

Essay #2

LIFE'S PURPOSE

God Has A Purpose For Each Of Our Lives

God has a distinct purpose for your life. That may come as a surprise to you. Perhaps you have never considered it. If so, it is time to take it off the shelf and ponder it because it is vitally important. To do so will require some serious self-searching. You will need to switch lenses in order to see your life in a new way.

Discovering and pursuing your God given purpose may not lead to changing your lifestyle or career, but it will certainly alter how you perceive what you are doing. It will definitely add the new and specific dimension of *intent*. For example, a teacher may view his/her task as a way to make a living. This initial perception could be expanded to include a way to help children have better lives. A congress person might change from an attitude of wielding power for one's own benefit to being motivated to become concerned about making life better, for those people whose lives lack stability and opportunity, through legislation.

Sometimes, however, discovering one's God given purpose in life, and pursuing it could result in a radical change of course, which would be more dramatic than a simple change of attitude.

However, we must not underestimate the importance and value of attitudinal change. Even though we may not change *what* we do, *how* we go about doing it can make a radical difference. It may significantly change the outcome of our efforts.

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The challenge begins with self-directed questions: God, what would you have me do? What purpose would you have me serve? What is my task in your overall scheme of things? What is my assignment? That prayerful attitude should consume us until the answer comes - and it will, if we are serious, open and patient.

The answer we get from God might very well gnaw on us for a long while, because of its demand on us. It may create internal tension, or tension with some other person: spouse or parent. However, one thing is certain: Pursuing your God given purpose will ultimately bring you unspeakable joy - guaranteed!

It should be understood, these questions with all of their intensity can and should be asked at any stage of life: student - career - retirement - old age. Our life's purpose will understandably change, evolving throughout the course of life. For that reason the question should be asked at all stages: What is my God-given purpose NOW?

At this juncture we need to know how to listen for God's answer to our questions. How do I discover what it is that God wants me to do now? What should I be about?

The answer will most certainly be hidden in your talents. What do you do best? What are you capable of? What brings you the most satisfaction? Are you an artist - a musician - a good conversationalist - a business

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minded person? Your gifts should lead you to fulfilling God's purpose for your life. Keep seeking until you feel confident you have found it.

Another thing is certain: When your unique purpose is discovered and pursued, it will contribute to making the world a better place and/or the lives of people - or someone - enriched and more meaningful. It will have a significant ripple effect. It will have a creative edge and convey hope. God's modus operandi.

In turn, it will give you a profound sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. You will know deep inside yourself: *This is why I am here!*