

THE PURSUIT OF DIVINE PURPOSE (Part 2)

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IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

You must not drop out of school because you have identified your gifts or calling. Finish up your education with an excellent result. But if you are yet to enter school, go in and study on what you are now convinced is God's purpose for your life.

The error I see in our country today is the fact that most of our people go to higher institution to study courses they don't love or have intention of practicing. The result is that we have people who studied education, science, the arts wanting to work in the bank or fields not related to their training. This is indeed a great error. It is time young people go to school to study what they want to become in life.

Each gift requires training, practice for development and maturity. You will need to get education on the gift and talents you have. You need to be educated to be able to fulfill the purpose of God. Ignorance is one of the root causes of failure in the pursuit of any purpose. So get education in the area you are convinced God wants you to make a contribution to society.

Having obtained the basic education required to start out, you need to regularly update your knowledge with latest information available on your field of endeavor.

Get education – Formal or informal education is important. Read books, journals to educate yourself. You must be well informed to succeed in life. Go for information. You need to study to show thyself approved a workman who need not be ashamed, but knows his profession well.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15 KJV)

We cannot all be in one office. If we are all preachers, who will be the congregation? If we are all selling, who will do the buying? If we all are traders, who will be the producer? Set yourself to discover your assignment and be yourself in the pursuit of excellence.

You are peculiar and have a peculiar mission on earth.

“... Every man hath his proper gift of God.....” (1 Cor.7:7).

There is a proper placement for you on earth, made possible by the proper gift that is in you. You have a special mission on earth. You are sent on a mission by God identify that mission and fulfill it.

BENEFITS OF PURSUING PURPOSE

1. The pursuit of purpose brings satisfaction.
2. It makes one happy and excited about life. There is nothing like knowing that you are in the centre of God's will for your life.
3. The pursuit of purpose brings inner peace, and this gives energy to the body and brain to work effectively towards the actualization of ones dream.

4. It creates focus and prevents waste of time and energy in pursuing other and wrong things, stop wasting time, locate God's plan for your life and pursue it with all your heart.
5. There is grace for every God-ordained purpose. When you are in the centre of God's will, the grace of God will abound for accomplishment.
6. God finances assignments that are in accordance with his purpose.
7. In the pursuit of purpose, excellence is possible, and promotion is endless.
8. In the pursuit of purpose, there is renewal of energy, enthusiasm and power for accomplishment.

ZEAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE

Zeal is eagerness. Eagerness for the accomplishment of the purpose of God for your life is necessary for accomplishment of the purpose of God for one's life. Zeal gives birth to hard work.

Zeal is one of the dynamic forces for accomplishment in life. God the father is portrayed in the Bibles as a Zealous God.

"For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant and they that escape out of Mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this". (2 Kg. 19:30 KJV).

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of host will perform it". (Isa. 9:7 KJV)

Even Jesus could not achieve his mission on earth without zeal.

"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up, and the reproaches of them that reproach thee are fallen upon me. (Ps. 69:9 KJV)

".....The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up". (Jn. 2:17 KJV)

Zeal can be described as a driving force that propels one towards accomplishment. It is an essential tool for performance. Zeal is not just an emotion, but a tangible inner force. The degree of a man's zeal determines whether he will accomplish his mission or not.

Enthusiasm gives birth to zeal. You have to be enthusiastic about your purpose in life, for you to develop zeal to accomplish it. Lack of enthusiasm means lack of zeal.

God never gives you a task without giving you the zeal to accomplish it. Zeal pushes man to continue working at all cost, enduring all hardness for the sake of his mission on earth. Zeal strengthens you for endurance. Zeal pushes you on in spite of odds to see the glorious fulfillment of the plan and purpose of God for your life. You see the glory in front of you, and it burns in you to bring it to manifestation. With the force of zeal, mountains become plain ground, obstacles give way. Zeal pushes one to accomplish the impossible. It makes every 'impossibility' possible.

Zeal motivates bold steps. It puts off discouragement and distraction. Zeal guarantees steadfastness and rejoices in hope. Zeal is a burning desire for result.

To develop zeal, fix your eyes on your glorious end, and your zeal will know no bounds. The Lord Jesus set us an example in this.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb.12:2 NIV)

Zeal never accepts failure. It sees every obstacle as a stepping stone to the anticipated result. The inventor of the electric bulb was said to have tried over a thousand times before he was able to get it to work. His zeal for result would not let him accept failure as defeat.

MAINTAIN FOCUS

Zeal leads to dedication. And dedication is the act of total surrender and devotion to a particular cause. This is the major requirement in life. It is very real to progressive living. Dedication is unreserved commitment to a particular cause for the purpose of accomplishment. This is the pathway to producing good results in life. Dedicate yourself to the fulfillment of the divine purpose of God for your life.

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. (Mt.6:22 KJV).

You have a responsibility to pursue the purpose of God for your life with singleness of mind allowing no distraction. You have to learn to ignore any other that tries to take your energy and time. The purpose of vision is for one to have a focus and maintain it. (Prov. 4:20-27; Heb.12:2; Col.3:1-4; Acts 26:12-19).

Be fully dedicated to the purpose of God for your life. Develop zeal, and pursue it vigorously. Realize that your greatness, prosperity and fulfillment in life lie in the divine purpose of God for your life. ***Do not abandon your God-given vocation for a self-appointed or chosen carrier.*** If you do, you will not like the end result.

ELIMINATE FEAR

1. Fear of how to start and where to start from.
2. Fear of where capital will come from. God, who gives the vision, will give the means.
3. Fear of failure. Eliminate it. Think of the possibility of succeeding and not failing.
 - Think often on the revealed purpose of God for your life.
 - Make workable plans on how to step by step achieve the purpose of God for your life.
 - Remember to get education on how to become or do what God wants you to in life.
 - Zeal without knowledge is dangerous. (Rom. 10:1-4). Go for knowledge.

WORK HARD

“Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth” (Prov. 10:4 NIV)

“I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw; A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man”. (Prov. 24:30-34)

Laziness is destructive. Just as no one hears the footsteps of the snake, so also, the destructive activity of laziness. But these scriptures warn us to be beware of laziness, but instead to work hard. Laziness breeds poverty and lack. It produces failure. You must therefore work hard to make your dreams come true. Life is all about responsibility. The purpose of God for your life is your responsibility. God will want to know from you at the judgment how successful you were in fulfilling his purpose for your life.

Fulfillment of God’s purpose for your life is life responsibility for you since you were born to fulfill that purpose. You must not allow yourself to be distracted. You must work hard to win. You must accomplish it. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says,

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom”.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“My food.....is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” (Jn. 4:34)*

And when it was about time for his arrest and crucifixion, he declared, *“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” (Jn. 17:4)* And on the cross he said, *“It is finished” (Jn. 19:30).*

The Lord Jesus Christ laboured daily; even on the Sabbath he healed people. He became successful and fulfilled because he worked hard. If we are to see success, we must all work hard towards the accomplishment of the purpose of God for our lives.

Success is for only those who labour hard. After work comes the fruit of success. Labour is likened to seed planting. And without planting of seeds there will be no harvest. Where there is no labour, there can be no fruit or wages

“...A labourer deserves his wages...” (Lk. 10:7)

“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping carrying seeds to sow will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him”. (Ps. 126:5-6).

Work hard and you will reap success. At the end of your labour, your wages will be waiting for you. No labour, no wages. No sowing, no reaping. Laziness will only bring poverty and frustration. While hard work will bring success, fulfillment, riches and glory. Work hard!

WARNING

In working hard, learn to rest. A rested mind and body functions better and produces the expected result. Avoid fatigue. An unrested, overworked, overtired body will break down. Learn to relax, rest, sleep when necessary. It makes you more efficient.

“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.” Prov. 23:4)

Always remember that, it is *“not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit; says the LORD Almighty”*. (Zech. 4:6)

As you work hard, lean not on your own understanding or strength. Trust in the Lord and the Lord will give you success.

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead this people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 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 in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Josh. 1:6-9 NIV).

Courage is a product of inner strength. And inner strength is a product of sound positive knowledge of God and his words concerning one. Daniel said in Daniel 11:32,

“The people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits”

This statement clearly reveals that inner strength comes from knowledge of God - his person and faithfulness to his wonderful promises. To be strong and courageous therefore, you must fill yourself with the knowledge of God and his word. The Bible must become your companion. It takes a man of knowledge to overcome temptation to be distracted from God's purpose for one's life. It takes knowledge to hang on in difficult times. The knowledge of God and his word will give you the strength to resist the devil and hang on to your dreams. It is the strength arising from the knowledge in you that will give you courage to resist the enemy, and refuse to be frightened unto submission by the things you see.

Courage is faith. Courage is boldness. Courage is confidence. Courage is taking your stand and maintaining your position. Courage is hanging unto your dream and believing that you can make it come rain or sunshine. Courage is saying no to fear and negative thoughts. Courage is belief or inner confidence you can make it, you can scale any hurdle. It is belief you can crush every mountain that comes your way. Courage is belief you can overcome all obstacles and every problem you will encounter in your pursuit of divine purpose for your life. Courage is inner strength made manifest in positive thoughts, words and actions.

The opposite of courage is discouragement, and discouragement means loss of faith and courage. It means hopelessness. Discouragement is a state of demoralization. In your pursuit of purpose, you will encounter a lot of things that will want to discourage you. But you must refuse to be discouraged. That is why God says we should be strong and courageous. Put on courage always. Be conscious of God and his promises always, it will always encourage you to move on despite the odds against you.

God told Joshua to meditate on the word of God day and night and make sure that his eyes are always focused on the word. The practice of this and obedience to all that he will learn from the "BOOK" will bring success and prosperity. God was trying to teach Joshua that the knowledge he will gather will give him success when practiced, and will also produce strength and courage needed to win all the battles on the way. A fearful person never wins. A discouraged person always ends up a defeated fellow.

Take the advice God gave Joshua, and commit yourself to meditating on God's word day and night. Commit to memory as many scriptures as you can. Believe the word of God and in God with all your heart. Follow the word. Practice all the laws and principles outlined in the Bible diligently, faithfully and cheerfully. If you make this your life style, you will be successful and prosper in all that you do.

RESIST OPPOSITION

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you".
(James 4:7)*

Oppositions are bound to come up in your pursuit of divine purpose for your life. When they do come up, you are to resist them firmly, until victory is won and the opposition crushed. To resist effectively, you must submit yourself to God – his plan and purpose for your life. If you don't submit to God and his plan, you can't resist when the enemy rises to distract you, frustrate or kill the vision or dream completely. Submit yourself then to God and his promise backing his revealed purpose for your life. Defend the vision. Work hard, and resist opposition. Keep your eyes on the expected reward of accomplishment of vision, and opposition will not mean anything to you. You are more than a conqueror. You are destined to win. So resist all opposition. **(To be continued)**

SUCCESS TITBITS

- 1. Success is not by chance but by choice.**
- 2. Hard work gives birth to success.**
- 3. God is not a lazy God. He works daily. He neither sleeps nor slumbers.**
- 4. Service is a means to greatness.**
- 5. Your ability to work without offending your customer, employer or master will determine your success and promotion.**
- 6. Proverbs 10:4 - "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth".**

7. Proverbs 17:23 - "All hard work brings a profit but mere talk leads only to poverty".
8. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 - "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule, 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'".
9. Expose what you are doing. Advertise your goods and services according to your financial capability.
10. There is a difference in creating wealth and just doing business. Work creatively to create wealth.
11. Learn to be yourself and you will not struggle to be what God wants you to be.
12. It is input for output. Hard work produces great harvest.
13. Don't just work, work constructively with a goal in mind.
14. Real work is targeted work.
15. Skill will bring you before great and notable people and make you rich.
16. Train yourself to be a master in what you are doing and the world will celebrate you.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Those who do not respect your assignment disqualify themselves for a relationship.
2. Your assignment determines your close associates.
3. Never discuss your problem with someone incapable of solving it.
4. Those who will not respect your time will not respect your wisdom either. Avoid time wasters.
5. Define every relationship to manage your life and your time well.
6. Don't submit leadership of your life to friends.
7. Your friends are counselors, but you are the decision maker. Your decisions determine your experience.
8. Those you hear always have influence over you.
9. What you see friends do repeatedly, you are likely to copy consciously or unconsciously.
10. Evaluate your relationships from time to time in order to eliminate the unnecessary, and redefine the necessary.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Problems give birth to creative thinking.
2. Your mind is not meant to be a prison, but a launching pad to glory.
3. Great thinkers are great achievers.

4. **Those who are satisfied with what they have and where they are can never think creatively.**
5. **Creative thinking is the answer to the problems of life.**
6. **Creative thinking is the use of the mind and brain to proffer solutions to the problems of life.**
7. **Imagination is the workshop of the mind, capable of turning mind energy into accomplishment and wealth.**
8. **All battles are fought, won or lost in the mind.**
9. **He or what controls your mind controls your life.**
10. **Break loose from your negative mentality and you will shine like God meant you to shine.**