been a time in your life when you prayed to receive Jesus into your heart?

If your life ended tonight would you be happy with your life?

Why do you exist according to this lesson?

Are you missing your purpose?

⁵ Ibid 2.

Maxim For Leaders



Pastor Robert E. Rutherford

Excellence, Ethics, Faith