



# A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

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## Day 1

**Philippians 1:12 “Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.”**

In Philippians, Paul makes it very clear that he knows for certain that he is living a “purposeful life”.

Paul was not living an easy life, he was not living the life he had planned for himself, BUT he was living his BEST LIFE because he knew that his life was purposeful. And he knew that even when he was in prison or suffering, that he was doing it all so that God’s word could be shared with more and more people.

You can probably think of some situations where you feel similar; where **WHAT** you are doing is worth it because of **WHY** you are doing it. And it seems to me that this is how Paul felt.

Paul knew that what he was doing was achieving the purpose that God had given him. I wonder today: *What is the purpose that you feel that God has given to you?* God has a purpose for each and every one of us, even if you're not sure what it is yet, then ask God to show you what He wants you to do. Just as God had a purpose for Paul - to preach and write to advance the gospel - God has a purpose for you too.

### **PRAYER:**

Thank you, my Jesus, for choosing me to be a part of Your plan. I pray that You will always remind me that, in You, I have a purpose. If I am not yet sure how to live my life in the way that You want me to, then please give me a fresh revelation of what it is that You want me to do. Amen.

## Day 2

**Philippians 1:21** says: **“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”**

When you give your life to Jesus.

**God wants us to surrender our whole lives. Every aspect. God wants us to give it all to Him.** Give every part of your life over to God.

Why not make a list of each aspect of your life, write out all of the different pieces and work out whether you have really given them WHOLEHEARTEDLY over to God. This could include:

- Time
- Finances
- Energy
- Family
- Friendships
- Work or studies

With each of these things, have you said to God: God this is for You. Take it. I want to do Your will.

He wants you to choose to entrust all of this to Him. You can say in your heart or aloud: I choose to give my life to God. I trust Him with my time, my finances, my energy, my home, my family. If you are going to give **“YOUR LIFE”** to Jesus, then you need to give **“YOUR WHOLE LIFE”** to Him, not just **“PART OF YOUR LIFE”**. When you give your life to Him, He sorts out your mess and renews your heart, and helps you to live a **PURPOSEFUL LIFE**. God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus came into the world to die for us on the cross and be a sacrifice for all of the things that we have done wrong. We cannot sort out our tangled mess on our own. We need help. And the only one who can help us to sort out our tangled mess is **JESUS!** You’ve still got the same life **BUT** when God the Father looks at you, **He no longer sees “mess” but Jesus’ perfection.**

### **PRAYER:**

Thank you for loving me. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for accepting me, and for giving me a purpose in You. I choose to give You my life. I want to be able to say - as surely as Paul did - that “to live is Christ and to die is gain”. Amen.

## Day 3

**Psalm 5:3 Every morning I lay out the pieces of my life on your altar and watch for fire to descend. (MSG)**

God does not only want a part of your life; He wants you to give Him your whole life.

If you are going to give your life to Jesus and know that your life is from God and for God, then it is not a partial decision. We should **not just say** that you are living for God and only give Him part of your life.

**We have our life FROM GOD, then why would you not want to live it FOR Christ?**

Can you honestly say that “to live is Christ” as in, as you live your life, you are outwardly reflecting the love you feel for Him on the inside?

Anyway, to me, life is like a bundle of tangled fairy lights. It is messy. When God created humans, He created us perfect, but as soon as sin came into the world, it made us messy and tangled.

Inside each of our tangled mess of fairy lights that we call life, we each have so many parts to it. We have hopes, problems, dreams, insecurities, past mistakes, worries, sin.

And for each of us, all of these things will look very different depending on what is going on in your life.

### **PRAYER:**

Thank you Lord for my life. I choose today to entrust every part of my life to You. In moments when I am tempted to keep parts of my life for myself, please remind me that my life is FROM You, and that You want my life to be FOR You. Amen

## Day 4

**Psalm 37:4 “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.”**

What does this mean, to “delight in the Lord”? It means that you spend time with Him. Get to know Him. Enjoy being in God’s presence. Paul realised that his life and his purpose were not about Him. He wanted his life to be purposeful and chose for it to be defined by Jesus.

From day to day we can convince ourselves that our life is all about us, what we want to do, what we want to say, where we want to go, how we spend our time... but our life is not given to us by ourselves. Our lives were given to us by God, and therefore they should not be about us.

**When it says that God will give you your heart’s desires:** I do not think that the Bible is saying here that if you take delight in God that He will give you everything that you desire already. I think what God is saying is that **He will give you the desires of His heart, into your heart.**

When this Psalm says that God will give you your heart’s desires, it doesn’t mean that He will fulfil your desires that are already in your heart BUT that He will put the desires in your heart... give you the desires of your heart and align your heart with His heart. Only when you try to live your life for Jesus will it finally start to make sense. We only have to give our life to Jesus once, but every day we need to make choices which are for Him.

### **PRAYER**

Today, I ask that You give me the desires of my heart - not give me the answers to what is already in there, but put the desires of Your heart into my heart. I want my desires to align with Your desires; and my heart to align with Your heart. Amen

## Day 5

**Philippians 2:13** “God himself is the one who’s at work among you, who provides both the will and the energy to enable you to do what pleases Him.”

When you give your life to Jesus; it is a **decision** to live for Him every day.

When you give your life to Jesus; your **desires** align with His heart.

When you give your life to Jesus, your **deeds** show that you are living your life for Him.

You make a **decision** for God.

Which leads to **desires** from God.

Which leads to you wanting to do **deeds** that please God.

### **DECISION > DESIRE > DEEDS**

God has a specific plan for each of us, about how He wants us to live our lives in a way that pleases Him. However, if you’re not sure yet what desires God specifically has put into your heart, then you can start with the desires that we are given in the Bible which He wants all of us to live out.

1. **John 15:12** Jesus said, “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you”.
2. **Hebrews 13:16** “Do not forget to do good and share with others”.
3. **Proverbs 3:27** “Do not withhold good from those whom it is due, when it is in your power to act”.

As you speak with Jesus today, why don’t you ask Him to give you the desires that He wants you to have? Maybe you could ask Him to reveal to you what it is that you can do in your deeds that will please Him?

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, please help me to live every day for You. Please give me the desire and the power to do what pleases You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.