

What on Earth Am I Here For?

The Purpose Driven Life - Part 1

January 8, 2023

Rick Warren's book assignment for the week: read "DAY 1-7", beginning on page 21

Join a small group for 6 weeks.

Welcome to 40 Days of Purpose. This week we're going to look at life's three greatest questions:

1) The question of existence - why am I alive; 2) the question of significance - does my life matter? and 3) the question of intention - what is my purpose?

DAY 1: Why am I alive?

1. This is the first question. It is the question of existence.

Jeremiah 20:18 Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?

2. Jeremiah asked this question several thousand years ago. It is not a new question.

3. How would you answer the question?

4. The secular answer is, "You have to make up your own purpose." How does that strike you?

5. The secular answer appeals to human pride and hubris. It assumes that whatever purpose you come up with will satisfy you. It may for a while, but the problem is a simple one. God designed human beings for a purpose bigger than any human purpose.

6. The effects of this answer inevitably leads to discouragement, a sense of futility, depression, and hopelessness. The suicide rate in our country is skyrocketing. Why? Because the inevitable conclusion is that life is not worth living.

7. The answer to the first great question starts with God, not man.

Proverbs 16.4, The Lord has made everything for His own purpose.

8. How does this verse start us off on finding the answer to the first question of life? "Why am I here?"

Ephesians 1:4, "Long before He laid down the earth's foundation, He had us in His mind and settled on us as the focus of His love to be made whole and holy by His love."

9. What was God's primary motive in making you?

10. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Does my life matter?

1. The second great question of life is the question of **significance**.

Isaiah 49:4 "My work all seems so useless. I've spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all...."

2. Sometimes, life does seem futile. Does my life matter? When was the last time you asked yourself that question?

3. What was going on in your life that precipitated that question?

4. Significance comes from outside of us. It is not an "inside" job.

Isaiah 44:2 I am your Creator. You were in My care, even before you were born. You scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book.

5. What gives your life significance?

a. You know the meaning of life. That gives significance.

b. You know how much you matter to God. That gives you significance.

c. You know God's purposes for your life and you live them out. That gives you significance.

5. What strikes you most from these three significance-givers?

6. We are made to live with meaning, forever.

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

2 Corinthians 5:1 When this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down. God will have a house in Heaven for us to live in. A home He himself has made, which will last forever.

Prov. 9:6 Leave your impoverished confusion and live and walk up the street to a life with meaning.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: What is my purpose?

1. **Review:** (1) I was made to be loved by God, and (2) I was made to last forever.
2. Then comes the **third** question - the question of **intention**.

Psalm 89:47 "Why did you create us? For nothing?"

3. The greatest atheist philosopher of the 20th century, Bertrand Russell said, "Unless you assume the existence of God, the question of life's meaning and purpose is irrelevant."

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created...

4. If those words hadn't been there, we wouldn't be discussing the meaning of life or your purpose. It all starts with God, it continues with God, it ends with God.

Proverbs 9:10 Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.

5. Knowing God is the key that opens the door to what the bible calls "understanding." Understanding is the ability to understand how real life works, how human nature and relationships work together.

Colossians 1:16-17 For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible...everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him. It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for...part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.

6. If you want to know your purpose in life, start getting to know God. The more you get to know God, the more you're going to understand the ways and the wisdom of God and the more you're going to understand the meaning and purpose of life.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Committing to 40 Days of Purpose

1. There are four ways you can gain from 40 Days of Purpose.

- Attend a bible study group for 6 weeks.
- Read a short chapter each day from Rick Warren's book.
- Study Seth's devotionals (sent out on Sunday night)
- Listen to Sunday's messages.

2. But gaining from 40 Days of Purpose doesn't "just happen." You will gain just as much as you commit to it!

3. Believing that God created me for His purposes and that the best use of my life is to fulfill those purposes, I commit the next 40 days to better understanding of God's five purposes for me.

* I will participate in a 40 days of Purpose small group.

* I will read each day's chapter from the Purpose Driven Life book.

(It will take you about 10 minutes a day. I also suggest that you get a partner that you can call on the phone and discuss what you've read. Don't go through this journey alone. Get a partner).

* I will do my best to hear all 7 Sunday messages in this series, The Purpose Driven Life.

4. Is the rest of your life and all of the rest of your eternity worth 40 hours of your time, now?

PRAYER-

"Dear God, I realize that if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be alive. But because you made me, you must have a purpose for me. I admit that I focused on my plans for my life, not yours. I want to know your purposes for me, so I commit the next 40 days of my life to learning about it. Thank you that you made me to love me. Thank you that you cared for me even when I didn't know you. Thank you that I was made to last forever. I want a life filled with meaning. I want to start by getting to know you better. As best as I understand, I ask you, Jesus Christ, to come into my life and help me to understand your purposes for me. I want to take the first step today. In your name I pray, Amen."