

PURPOSE

Defined (Merriam-Webster Dictionary): “something. . . . to be attained.” “Resolution.” “Determination.”

The purpose for our lives may fall into two main categories:

1) General purpose (what we are to do and how we are to live from day to day)

✧ **How would you describe God's general purpose for those who follow Jesus?**

2) Specific purpose (unique assignment(s) or intentions for us as individuals)

✧ **Give some specific examples of people in the Bible with a unique purpose.**

Consider:

- Genesis 45:5-8 (Joseph)
- Exodus 3:9-10 (Moses)
- Esther 4:11-17 (Queen Esther)
- Acts 9:3-6, 15 (Saul / Paul)
- Hebrews 11 (many listed)
- The Old Testament prophets
- Jesus' disciples

Out of all the purposes God has for us, what is the most important?

- Our most important purpose (Mark 12:29-31; Romans 12:1-2)
- To Love God, is to obey (John 14:15).
- To obey God, is to bear fruit (John 15:5).
- What IS fruit for God? (Galatians 5:22-23)
- To bear fruit is to bring glory to God (John 15:8).

Why live according to God's purpose for your life?

- Joy of loving God (Philippians 4:4-7)
- Joy of loving others (Luke 9:48)
- Rewards in Heaven (2 Corinthians 5:10)

What are the consequences of not living according to God's purpose for your life?

Some additional considerations:

- Scripture lists some of the gifts that He gives us to carry out His plan for our lives as part of the body of Christ. (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31; Ephesians 4:11-13)
- God prepared work for us to do in advance. (Ephesians 2:10)
- If God calls you to do something specific for Him, can it be stopped? (Acts 5:38-39)
- If we are still trying to “earn” our way to God, can we still bear fruit for Him? (Romans 7:4)
- Romans 12:1 states that we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God. How does verse 2 describe the way we are to do this?
- Who or What gives us the power needed to live for God's purposes? (Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:9; 2 Timothy 1:7, 9-10)

✧ **Has God placed any specific desires or plans for your life in your heart? If so, what are they?**
Might they change from time to time?

**If you live according to God's purpose for your life,
you'll never have to “work” a day in your life! (Why?)**