

## CREATED WITH (GOD'S) PURPOSE

**T**he Lord told His disciples to occupy or do business until He returned. Luke 19:13 *So he called ten of his servants, and gave them ten minas (one apiece, each equal to about a hundred days' wages) and said to them, "Do business with this until I return."*

We fulfill our calling "to occupy" by understanding who we are and what we are to do to be about the Father's business. Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's (personal) handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

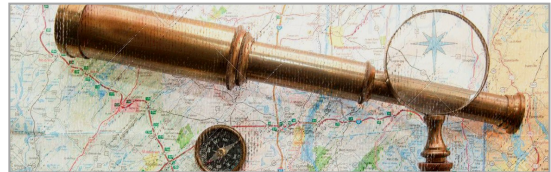
Seldom do we take the necessary time to discover our unique purpose and place in the Kingdom of God (His Body, the Church). Many times life ends up being a journey resulting in frustration, disappointment, and often times a sense of failure at realizing wasted years (Proverbs 29:18). However, YOU were created for a life with meaning and purpose! If a normal, everyday object was created with a specific purpose in mind, how much more did God create *you* with a unique purpose to make a difference in this world and in your generation!

There are two great days in a person's life: the day they were born (again) and the day they discover why. It's discovering *why* we were born that a life of purpose and great fulfillment begins.

1. Everything God does, He does for and with purpose (Genesis 1:3-31). Therefore He began with a purpose in mind and created you. (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:14-16)
  - We were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28) and we are His personal "workmanship," created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
2. The people in the Bible whom God used experienced an unveiling of their purpose over time. Here are a few examples...
  - God called Abraham while he lived in Mesopotamia because He saw a way to bless the world through his family. (Genesis 12:2-3)
  - God called Moses, a fearful, stuttering failure, because He saw a mighty deliverer. (Exodus 3:7-10)
  - God called David, a willing shepherd boy, because He saw one of the world's greatest kings. (Psalm 78:70-71)
  - God touched Gideon, a cowering thresher of wheat, and called him a mighty man of courage and a great deliverer for God's people. (Judges 6:14)

3. In each case, God called a flawed person beyond their “familiar place” to do things beyond their wildest imagination.
  - Always do what you are afraid to do. — Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - A man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.
  - Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.* (Jeremiah 18:5-6)

Understanding who God made us to be requires that we ask ourselves important questions. To find our purpose we must look “inside ourselves” (illustrated by the magnifying glass) and also look beyond ourselves (illustrated by the telescope).



### THE MAGNIFYING GLASS (Spiritual gifts and personality style)

Here are ways that may reveal how He created us and who we are...

1. Our **Spiritual Gifts** tell us WHAT we do best in the Kingdom of God. They are spiritual abilities given by the Holy Spirit which give us joy and enhances the Body of Christ.
  - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 *There are different kinds of **gifts** (Activities that bring us joy), but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of **service** (Serving in different capacities in the Body of Christ), but the same Lord. There are different kinds of **working** (The varying intensities and results of our gifts and service), but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*
  - Scriptures that deal with spiritual gifts include Romans 12:3-8 (motivational gifts); 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (spiritual abilities given by the Holy Spirit); Ephesians 4:11-13 (the functions/responsibilities God gives to build up the Church)
2. Our **personal style of ministry** tells us HOW we can serve with confidence. This is our own unique personality. There is no right or wrong personal style, just different. Knowing our personality will help us to understand the type of work environment is best for us, and, it will help us to know how to work with different personalities.
  - The personal styles may include task vs. people; long term vs. short term; inspirational vs. organized; up front vs. behind the scenes, etc. Serving in ways that are inconsistent with our personal style may lead to decreased motivation that will ultimately drain our energy and cause burnout!

### THE TELESCOPE (Passion and legacy)

1. Our **passion** tells us WHERE we can best focus our energy or motivation. It is the area in which we have a strong desire to make a significant impact.
  - Notice the Apostle Paul’s intense passion for the Jewish people in Romans 10:3-4 *For I could wish that I myself were accursed—cut off from Christ—for the sake of my people, my fellow countrymen, who are Israelites.*
  - Jesus’s passion for His Father and the Temple is obvious in John 2:13-22; Matthew 21:12-17 as He cleansed the Temple on two different occasions.
  - If you can’t figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose. —T.D. Jakes

2. Create a LEGACY by leaving behind our passion in the lives of others. What do you want to accomplish and what do you want to be remembered by? These are the significant contributions you want to make in your life, the world and the Kingdom of God. It defines the legacy you want to leave.

**KEY QUESTIONS:** What would I do to make this world a better place if I knew I couldn't fail and that all the necessary resources would be available?

1. Is understanding God's plan for my life THE most important thing to me?
2. Do I live with passion and a sense of purpose?
  - Am I inspired by the Holy Spirit?
3. Is my vision for life BIGGER than my ability and my resources?
  - Do I understand that I must always rely on Him?
4. Do I seek to make a significant contribution to the world in my lifetime?
  - What could God in me and through me if I fully surrendered my life to Him and to His purposes?
5. Once I glimpse God's Will for my life am I willing to adjust my life to become an instrument in His Hands? (Psalm 37:4)
6. Do I invest time with people who stretch and challenge me? Am I a learner?
7. Do I actively help others discover who they are in God?

Start today and put into action the things God reveals. Write down what the Holy Spirit speaks to us (places in your heart). Habakkuk 2:2-4 *Write down the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it...*

**Answer this question:** *What would I do to make this world a better place if I knew I couldn't fail and that all the necessary resources would be available?*