

The Purpose Q&A

20 Questions people ask about their God-given Purpose



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VOLUME 1

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October 2019

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Introduction

People get lost along the way of discovering their life's purpose. They get stuck because they have not understood what it is or how to find it.

Here are three reasons why they get stuck:

1. They don't have the right information about the purpose of life and think their passion, gift or skill is their purpose. As they pursue these things they realize they don't know their God-given purpose.
2. Some have answered questions on the Internet that did not lead them to their purpose.
3. Self-help gurus have taught people that they discover their purpose and decide how to fulfill it. Purpose is sold as a commodity that has nothing to do with God, who is the Creator of mankind and giver of purpose.

It is God's intent that you seek Him to know His purpose for your life. You don't have to struggle to know it when God is the One with the answers. His revelation will enlighten and propel you forward.

Not knowing his purpose, the Apostle Paul headed in the wrong direction thinking he was on the right track. He was super successful and advancing more than his age mates. But what was driving his success? The zeal for the traditions of his fathers, not God's purpose for his life (Galatians 1:14). He had given his life to his self appointed purpose not his God-given one.

The Purpose Q&A Volume 1 will give you answers to your most pressing questions about your God-given purpose. You don't have to remain stuck or give up on knowing your earthly assignment. With the right information, you can fulfill your God-given purpose with boldness.

20 Questions people ask about their God-given purpose

#1 Does life have a purpose or do I get to choose one?

Life has a purpose. God predetermined it before you were born. He set you apart before birth to fulfill His purpose for your life. He made this clear to Jeremiah and Paul in the Bible when He told them He set them apart for their purpose before birth. He told the parents of Samson and John the Baptist that they would have sons whom they were to bring up in a special way because of God's purpose for their lives.

If God took the time to set you apart before birth, it means your life has a purpose. He knew you before you were born and knew what He was sending you on earth to do. Even if you don't know your purpose, you have one. It is predetermined by God, you don't get to choose one.

Galatians 1:15, Judges 13:5, Luke 1:15, Psalm 139:16

#2 Why is life purpose hard to find?

Because you are trying to figure it out. Purpose is not a product of the mind. It is God ordained. Your purpose originates from God, not your mind. Trying to figure out the one thing you are good at, love to do, hate the most will lead you to find out *those* things and you still won't know your purpose.

Answering questions on the Internet hoping to stumble upon your purpose will only result in confusion. The true source of knowledge is God. He is ready to reveal His purpose for your life. If you ask Him, He will show you what you don't know.

Do not let anyone deceive you with fine sounding arguments about your God-given purpose, for the wisdom and knowledge you are looking for is found in Christ. Your purpose is a revelation away.

Jeremiah 33:3, Colossians 2:2-4

#3 I tried discovering my purpose but was getting nowhere, is there hope?

There are two possible reasons why people get stuck when trying to discover their purpose. The first one is wrong information and the second is discovery methods used by life purpose experts.

If you tried to discover your purpose in the following ways, this may be the reason you got nowhere:

Answering questions on the Internet, looking into your past, discovering your passion, following your desires, figuring out what you are good at or what you love, etc. You can't discover your God-given purpose the worldly way. The way to know God's will for your life is to renew your mind with His word and not conform to the world's way of doing things.

Romans 12:2

4# How do I know my purpose?

Your purpose is God-given. Since it's God's idea and plan for your life He is the One who reveals it. Ask God to give you a revelation of your purpose. He will also confirm it through others. His Spirit will bear witness with your spirit that your purpose is real. God will speak to you through His Spirit in a way that you can understand.

When God showed His people their assignments in the Bible, He used a simple statement to make it easy for them to understand. He then went on to give details on how they were to fulfill it.

God will communicate your purpose in a simple way and use Bible verses and other believers to confirm what He is saying. And with the Spirit of God in you, you will have the conviction that you know your purpose beyond any doubt.

Galatians 1:15-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Ezekiel 3:10-11

#5 Do I have to go to God to know my purpose?

The self-help industry sells the idea that it is possible to know and fulfill your purpose without consulting God. Not only that, but life is yours to live as you please. If you discover your purpose on your own, it will be your self appointed one which you will fulfill in your own strength and way.

The Apostle Paul was pursuing his self appointed purpose until God revealed his real one. He was sure he was on the right path until he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. This is the point at which he knew what God wanted him to do on earth.

If you discover your purpose the "self-help way," you will always have doubts especially when the time of testing comes. It is when you want to build your life around your purpose that the test of its authenticity comes. If you want to have conviction about your purpose, go to God because His word is the truth.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

#6 Do I have many purposes?

No. You have one. The thought of having one purpose seems limiting, especially when you consider your multi-passionate and multi-gifted nature. When you look at others who know their purpose and are doing many things, you assume they have more than one purpose. God gave them one purpose, many passions and gifts and various platforms to fulfill their purpose.

You have one purpose that is brought to life by your gifts, fueled by your passion and God gives you multiple platforms, for example, TV, blog, ministry, community based organization, coaching program, etc.



Paul the Apostle had one purpose: to preach Christ to the Gentiles. He had more than one gift: Apostle and Teacher. He established churches in various locations, taught the Word of God and wrote letters to the churches. He also made tents wherever he went. He may look like he has many purposes, but he only had one, brought to life in different ways.

Platforms change but purpose doesn't. Your gifts remain with you for life. Your purpose has many expressions depending on who God has called you to reach and where He is sending you. Purpose directs how you use your gifts and passions.

2 Timothy 1:11

#7 Do I get into my purpose work immediately?

As with any great work, one needs a time of preparation. Purpose is for an appointed time. You may not get into it immediately. For example, if you are developing a coaching program, you need to do some research and develop content and this requires time.

Jesus recognized that his purpose was for an appointed time when he told his brothers that he would not go up to Jerusalem until it was time for him to do so. He said with the world anytime is the right time but for him the time had not yet come.

You need a time of preparation before you can begin your purpose work. The manner in which God wants you to fulfill your purpose is different from the next person. God will give you the starting point and direct your steps along the way.

John 7:3-6

#8 Why can't I hear God when I inquire about my purpose?

There could be a number of reasons why you haven't heard God regarding your purpose. If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus you don't have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This means you will not hear God speak to you.

If you are distracted you will not hear God clearly, for example when there is too much noise around you or in your mind. In this case pray and fast and also go to a quiet place where there is less noise and distraction.

You'll not hear God when you approach Him with ideas of what you think your purpose is, or the results of the questions you have answered on the Internet. Let go of what you think you know and allow God to speak to you. Avoid being presumptuous.

God may have told you your purpose but you doubted for various reasons. You may have felt intimidated when you saw what it would take to fulfill it or you saw the success of the experts who are already doing it. Jesus said those who believe in him know his voice. Trust that you can identify God's voice. Get silent and you will identify His voice against the many that are clamoring for air time in your mind.

John 10:25-27

#9 Why has God not confirmed my purpose?

It is in God's nature to confirm what He speaks to you. It makes you certain that you heard Him and are on the right track. If you don't have the assurance in your heart that your purpose is the real one, you will hesitate to take action steps. God only confirms a word He spoke.

If you don't receive confirmation about your purpose, chances are it's not the one.



That takes you back to how you came to discover your purpose. If the source wasn't God then you cannot be sure the purpose you know is the real one. If the information came from a false prophet or diviner then God can't confirm a word that did not come from Him. If you figured it out then it is a product of your imagination.

God confirms your purpose through His Spirit in you; prophets and other believers; drawing to you those to whom He has called you minister; and any other way He deems fit. If you have no confirmation pray and ask God for the truth about your purpose.

Ezekiel 13:6

#10 Can I go to a prophet to tell me my purpose?

When you fail to hear God's voice it is tempting to go looking for a prophet. Some even go to a psychic or astrologer. God's intention is for you to hear Him because He speaks to you directly by His Spirit. If God wants to use a prophet to confirm what He has said to you, it will be in His own time and way.

Confirmation of your purpose through a prophet should be by God's initiative, not yours. Looking for prophets can lead you down a path of deception if you've not heard from God. You can hear God for yourself. Trust that you can. He will confirm what He said through a prophet or another believer of Jesus Christ.

God communicated a lot in the Old Testament through His prophets because the people did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In the New Covenant through Christ, He puts His Spirit in every person who believes in Jesus and He speaks to them directly.

John 14:15-17

#11 Does God give clues about my purpose?

Lets define the word clue: it is a sign or information that helps you find the answer to a problem, question or mystery. It is not the real information, it is only a sign that you are getting close. The question I want to ask you is: why would God give you a clue about your purpose when He can tell you what it is?

Too many people are chasing clues to their purpose instead of seeking God to know His purpose for their lives. God has invited you to ask Him what you don't know and He will tell you. "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

When God called Jeremiah, He was specific, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). He didn't leave him guessing or searching for clues.

Ask God to reveal your purpose and wait for the answer.

#12 I know my purpose but things are not falling into place, what's the problem?

It is possible to know your purpose and encounter massive roadblocks along the way. There are many reasons why things are not falling into place for you. Most of the problems are unseen because they are invisible barriers. They are not visible in the natural but you can discern them in the spiritual realm.

Most of them are from your bloodline. If previous generations in your bloodline were involved in practices that go against the word of God, this resulted in curses which affect you. They stand in the way of you making progress in life.



The problem could be others who forgot about you or didn't tell you about opportunities God put in their hearts to share with you. This happened to Joseph when he asked Pharaoh's cup bearer to remember him when he was released from prison.

It could be others who purposely stand in your way like Sanballat and Tobiah who tried to distract Nehemiah when he was rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Others will try to get rid of you, even physically like in the case of Moses, when he was a baby.

Your destiny is in God's hands and He will deliver you from your enemies. It's through the authority of Jesus that you overcome these barriers.

Exodus 20:3-5, Genesis 40:13-15, 23, Nehemiah 4:1-3, 1 Peter 1:18-19

#13 If I pursue my passion or desires will they lead me to my purpose?

It is possible to know your passion first and then get to know your purpose. I'm sure you know people who are pursuing what they are passionate about and even making money from it. You can know your passion and never know your purpose. There is a misconception that if you pursue your passion somewhere along the way your purpose will show up or you will stumble upon it.

Many have gotten stuck when they didn't stumble upon their purpose. In the Bible, God was specific when He revealed purpose. He gave a simple statement that captured it succinctly. He told Ezekiel, Paul, Jeremiah, and Moses what He wanted them to do. They did not stumble upon their respective assignments. God's way is to say exactly what He wants done, He doesn't leave people guessing. Know the things you are passionate about but be sure to hear from God about your purpose.

Exodus 3:10; 35:30-33, 1 Samuel 16:1, Acts 9:15

#14 Is my passion or gift the same as my purpose?

No. Your purpose is distinct from your passion or gift. Many know their gift or passion and believe it is their purpose. If this were true, we wouldn't see people who know their gift and don't know what to do with it. Paul was called to preach Christ to the Gentiles and was gifted as an Apostle and Teacher.

King David was a gifted harpist, shepherd and warrior. None of these were his purpose. He was to be king of Israel after God rejected his predecessor, King Saul. David was to fight the enemies of Israel and he needed the platform of kingship to do this, that's why God anointed him king.

2 Timothy 1:11, 1 Samuel 16:18

#15 Is it too late to know my purpose?

There is the belief that if you didn't "find yourself at 21" then forget about pursuing what you are passionate about. The reason for your existence is your purpose and you need to know it. It is valid as long as you are on this earth. It has no expiration date or age limit.

Moses delivered the Israelites at the age of 80. He killed an Egyptian about 40 years earlier when he tried to fulfill his purpose his way. He knew God had called him to deliver the Israelites from Egypt but instead of waiting on God, he took matters into his own hands. He was in Midian all those silent years because of his mistake but he fulfilled his purpose in his latter years.

God redeems your wasted years and mistakes and they are no reason to forfeit your purpose.

Exodus 2:11-15

#16 Do I have to leave employment after knowing my purpose?

Knowing your purpose does not call for immediate and drastic action like leaving employment. You don't have to leave employment after you know your purpose. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Purpose is for an appointed time and God will lead you and prepare you for it.

Jesus acknowledged that his time had not yet come to fulfill his purpose. It is the world that makes you believe you must leave employment and start your own thing once you know your purpose. For some they will leave employment and others won't until much later. When Jesus called his disciples, Peter and his brother Andrew, they left their jobs as fishermen and immediately followed Jesus. In this case they needed to stop what they were doing so they could fulfill their purpose.

God prepares you then sends you out.

David knew his purpose and got into it years later. In the meantime he was in King Saul's service before he became king. The prophet Elisha went into Elijah's service as his assistant before succeeding him. Jesus prepared his disciples before he sent them out to preach the gospel, cast out demons and heal the sick. Seek God to find out if He wants you to remain in employment for now or resign to fulfill your purpose.

1 Samuel 18:5, 1 Kings 19:19-21, Matthew 4:18-20, Luke 9:1-6

#17 Where do I start fulfilling my purpose?

It is one thing to know your purpose and another to know where to start doing the work. God gave us His Spirit to guide us and He shows us the way and teaches us what we need to know for He is our Helper. With God in the lead you will know which way to go.

As God reveals your purpose He will show you the starting point.



God does not leave you guessing. He is clear in His instructions and descriptions. When He assigned people duties in the building of the Tabernacle He was clear on what He wanted them to do. He gave Moses instructions on how to assign duties and to whom. Jesus gave instructions to his disciples when he sent them out to minister to others. In the same way God will give you clear instructions on where to start.

John 16:13, Exodus 4:12, Ezekiel 3:10-11

#18 Why is there a lot of wrong information on life purpose?

When you try to define purpose from the wisdom in your mind, you will get it wrong. The self-help industry has many life purpose teachers who have taught people to discover or find their purpose and decide on how they will fulfill it. There are many in the body of Christ who have also not understood it and therefore give wrong information.

God defines purpose because it is His idea and plan for each of us. We are to fulfill it in accordance with His word. He has put wisdom and understanding in those He has called to teach purpose. God is the true source of purpose and gives us wisdom on how to fulfill it.

#19 If I pursue my purpose, where will the money come from?

God guarantees that you don't serve Him at your expense but His. He provides resources to help you fulfill the purpose He gave you. You will also receive rewards from the work you are doing. Purpose is not about the money but providing a solution to a group of people. The focus is on service and the money will follow.

If you start a coaching program you will be paid by those you coach. If you write articles for others you will receive payment and if you are in ministry, others will sow into your ministry. The Apostle Paul made tents to meet his needs so he wouldn't depend on anyone.



God gave each of us the ability to produce wealth and we are to develop income streams from the work we do. I'm sure you have seen ministries that sell branded cups, Tee shirts, and other merchandise. An author receives royalties from the sale of their books or speaking engagements. Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and you will receive the other things you desire.

Deuteronomy 8:18, 1 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 6:33

#20 How do I know my purpose with conviction?

It is important to have conviction about your purpose. There is nothing as reassuring as the fact that you know your purpose is the real one. It's authentic. Conviction comes from the Holy Spirit. He gives you the inner knowing that you know the truth about your purpose. Without this conviction you will hesitate to take action steps and will be plagued by doubts. When God reveals your purpose, you can rest on that revelation because the word of God is the truth.

1 John 2:20-21,27

If you would like to know more about the true nature of your God-given purpose and how to fulfill it, please get a copy of my eBook titled: ***Life Purpose: A Beginner's Guide.***

About the Author



Hi, I am Josephine Ngatia, an Author and Writer of Christian content for blog posts, Special Reports, How-to Guides and White Papers. I live in Nairobi, Kenya.

My latest eBooks include: *Life Purpose: A Beginner's Guide*; *Demystifying the Grey Kingdom: The Truth about The Kingdom of Light and The Kingdom of Darkness*; and *Maiden Book: How to Plan, Outline and Write Your First Book*. They are available on Amazon Kindle, Kobo, iTunes, Weltbild, Thalia.de, Scribd and several other eBook stores worldwide. I write articles and Special Reports on my blog: [The Urban Christian](#)

I enjoy reading books, trying new food recipes and deep conversations with friends. Throw in a cup (or two) of Kenyan tea.

Contact me for Christian articles or Special Reports (like this one). I can work with you to identify writing projects for your Christian Ministry or Business. If you have a question or comment, you can reach me on josephine@theurbanchristian.co.ke