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JUMP-STARTING THE JOURNEY OF PURPOSE

THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

PART 2



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INTRODUCTION

A new journey, no signposts, but life has to change. But wait a minute. How do I get to my destination if there are no signs on the road to direct me? This may seem like your reality when thinking about how to jump-start your journey of purpose. There are no road signs to help you know where to turn off, whether to slow down or move fast. You wonder how you will ever fulfil your purpose so that you can live the life God created you to live.

Have you answered many questions on the internet trying to define your purpose? And now your mind is full of answers that make little sense, let alone show any relationship. *Jump-starting the Journey of Purpose Trilogy* prepares you to receive God's answers to your questions, and lays a good foundation for pursuing your purpose. Jump-starting your journey of purpose does not mean diving directly into knowing your purpose, but understanding the prerequisites.

Fulfilling your purpose will lead you to true success. You will have clarity on what success means to you and what you need to achieve in this lifetime to say you have been successful. Could it be that your purpose will connect you to the success you desire? Are you wondering if there is only one path that leads to success? The answer is no! However, there are key features that need to be present on the path that you follow. They act as guides along the journey, and show you how to navigate the path.

The Pathway to Success equips you with principles to guide you along the journey. It is a roadmap designed to help you find your way. However, there is one condition - get onto the path if you want success. Looking at the path from afar and meditating on its uncertainty and risks will leave you in the same spot in life. Your mind will be full of many 'what ifs'. What if I fail? What if I succeed? What if they laugh at me? What if I lose it all? What if, what if, what if! Well, you will never know until you take action towards the life of your dreams.

To get onto the pathway that leads to success, take the first step that is in front of you, like reading this 3-part report. Apply the principles and take the next step as

it unfolds. The pathway to success requires that you commit to begin the journey, not give in to the temptation to quit, and follow through to the very end.

In *Part 1 of Jump-starting the Journey of Purpose*, I mentioned that if you are not living the life of your dreams, then there is a gap you need to fill so you can move from where you are to where you want to be. This special report will help you define your future desired state – success. It will also help you articulate the state of your current life so that you can clearly see the resultant gap, which is *The Purpose Gap*. This will shed light on how to bridge the gap to get moving towards a successful and fulfilling life. Bridging The Purpose Gap in your life will do the following:

1. Fast track your success
2. Transform you into a man or woman of purpose who influences the world with your gifts
3. Give your life direction, significance, and fulfillment
4. Leave a legacy that will influence generations to come

The Pathway to Success focuses on defining genuine success and laying a good foundation for all that you hope to achieve, now and in the future. To help you better understand why this report focuses on success, yet it is about purpose, I will take you through the relationship between purpose and success. This will give you the 'eyes' to look at your life from a higher perspective.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PURPOSE AND SUCCESS

Many people argue that you don't need to know your purpose to be successful. However, your purpose ensures that you live a fulfilling life as you achieve success. It assures you that you are living according to God's plan, and are fulfilling His purpose for your life. To know what God's definition of success is, we need to go back to what His Word says. God defined success in His instruction to Joshua, who was to take the Israelites to the Promised Land after the death of Moses.

Joshua 1:8

"Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written on it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Your purpose helps you align what you want in life, and what God wants for your life. It harmonizes your will and God's will. When the two wills are operating as one, you will achieve what you want, because it also is what God wants for you. Many times, we don't see answers to our prayers because what we want will destroy our lives, but we cannot see this. Unfortunately, we are not ready to embrace what God wants for us because we imagine it can't be as good as what we want for ourselves.

Purpose shifts our focus to the bigger picture of our lives. We can then see the direction our life is taking and whether what we want is taking us closer or further away from our purpose. When we bridge the gap between what we want and what God wants, we are likely to achieve the success that we desire.

Being successful in life means getting your priorities right. Misplaced priorities will complicate your journey to success and be disastrous in your life. Purpose gives you direction and helps you see the importance of re-arranging your priorities. It guides you on which priorities need to be at the top of the list, and those that need to move down or out. For example, getting married may be on top of your priority

list and then one day you get to know your purpose. Now you must make changes in your life so you can fulfil your purpose. You now have a clearer vision for your life, and realize the impact that marrying the wrong person can have on your God-given assignment. Your priority shifts to becoming more self-aware, knowing what you want in life and discerning the right person to marry. You can tell that not every good suitor is going in your direction, no matter how godly or charming; you need to identify the one who is. This may take longer than you thought, but you are now willing to wait because of what is at stake if you make the wrong choice.

One thing that will catapult you to success is a business or career. This is because you get to earn a good income, which allows you to invest and afford the things you want in life. The 'wow' factor in your business or career comes from the unique value that you bring to the marketplace. The value you bring comes from fulfilling your purpose by using your gifts and natural talents. You have staying power, even when the going gets tough, because you are doing what God created you to do.

Your success also depends on those whom you allow to influence your beliefs and decisions. These are mainly your closest relationships, mentors, and business associates. To determine the right relationships for you, have a way of sifting them. An excellent method is to look at similarity of values; do they value a relationship with God? Do they value purpose? Do they respect your core values? This will help you attract the right relationships and forums, which will advance your purpose. You will build a team with the right people, who will help you achieve success in your life and work.

You need God's help to fulfil your purpose. Knowing how to execute your purpose using your gifts, talents, or passion requires God's guidance and brings success. God reveals each step you are to take, and this gives you the 'know how' because you have a blueprint for how to fulfil your purpose. The Bible verse below illustrates how God equips you for His calling upon your life.

Exodus 31:1-5

Then the Lord said to Moses, "See I have chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver

and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”

You don't have to play a guessing game on how to execute your purpose. God's got it all figured out, your work is to obey and follow His instructions.

SUCCESS AS YOU KNOW IT

Are you wondering why you are still not living the life of your dreams? Does success seem elusive in your life despite goal setting and your list of New Year's resolutions? Maybe it is time to take a deeper look at success, and see where you may have fallen short. This will help you shift your thinking, which will guide your actions as you adjust your course.

Let's start by looking at what success means to most of us. Success is a concept that the world idolizes because of its perceived rewards. When you hear the word *success*, the acquisition of material possessions comes to mind - house, car, money, designer clothes, not forgetting fame. It is the picture we see in our minds, and is also painted by TV and magazines. This is the picture we have embraced and work towards achieving. Success goes deeper than the things we want to acquire.

If the list below captures where success starts and ends for you, then you need to redefine what success means.

1. Lots of cash in the bank
2. A high flying career with accolades to show for it
3. Living happily ever after with the spouse of your dreams
4. Travelling the world and checking off your bucket list
5. Affording the finer things in life
6. Being on the cover of a glossy magazine
7. Car and mansion of your dreams
8. Having a chain of businesses to remain rich
9. Having celebrities on speed dial

These are the things we think define success and what we want in life. These things form one layer of success - the one at the surface. We have to look deeper to see what genuine success is all about. Unfortunately, these things have been used to mask the genuine desires and wishes lurking beneath the surface of our hearts, which we seldom admit. These deep desires seem too shameful, childish, impossible, insane, and risky and we don't allow them to come to the surface for

fear of judgment and criticism. We settle for what is safe and acceptable. However, locked up in your secret desires are the seeds of success.

Success is a manifestation of your dreams and desires.

When the things you dream of do not manifest in your life, you get frustrated and disillusioned. You end up thinking that success is for a selected few; those who are lucky. You set goals, come up with resolutions year after year, draw up a prayer list, and share it with prayer warriors, but nothing changes. You read books, attend seminars, listen to sermons, buy DVDs on success and you still do not achieve any form of success, and wonder, where am I going wrong?

What I have discovered is that the authors of these books, seminars and other resources assume that you have clearly identified yourself as their target audience. They assume you are clear on what you are passionate about and are ready to take action immediately. The only thing missing is a set of guidelines and steps and you will be on your way to success. If you are not clear about what you are passionate about and try to take the steps, you fail miserably. Why? Because you do not have a goal or end in mind, lack vision, purpose, or clarity.

What purpose does for you is give you a clear understanding of your unique path in life. It allows you to set the right goals. When you attend a success seminar or read a success book, you will apply the knowledge in a way that suits your unique path in life.

Purpose guides you as you think about what you want in life. It focuses your mind on genuine success. You clearly see what success looks like in your life.

When you adjust your picture of success to reflect your purpose, then what you truly desire manifests in your life.

GENUINE SUCCESS

Your Future Desired State

Pursuing genuine success gives you an in-depth look at what life is all about beyond the surface. It shifts your thinking to where your focus needs to be so that you will attain the success you envision. Once you shift your thinking, even the material things that you want will fall into place, and you won't have an unhealthy attachment to them. If your way of achieving success has not worked, then it doesn't hurt to try another way. As you try another way, keep in mind that you must change how you think about life if you are going to get what you want. The mental transition has to take place before the life transition. Moving from your current job to your God-given assignment is a life transition, not a career one. *Part 3 of Jump-starting the Journey of Purpose, titled The Life Transition, will focus on how you can prepare yourself for the changes ahead.*

Let's start by identifying the meaning of success. Success is the achievement an aim or purpose. This is something that you desire, or a goal you have set. When you achieve your goals and desires, you are successful. So why are many then not living successful lives? Many view success as something that happens to them rather than the collective attainment of specific goals.

When you see people with the wonderful things that you want, like a big house, a flashy car, a chain of businesses or lots of money, you assume that this is where success starts and ends. So you set off to achieve these things and fail. What you have not paid attention to is that success comes from achieving your goals. If you have set no goals, then you will achieve nothing, meaning you will not achieve the success you want.

It is easy to focus on success as being the lifestyle of the rich and famous, as opposed to it being the attainment of goals and desires. If this is your focus, you imagine that success is that kind of lifestyle happening to you as opposed to working towards it. That is why many times, as we pray, we angrily ask God why that person is rich and we are not. What do they have that I don't? This kind of attitude comes from a mentality of entitlement where you wait for things to

happen to you and if they don't, you blame the government, the economy, your upbringing and so on. Focusing on success from the level of material possessions will not lead to lasting success or fulfillment. You must embrace the deeper meaning of success.

Do you want to achieve many goals but they seem all over the place, and you wonder how they will all come together in a way that makes sense? If you don't figure out how, eventually you believe that only a few people can get to be truly successful. Many of the things you think you want may not be the best for you. They don't suit you, or you are not in a season to receive them. Your saving grace is in knowing how to begin this success journey in a way that you get what you want with less stress and in less time.

What is Genuine Success?

1. Aligning your plans with God's plans for your life

At any point in your life, you have plans for what you want to do. It could be to go back to school and get an MBA, marry, find another job, buy a car or house, or even move to another city or country. Your plan may seem like the right thing to do, and you go at it full throttle. Then your plan fails right before your very eyes and you wonder what went wrong, yet you had all bases covered. This happens quite a lot these days, judging by the stories that go round during an afternoon of tea and laughter. A lot of times, the problem is that the plan does not line up with God's plan for your life in that season. Sometimes God has to stop you from executing your plans because they will destroy you.

Aligning your plans with God's plans for your life means that you plan for things that you are ready for spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. You realign your priorities in a way that gives some order to the things you want to achieve. You can honor the seasons of your life by understanding the purpose of each. Since God sees the bigger picture of your life, He knows which of your plans will work. It is wise to run your plans before God so that He can guide you on which ones to execute and which ones to abandon or hold for later.

Since God has a plan and purpose for your life, it is wise to check in with Him so that you understand how your plans will fit in with His. When your plans are aligned

with God's, they will succeed because you will do what God wants you to. You will have a more organized life that is productive, and everything will fall into place. You will not struggle to achieve things because you will have God's favour and blessing.

2. A career aligned with your purpose

Are you wondering how you can achieve career success? Being successful in your career means that you are on a suitable career path, and are progressing to an expert level in your chosen field. Besides being in a suitable job that you are passionate about, it is a job where God has placed you for a reason. My question to you is: Do you know why God put you on that job? Have you fulfilled the assignment He gave you there? (This goes beyond your job description). If you are not aware, ask Him!

A successful and fulfilling career starts with knowing your purpose and finding work that is aligned with it. When God created you, He had a specific assignment for you here on earth. When God reveals your purpose, He also gives you a blueprint of how to execute it, and the people He is calling you to serve. This takes the guesswork out of trying to find the right job or business for you.

If you don't know your purpose with clarity, you will speculate on the right career path for you. You will end up with one that doesn't sit well in your heart, even when others tell you to pursue it. A job that doesn't suit you will leave you feeling empty and unfulfilled. It can make you give up on your purpose, believing that you will never get it right or it's not worth the hassle.

Many times, we are told that education is the key to success. This statement is usually in reference to formal education. However, I have learnt that knowing your purpose, gifts and talents, and how to employ them is the key to success.

3. Anchoring your goals on personal vision

You may be clear on the value of vision to the life of an organization, but have you ever considered the positive impact that vision has on your personal life? Success comes from knowing where your life is going, and what you want out of it. Vision is the picture you have in your mind when you think about the legacy you want to

leave behind. It is the anchor for all the goals you set in life. All the goals you set work towards this end goal. Vision gives life to your purpose by reflecting what it will look like when you complete your work on earth.

Are you facing the challenge of how to come up with a vision for your life, owing to its importance? Vision includes what you want in life, and what God wants for your life. Your dreams and desires reflect what you want in life, for example, travelling the world, living in a mansion by the beach, financial freedom, and the list is endless. What God wants for your life reflects in His purpose for your life, and how He wants you to fulfil it.

To conceptualize a vision for your life without the guidance of purpose is like building your house on sand. Your life will be on a shaky foundation. You will end up pursuing the wrong things in your life. This is how you end up with dead ends, wrong relationships, wrong jobs, costly mistakes, and only realizing this when your life is nearing its end.

Vision guides you as you develop your mission. Your mission includes who you are to help and how, and it also guides you as you set goals for your life. There is a clear path from your vision to your goals. Goal setting has a place in your life because you can clearly see what your goals are ultimately leading you to - your vision. Goals in isolation do not energize or fulfil you, and that is why you abandon them midway. Always anchor your goals on your personal vision.

4. Using self-awareness to design your life

Most successful people know who they are and their purpose. Self-awareness helps you know the environments you best thrive in. It helps you know, for example, whether you are best suited for employment or self-employment, which activities bring out the best in you or drain you, which opportunities to pass up and why, etc. The more you know yourself, the more you are likely to make decisions that are best suited for your individual needs.

Self-awareness entails knowing your personality type, deepest desires, beliefs, life philosophy, calling, passions, talents, strengths, weaknesses, and many other things. Knowing yourself on a deeper level helps you set the right goals, and bring your desires to life. It helps you know your genuine needs, differentiate between

your needs and wants, identify your gifts and talents, and the best way to develop them. You understand your personal development needs, and every course or seminar out there does not sway you.

Being self-aware means that you can know if the things you desire are truly from your heart or whether they are just what everyone else desires for you. You only pursue the desires that reflect who you are, and let go of those that others desire for you. Self-awareness helps you identify suitable forums, associations or relationships, even though many seem aligned with your purpose. You can tell those that are a perfect fit. This ensures you are purposeful in engaging with others. You also get to be a good steward of your money, and not waste it by going for courses that you don't need.

Self-awareness helps you put checks and balances in place before making important and life-changing decisions. It helps you know whether something is in your best interests or not.

5. Continuous personal growth and development

People achieve success according to their growth level. The more you grow as a person, the more you build your character and the more success you achieve in life. Character goes beyond being a good and godly person. These are good and important, however to attain the level of success you want, you need to grow in certain traits like resilience, boldness, discernment, endurance or perseverance. Many people achieve these traits during difficult seasons in life.

When you continuously grow and develop, you progress in life, and this equips you to handle bigger responsibilities and challenges. As you grow, you can handle higher levels of success. You will remain successful all your life because God has equipped you to do so.

When you use the 5 ways above to define your success, you are on your way to achieving true and lasting success. They will refine your definition of success and increase your chances of achieving all that you have desired in life.

To understand *The Purpose Gap*, which is the difference between success and stagnation, look at your current situation to know how to bridge the gap. By

looking at your life as it is today, and comparing it with your desired one, you will see the gap clearly.

Your Life Now

Your present state

This seems like a life you love to hate, but find yourself stuck in. Sometimes it feels like you are in prison with no hope of parole any time soon. You feel trapped in a life you don't want, but you can't figure out how to get to the life you want. This is what stagnation feels like. You are making movement, but none of it is moving you forward. You have tried everything to be successful in life, but you still find yourself in the same spot.

Some issues you may battle with currently include:

- Attracting the wrong relationships
- Nothing significant to show for all the years you have worked
- Wanting to resign from your job to pursue your passion, but don't know what it is
- Tiring daily routine of home-traffic-work and vice versa
- Consistent unanswered prayer

These are some things you may experience in your life today. There are deeper issues that you may not 'see' that cause the most damage. They are the hidden obstacles that keep you stuck. I will address them below. This list is not exhaustive. See if you can identify others that are specific to your life.

1. Short sighted plans

You probably know the importance of making plans in life. I mean, how else you will achieve your goals if not by making plans. Do you know why your projects in the office work and your personal ones don't, or lead to dead ends and disasters? Your office projects are strategic, they are long term and focus on the bigger picture of your organization. Your personal plans are standalone, very short term, and not part of the bigger picture for your life. Why is this so? Because they are

not anchored on your purpose and vision. Another reason is setting goals or making plans without consulting God for the details.

This leads to plans that 'backfire', don't take off or result in a financial loss. Many times, the plans focus on what we want, not necessarily what we need. These plans are short term since they don't come from your personal vision. For example, you resign from your job and hope to get another one soon, only to find out that unemployment devalues your CV in the corporate world. You find yourself unemployed for long and job searching is a total nightmare.

Another scenario of a short-sighted plan is when you decide to get married to your boyfriend or girlfriend because you have dated for several years and have made a massive investment in the relationship. Then it ends unceremoniously. You wasted your time and effort on someone who was not going in your direction.

Short-sighted plans don't take into consideration the bigger picture of our lives, and they leave us frustrated when they don't work.

2. Rat race

When you hear the words *rat race*, many things come to mind, long working hours, lunch at your desk, waiting for the next salary, fighting for the next promotion, bills and credit cards to be paid off, hours of traffic morning and evening, etc. Your assumption is that a pay increment or promotion will bring some financial relief, but it only does so for a short while. The cycle soon starts again at a higher level. When the salary is not enough, you hope that your company can pay you the promised bonus at the end of the year so that you can reset your financial situation. When it doesn't happen, you get angry and dig in your heels and refuse to go the extra mile until they pay you better. Options to enjoy your work and life seem limited.

The solution people offer for getting higher pay is to acquire more degrees and hope they do the salary negotiations on your behalf. As you add one more degree, you get busier with no time left to critically think about where your life is heading. In the meantime, your dissatisfaction with life and your job is growing because your pay and promotion rate are not proportionate to your level of education. To crown it all, your work doesn't fulfil you.

You wonder how you will escape the rat race. It seems like a meaningless pursuit because you have nothing to show for all those years. Well, in terms of 'stuff' like a car, house, or shares in the stock market, you have something to show. As for significance and fulfillment, that's a different story all together.

3. Haphazard goal setting

Goal setting looks like a complicated process because you are not sure which goals to set, and the ones you set do not seem to bear fruit. You lose morale along the way. Your goals are all over the place and not leading to any end goal. You wonder how others succeed and are happy about achieving their goals. They set and achieve goals successfully and their lives progress.

Goal setting is a beginning of the year affair when most people gear up for the New Year's resolutions band wagon, one which comes to a screeching halt by the first quarter of the year.

Writing goals becomes a cumbersome affair because you are not clear about how to make plans that work. Sometimes your goals are clashing, others are unrealistic and you are not sure which ones come first, which ones are urgent, or which ones are necessary. There is no reference point to give you guidance.

4. Not knowing what you want in life

Does it puzzle you how some people are crystal clear about what they want in life? They decide easily and quickly and you envy them for that. You wonder how on earth it's possible to know with such certainty what you really want. I mean, where do these people get their information from? How do they get to know themselves so well? How do I get to know deeper parts of myself? Are these questions you are asking yourself?

Self-awareness seems like a word that is carelessly thrown around in books and seminars but you don't have a structured way of knowing your real self. You devour self-awareness books that shed some light but you don't seem to have information you can work with more deeply. Deep down, you know that getting to know what you want is the key to making progress in your life. You will be much happier, more confident and more joyful. Wouldn't it be great to know why you get angry at some

things, why certain experiences draw your attention, why your job bores you, why you overeat, etc.

What if you were courageous enough to do the things that you deeply desire without fear of judgment, rejection, or ridicule? It would be great if you would be sure what your life is all about, who you are, where your greatest potential lies, how to use your talents, not to mention how to identify them.

5. Stunted personal growth

Life can sometimes resemble one big circus where you are juggling many balls: a job, school, family, group memberships, and there isn't enough time for all the things you would like to do in order to advance your life. The little time left goes to eating, catching up on sleep and showering. Life becomes like a marathon, and you are always on the go regardless of how tired you are. With all these things happening, there is no room for personal growth and development.

The only development you end up engaging in is when your company sponsors you to attend the popular weeklong seminars. The problem here is that you develop yourself for your job. This gives you the illusion that you are embracing personal growth and development, but you are not. When you leave the job, the development becomes obsolete.

What you are doing is developing the employee part of you, not the person. You experience stunted growth in your personal life. You hardly grow as a person and this means that you find it hard to achieve the success you seek. You may try hard to get to where you want, but if you are not developing yourself outside of your job, you are by default taking a short cut. Short cuts don't lead to lasting success.

When your personal growth is stunted, you have learning gaps that stand in the way of solving problems in life, clarity in decision making, knowing your authentic self, understanding your purpose, opportunities available to you, etc. You lack the knowledge needed to move to the next level in life. If you try to move ahead without knowledge and guidance, you encounter huge obstacles that you don't know how to surmount.

When you encounter obstacles, you get overwhelmed because you don't know how to deal with them. You retreat to what is easy and convenient, you have no idea how to use your talents, and you settle instead for employment. You avoid taking risks because you don't know how to handle any negative consequences. When you are not growing, taking risks, increasing your knowledge base, you stunt your growth and the net effect is stagnation.

You cannot deal with these issues in isolation. I have tacked them separately in this report for a better understanding. When you compare life as it is now and how you want it to be in the future, there is an enormous gap. This gap is what I call The Purpose Gap.

The difference between the two states is where the gap exists. You experience The Purpose Gap when you do not know your purpose and fall into every path that unfolds before you. Living a purposeful life entails living on purpose and having a reason for engaging in the activities you do. When you do not do things on purpose, you end up living a purposeless life, which ultimately leads to stagnation. Having a 'why' for the things you do ensures that you will be successful, and avoid distractions and activities that hog up your time at the expense of growth.

THE PURPOSE GAP

The Purpose Gap is the difference between the life God created you to live and the life you have settled for. It is the void left when you don't know your purpose and fall into any path that unfolds before you. This leaves you vulnerable to following a path that looks promising but is a dead end. When you hit many dead ends and your life doesn't move forward, you stagnate. Taking any path in life believing that it will lead you to your dreams is the fastest route to stagnation in life. When your life is stagnant, you lack direction and meaning, others seem to be ahead of you in life. Success eludes you every time, because what you were told to do is not working.

To give some more weight to The Purpose Gap, I will summarize what it is by giving some points that capture it in a deeper way. The following are its characteristics:

1. Misplaced priorities
2. Purposeless work
3. Unfulfilled dreams
4. Lack of direction in life
5. Stagnation

1. Misplaced priorities

When you make plans for your life without involving God, chances are that you will end up with misplaced priorities. You will struggle to make things happen; you get mentally and emotionally fatigued trying to 'figure it all out'. What you think is a priority disappoints you when you finally achieve it, and your actual priorities remain in the background, waiting for your discovery.

When your real priorities get a poor rating from you and your misplaced ones top the charts, you end up working plans that don't fulfil you or leave you feeling drained. You end up wasting years of your life following plans that leave you empty, broke and angry. When you make plans in this way, you end up with goals that give no meaning to your life. This more often than not makes you abandon plans

midway along the journey because of boredom. Misplaced priorities will cost you wasted years, joy, money, success and growth.

2. Purposeless work

Working at a job because of money is a purposeless endeavour. It may pay your bills, but it lacks purpose. You end up hating your job and boss, the economy, the government and life. Your job has no meaning; you can't see where all your efforts are leading. When your work lacks meaning and significance, you get bored, dissatisfied and restless and you cannot put a finger on what exactly is wrong.

When you are in the rat race, the only thing that matters is working to get paid, get a promotion, pay the bills until your mind, body and emotions can't take it anymore. At this point - the breaking point - two things happen: either you leave the job regardless of whether you have found another one or hang on and go through the motions and accept your fate. If you choose to remain on the job, your work will have no purpose and your life will stagnate.

3. Unfulfilled dreams

You definitely have dreams and desires that you want to see come to pass in your life. You also want to achieve your goals with ease and not have to worry that they are clashing with each other. When you set your goals without a personal vision, you end up abandoning some, bored and drained by others, and you give up on a lot of them. When this happens, you end up with unfulfilled dreams. The desires of your heart seem like too much trouble to achieve, and you bury them deep in your heart. They never get to see the light of day. Your focus shifts to surface desires like a car or house, and other achievements which are a poor substitute for the buried ones.

When you have unfulfilled dreams and desires, you live an unfulfilled life. You dwell in dreamland. This is a dangerous place to be because it gives birth to jealousy, covetousness, and resentment, especially when you see others acquiring the things you want. When you harbor these feelings, they block your prayers because they bring impurities into your heart. The cycle of unfulfilled dreams continues and you get angry at God for something which you can change.

4. Lack of direction in life

When you are not clear about who you are and what you want in life, it is hard to choose a path that will lead you to genuine success. You lack clarity in decision making and when you find yourself at cross roads; you do not know which direction to take. The obstacles on each path make you fear and this leads you to inaction. Not taking action means you remain on the same spot, and this is the ultimate description of stagnation. You don't trust yourself. You don't believe that you can handle whatever comes your way when you choose a path and follow it.

Many times you may not have received answers to some of your prayers because you were 'waiting on God' to show you which way to go, and yet He was waiting for you to decide and start moving. Sometimes God gives us the discretion to make certain decisions, and helps us discern when this is the case. At times we want to choose the path with fewer obstacles and when we find them (obstacles) on every path available to us, we get confused and don't know which way to go. Even when God gives us the discretion to decide, we are not ready to choose one path and follow it. We call this double-mindedness and, as the Bible says, that a double-minded man will receive nothing from the Lord. It's hard to help someone who can't make up their mind between two options.

5. Stagnation

If you are perpetually not achieving your dreams and goals, your life is stagnant. You see no way out. They tell you to 'think outside the box', but you are still trying to locate the box. Lack of a conscious effort to grow and develop yourself leaves you ill equipped to spot opportunities for advancement, achieve financial success, achieve clarity in decision making, see the bigger picture of your life or know what you want in life. When these things are far removed from you, it is hard to live the life of your dreams. With this lack of clarity, you cannot reach your full potential because you don't know which talents to develop or how to develop them. You end up assuming that the personal development you do at work is sufficient for your growth.

Should you leave your job, you do not know who you are or how to survive out there. It is only when you look at your life and how you have nothing tangible to

show for it that you seek the real personal development and not employee development.

Bridging The Purpose Gap

Bridging The Purpose Gap requires a season of transition, and a lot of prayer, wisdom and listening to God for direction. It is by listening that you get to know which direction God wants your life to take. A time of transition is difficult, but knowing how to navigate it makes the journey easier. Part 3 of Jump-starting the Journey of Purpose titled *The Life Transition*, will show you what the season of transition looks like, and how to prepare yourself for it.

In Part 1 of this report, Myths about Purpose and How to Counter Them, I mentioned that bridging the Purpose Gap requires you to take the right path and aim for genuine success. Are you wondering how to achieve genuine success? Do you want to start the bridging process? Here is where the *4 Pillars of Success* come in. They give you an excellent support system for your success. They hold in place your dreams, goals and achievements, and ensure that you achieve lasting success. As you build your picture of success, let these be the support system for all the things that you are going to achieve.

THE 4 PILLARS OF SUCCESS

A pillar is a vertical structure or column that provides support for a building. Just like the pillars of a building, the pillars of success serve the same purpose in our lives. The 4 Pillars of Success provide a support system for the success you envision. They help you position yourself for lasting success and keep you grounded as you make plans for your life. They are reliable when the storms of life come. You can weather them more effectively.

As you bridge The Purpose Gap, you need a structured way of taking action towards your goals and dreams. The 4 Pillars of Success provide that structure that helps you know how to get started so that you don't get overwhelmed by all the knowledge available for achieving success.

The 4 Pillars of Success are:

1. A Renewed Mind
2. Purpose
3. Passion
4. Desire

1. A Renewed Mind

Remember the script I talked about in Part 1 of this report? This is the script that was made out for you by your parents, culture, society and those in authority over you. The script in question required that you 'tow the line' or face dire consequences. This was the beginning of conforming to what others wanted you to be. Because you grew up not knowing any better, you believed that this was the only way to do things in life. As a result, you developed a pattern of thinking that has kept you stuck. To get out of faulty thinking, you must renew your mind. Renewing your mind means that you change the beliefs you currently hold about life, yourself, and others so that you no longer conform to the patterns of this world. The Word of God will help you renew your mind.

Changing your beliefs is a process, and it entails digging into your past to find out what informed your current beliefs and thinking patterns. Once you can address the root problems, then you will easily adopt more empowering beliefs. With a renewed mind, you can write a new script for your life.

A renewed mind will help you:

- Identify personalized opportunities for advancement along your path to success
- Discern paths that are dead ends no matter how attractive and rewarding they look
- Learn how God speaks to you so that you will know how He answers prayers in your life
- Stop conforming to what others want you to be or do
- Question the status quo in your life

Renewing your mind gives you the freedom to go after what you truly desire in life. You clearly see what God is doing in your life and you align yourself with His plan and purpose. You stop wishing and start believing that it is possible for you to receive the desires of your heart. When you believe, you set in motion the power that brings these things to come to pass in your life.

2. Purpose

In Part 1 of this report, I talked about *The Purpose Gap* being the difference between the life God created you to live and the life you have settled for. It comes about because of lack of purpose. To bridge The Purpose Gap, you need to embrace your purpose so that you can live the life of your dreams.

Purpose is twofold: Your God-given purpose and the 'why' or motive behind everything you do. Your purpose is the reason for your existence. It is the assignment God had for you on earth when He created you. It acts as a reference point for the path you take in life. When you see the bigger picture of your life (your vision), you clearly see how your plans, goals, and dreams fall into place. You can see which plans are out of place and which priorities you need to re-position. When your plans and goals align with your purpose, you achieve success because your actions lead to something significant in your life.

When you question your motives for doing something, you will know sooner rather than later whether to go ahead or retreat before it is too late. You avoid distractions and time wasters. This leaves you with enough room in your life to focus on the important things which advance your life. Purpose helps you sift through the things that need to be in your life and those that do not need to be. You find that you have enough time to do the things you love as well as fulfil your purpose.

Purpose guides your lifestyle choices. Purposeful living becomes a lifestyle, not something you do once in a while. When purpose is part of your lifestyle, you achieve success faster and with less stress. Your success fulfills you because you have the assurance that you are doing what God created you to do. Purpose powers your life.

Purpose helps you question yourself about the things that you want in life. It acts as a check for your motives behind wanting something. When your motives are right, you will be happy with your success. If your motives are wrong, you will feel empty and may end up with more than you bargained for. You can tell whether what you want is really from your heart or it is what others want you to have.

What will purpose do for you?

- Help you build a legacy whose impact will last for generations to come
- Re-position you for a life of lasting success
- Give you focus and direction
- Weed out time wasters and distractions in your life

3. Passion

When you are passionate about something, you have staying power when the going gets tough. You have the commitment to stay until you achieve the results you are expecting. You are excited each day when you think about your life.

Passion is an extreme emotion of love or hate. Let's take passion from the angle of love. When you love something, you give your all to it. You treat it with patience, kindness, gentleness, etc. When you are passionate about life, you have a lot of enthusiasm and excitement, and you can't wait for each day to unfold. Passion comes from having something bigger than yourself to live for. Your life has

meaning, and you have fulfillment. You are positive minded and achieving your goals and dreams is a joyful process for you. This makes you not to sweat the small stuff as you overcome any hurdles along the way.

When you love your life and work, it shows. Your enthusiasm amazes others. Your confidence draws them to you. You draw in people who are ready to make your dream a reality. This is because they can sense that you are coming from a point of clarity and you know what you want. People like to work with or support those who are sure about what they want to achieve in life. It becomes easier to build a team around your dream. People are ready to partner with you because they can see that it is a win-win situation for them.

Passion enables you to create a masterpiece of your work. You work out of love, not obligation. When you work out of love, you bring a lot of creativity into your work. You touch the hearts of others because you are operating from love. When you touch people's hearts, they have a special connection with you, and this makes you successful at ministering to the needs of others. If you are selling a product, they will buy from you and become loyal customers because they have an emotional connection with you. You don't have to convince them to buy from you; they are already waiting for you to sell. This is how you build a business that is customer focused.

When you are passionate about your work, you look for how to keep doing it better. When you keep doing it better, you become an expert and others seek you out. You become excellent and proficient at what you do, and others come to learn from you. Before you know it, you are moving up the ranks and more responsibility means more money.

4. Desire

It is easy to want something but another thing to desire it so much that you are ready to do what it takes to achieve it. The first step in achieving success is to desire it. When you desire something, then you are ready to take action until you see your desires come to pass. Desire helps you stand up against opposition when others try to talk you out of your dreams. You may be the only one who sees the reward for achieving your dreams and goals.

If you don't have a strong desire to achieve something, you will not exert the effort in getting it. You will get bored and abandon the process altogether. Therefore, you don't achieve a lot of the goals you set. When there is no bigger picture for achieving your goals, you lose the desire to achieve them along the way.

Desire gives you the single-mindedness you need to have razor sharp focus. You do not allow distractions to sidetrack you. You silence those who say it is impossible and focus on your goal until you achieve it. Without desire, it is hard to achieve your goals and dreams. A strong desire forces you to look for how to make your dreams come true, surmount obstacles, and pray without ceasing in order to get your result.

Only you can decide how badly you want something. Many times, we don't achieve the desires of our hearts because we don't acknowledge them. We will not admit our deepest desires because of several reasons. We fear that we cannot achieve what we want, believe we don't deserve what we want, and imagine others will think our desires are foolish.

To be successful at something, acknowledge you desire that thing without putting a mask on it. God will give you the desires of your heart once you make them known to Him. When you yearn to know your purpose, you will do what it takes to know and fulfil it. You are ready to obey God's instructions and the direction He wants you to take.

You must desire to know your purpose more than you fear how it will affect your life.

This desire makes you keep at it until you get the clarity you need. This strong desire is proof that you are ready to embrace your purpose and have a meaningful life. You must desire to exit mediocrity so strongly that you will look for a way to get out of where you are in bondage. When you do this, a way out of the situation presents itself.

Lack of purpose kills desire because nothing seems worthy of your effort. You are okay even when you don't achieve your goals. If the going gets tough, you get going. You end up achieving nothing much and brushing it off with 'one day it will happen'.

The 4 Pillars of Success work cohesively to provide an excellent support system for all the things you want to achieve in your life. They ensure lasting success and a reference point for when you seem to get off track on your success journey. They need to be in place before you pursue material, relational, career, spiritual and health success.

CONCLUSION

When you understand how to navigate the *Pathway to Success*, the going gets simpler, not necessarily easier. Once you have guideposts to help you, you don't get lost and can easily retrace your steps. With the signposts I have given you in this report, you will have the motivation to keep going until you reach where you want to go. You'll also keep your mind focused on your journey until you get to the other side, and come face to face with your dreams.

Success is a journey. You move from one level to the next. As you align yourself with God's plan and purpose for your life, He will have something new for you to do each season. It is amazing to know that He prepares you for the success you need for each season, and you only need to be obedient. This report will be a useful guide as you pursue further information on success. You will not have to sift through volumes of information that will cause an overload for your mind. I have simplified the information so that you can start moving without wasting time.

The important thing is to begin and self-correct along the way. It is better to begin now than to wait for when you have all the information you need. If you do this, you will never make a move or grow. You only learn some things along the way. They motivate you to achieve the bigger ones. This is how you move from one level of success to another.

Look out for Part 3 of this special report: *The Life Transition*, where you get to prepare yourself mentally, emotionally and spiritually for your purpose journey.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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If you would like to jump-start your journey of purpose, please register for [The Purpose E-Course](#). It is a course that guides you as you seek God to know your purpose.

Josephine's eBook titled [Life Purpose: A Beginner's Guide](#) will give you helpful insights on fulfilling your purpose.

Josephine can also help you create content for your blog or website, for example, blog posts, white papers, special reports, how-to guides, among others. She can convert your eBook to audio, or create social media graphics using quotes from your book. Josephine will help you develop a digital content strategy for your business or book.

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