

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

**A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
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PURPOSE

STUDY GUIDE



PURPOSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is a season for everything, and a time for every purpose under the heaven.

THEME

Knowing and pursuing purpose will eliminate frustration. Although everyone has a purpose, not every purpose is known. Purpose is directly related to who we are according to personality, gifts, abilities, and status. Life without purpose is meaningless; therefore, we must apply ourselves to realizing and fulfilling purpose.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Most people are pursuing something, but few understand their pursuits.
- B. Many lives are expended pursuing something that does not satisfy.
- C. Life is wasted when purpose is not realized and fulfilled.
- D. Purpose is our reason for existence; therefore, purpose should be our priority in life.
- E. *The American Heritage Dictionary* defines purpose as follows: the object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal; a result or an effect that is intended or desired; an intention; determination; resolution; the matter at hand; the point at issue.
- F. Purpose is why we are here. Purpose is directly related to who we are according to personality, gifts, abilities, and status.
- G. Purpose is the original intent for a thing.
- H. Purpose is the key to life. Without purpose, life has no meaning.

- I. Fulfillment in life is dependent upon becoming and doing what we were born to do.
- J. All things begin and end with purpose.
- K. Your existence is evidence that this world needs something that your life contains.
- L. We must ask ourselves, “Why am I here?,” not “What should I do?”
- M. Everything in life has a purpose.
- N. Purpose always precedes production.
- O. Plans may change, but purpose is constant.
- P. We are individually and specifically designed for a particular purpose.
- Q. Purpose is **why**—Production is **what**—Geographical location is **where**—Plan is **how**—Timing is **when**.
- R. We are made the way we are because of “why” we are.
- S. We are custom-made to fulfill our purpose.
- T. Personality, skills, talents, abilities, geographical location, etc., are all predetermined by purpose.
- U. Your birth is evidence that your purpose is necessary.
- V. Everyone is born “with” and “for” a purpose.
- W. Nothing exists for itself; everything is related to something else.
 - 1. The people with whom we associate and work are relevant to our purpose.
 - 2. Friendships and working relationships are often divine connections.
 - 3. God places us in contact with people whom He has ordained to assist us in fulfilling our purpose.

4. Not only are we benefited by these connections, we also benefit those to whom we are divinely connected.
 5. Satan tries to pervert Godly relationships in an attempt to prevent purpose from being fulfilled.
 6. It is imperative that we approach all relationships with Godly fear, realizing that these relationships are not coincidental; they are divinely ordained or satanically devised.
- X. We must be flexible enough to adapt, yet established enough not to compromise.
 - Y. Generally speaking, isolation does not fulfill purpose.
 - Z. What God wants is established; how He gets what He wants may vary.
 - AA. God's purpose is not stopped by our past.
 - BB. Purpose transforms mistakes into miracles and disappointments into testimonies.
 - CC. God does not make anything for the fun of it; He creates for purpose.
 - DD. Abuse and misuse occur when purpose is unknown.
 - EE. Unknown purpose wastes time and creates hazards.
 - FF. God's intention for our lives governs our design, function, nature, etc.
 - GG. Everything inherent in us is tailor-made for the purpose for which we are called.

II. KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING PURPOSE

- A. Purpose can be realized by understanding who we are.
- B. It is imperative that we evaluate ourselves and reach some substantial conclusions that will assist us in fulfilling purpose.
- C. Purpose precedes birth; consequently, purpose is born in an individual. (Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15)

- D. The components that dictate who we are play a major role in pursuit of purpose.
- E. In order to understand who we are, we must look at our inherent qualities.
 - 1. Personality is directly related to purpose.
 - a. Personality reveals strengths and weaknesses of an individual.
 - b. Personality may, to some degree, affect the status of a person.
 - (1) People who are passive and indecisive are unlikely candidates for frontline leadership.
 - (2) People with strong personalities tend to be more decisive. These people are candidates for front-line leadership.
 - (3) A “talker” will not be as analytical as a “thinker.”
 - c. The five-fold ministry, as well as other ministries, is peculiar to personality.
 - (1) The apostle and prophet are strong personalities.
 - (2) The evangelist is an extrovert.
 - (3) The pastor is gentle, peaceable, and sympathetic.
 - (4) The teacher is, to some degree, systematic and analytical.
 - 2. Natural gifts and abilities are directly related to purpose.
 - a. Giftings and abilities are often overlooked by people pursuing purpose.
 - b. The obvious should not be ignored.
 - c. We came equipped with the tools needed to complete purpose.

3. By looking at our personalities and abilities, we can better understand why we were made, which gives insight into purpose.
 4. Everything that we naturally have and inherently are is necessary to fulfill our predetermined purpose.
 5. God designed us to meet the unique requirements of our purpose.
- F. The desires of our heart play a key role in revealing purpose.
1. Desires come as a result of purpose.
 2. Purpose gives birth to desires; desires motivate actions that will bring purpose into fruition.
 3. Pursuits are stimulated by desire.

III. FULFILLING PURPOSE

- A. Our purpose may incorporate many smaller facets that contribute to God's overall purpose for our lives.
- B. Individual purpose is linked to a greater purpose.
- C. Teamwork is critical to the fulfillment of purpose.
- D. The world needs us to fulfill the purpose for which we were born.
- E. If we will keep our head and our heart going in the right direction, our feet will not go astray.
- F. Ignorance of purpose does not cancel purpose; however, it can prevent purpose from being fulfilled.
- G. Purpose precedes creation. We are created to fulfill a predetermined purpose.
- H. "Why" is more important than "what." Understanding "why" gives revelation to "what."
- I. Our design is perfect for our purpose.
- J. Purpose produces design; design reveals potential.

- K. Knowing the intended purpose for a “thing” reveals what that “thing” can do.
- L. Our purpose determines our nature and establishes our potential.
- M. God does not require **of** us what He has not built **into** us.
- N. We have what we need to be who we are.

IV. POTENTIAL IS EQUAL TO PURPOSE

- A. Potential is what one can be, not what one is.
- B. Purpose determines mandate—mandate corresponds to potential.
- C. God does not demand **of** us that which He has not purposed **for** us.
- D. Potential must be developed and utilized.
- E. Undeveloped potential is unfulfilled purpose.
- F. Design gives clues to purpose and potential.
- G. Purpose is directly related to who you are, not what you will become.
- H. Purpose is not related to conformity; we are already shaped for purpose.
- I. “What you are” and “how you are” were predetermined by “why you are.”
- J. God’s assignments reveal our abilities and capabilities.
- K. Knowing your purpose is the key to using your potential.

V. PURPOSE WORKS WITH TIME

- A. God makes everything beautiful **in its time**. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
- B. God created us for a specific purpose, and He gives us the proper amount of time required to fulfill that purpose.

- C. Time is given for the completion of purpose. There is a time for every purpose. (Ecclesiastes 8:6)
- D. Time that is not used for its intended purpose is wasted and lost.

VI. PURPOSE DETERMINES STATUS

- A. Status without purpose is position without authority.
- B. Position is not given for personal gain; it is given for the good of all.
- C. Position is not given to show the value of a person.
- D. Visible position does not equal greater value.
- E. Each person has a specific position in the overall plan of God.
- F. We are called according to His purpose. (II Timothy 1:9)
- G. The key to obedience is understanding status.
- H. When people are out of position, teamwork is impossible.
- I. Personality, natural gifts, positions, etc., are specifically designed for purpose.
- J. Violation of status causes confusion and destruction.

VII. DEATH IN RELATION TO PURPOSE

- A. Death should not occur until purpose is fulfilled.
- B. When purpose is complete, death cannot rob.
- C. Physical death should be transition, not termination.
- D. When purpose is fulfilled, termination is denied and transition is welcomed.

VIII. PURPOSE PROVIDES VISION

- A. Vision motivates a plan of action toward a specific goal.
- B. Vision is the ability to see the end from the beginning.

- C. Purpose determines destination; knowing purpose beforehand gives one insight into his destiny.
- D. Although everyone has a God-ordained destiny, not everyone fulfills his destiny.
- E. Purpose protects one from busy tasks that are not effective.
- F. Purpose leads to vision—vision leads to goals—goals lead to plans—plans lead to accomplishments.
 - 1. Goals are steps toward a desired end.
 - 2. Goals create priorities, determine decisions, dictate companions, and predict choices.
 - a. Jesus' companions, including Judas, were determined by purpose.
 - b. Ministry and job associates are determined by purpose.
- G. Vision requires goals—goals require plans—plans require understanding of purpose.
- H. Purpose informs goals, which define priorities.

IX. BENEFITS OF PURPOSE

- A. Purpose is a driving force.
- B. Purpose gives confidence.
- C. Purpose assures us that what we are doing is right.
- D. Purpose doesn't make life easy; it makes life possible.
- E. Purpose empowers perseverance.
- F. Purpose keeps one focused.
- G. Purpose sustains contentment. (Philippians 4:11)
- H. Purpose sets a course, determines the end, and encourages the traveler.
- I. Purpose is the end of a thing, not its beginning.

- J. Predestination precedes creation.
- K. Purpose demands manifestation. (I John 3:8)
- L. Manifesting God's nature is part of our purpose.

X. THE ENEMY OF PURPOSE

- A. Ignorance is the number one enemy to the fulfillment of purpose.
- B. Knowing purpose and comprehending its impact on life are not the same.
- C. Knowledge without understanding is detrimental to purpose.
- D. The plans we make for our lives will not change God's purposes, but they can prevent the fulfillment of God's purpose in our lives.
- E. Faithfulness to God is directly related to fulfilling purpose.
- F. Success is not measured in achievements; it is measured by what you have done in contrast to what you were supposed to do.

XI. SUMMARY

- A. Everything in life has a purpose, but every purpose is not fulfilled.
- B. Everyone has a purpose, but not every purpose is known.
- C. Purpose is the original intent for a thing.
- D. We were born with purpose, not to create purpose.
- E. Purpose is directly related to who we are: personality; gifts; abilities; talents.
- F. Purpose places more emphasis on "why" than "what."
- G. Potential is equal to purpose.
- H. Purpose works with time.
- I. Purpose determines status.
- J. Death should not occur until purpose is fulfilled.

- K. Purpose provides vision.
- L. Ignorance is the enemy of purpose.
- M. Purpose is impregnated with benefits.

XII. CONCLUSION

- A. Provisions go with assignments.
- B. God provides for **His** purposes, not **our** plans.
- C. Our plans do not and cannot change God's purpose.
- D. Divine connections are designed to fulfill purpose.
- E. Satan tries to pervert divine connections. Perversion of divine connections prevents the fulfillment of purpose.
- F. Understanding and living with purpose requires insight beyond mere knowledge.
- G. "Knowing" requires a oneness that provides a true unity of purpose. (John 17:18-24)
- H. Purpose is inside a person; therefore it is futile to look outwardly in an attempt to find purpose.
- I. Those who have received Jesus as their Savior have the Creator living inside them.
- J. It is imperative that we commune with the Creator so that He can reveal His intention for our creation.