

Renowned psychiatrist [Victor Frankl](#)'s premise is that 'man's search for meaning' is the primary motivation of his life. He speaks of :

1. the 'will to meaning' as opposed to
2. [Freud](#)'s 'will to pleasure' and
3. [Friedrich Nietzsche](#)'s 'will to power'.

Jesus said "not my will, but thine be done"

Here's a story about Bruce Lee which sets the stage for this little exercise. A master martial artist asked Bruce to teach him everything Bruce knew about martial arts. Bruce held up two cups, both filled with liquid. "The first cup," said Bruce, "represents all of your knowledge about martial arts. The second cup represents all of my knowledge about martial arts. If you want to fill your cup with my knowledge, you must first empty your cup of your knowledge."

If you want to discover your true purpose in life, you must first empty your mind of all the false purposes you've been taught (including the idea that you may have no purpose at all).

To have a PURPOSE driven church, we must have a purpose driven life!

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.

A useless life is an early death.

If a man hasn't found something worth dying for, he isn't fit to live

Jack Palance and Billy Crystal in City Slickers...

[Curly](#): Do you know what the secret of life is?

[holds up one finger]

[Curly](#): This.

[Mitch](#): Your finger?

[Curly](#): One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and the rest don't mean shit.

[Mitch](#): But, what is the "one thing?"

[Curly](#): [smiles] That's what *you* have to find out.

FINDING AND FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE

Suicide, depression, and apathy is rampant in 2012

The man who asks “what” will always be the servant of the man who asks “WHY”

Why am I here? Why do we go to church? Why do I want to marry this person? Why do I want to work for this company?

Why we do not fulfill our God given purpose—

1. We fail to define our purpose:

Jer. 1:5 - Jer. 29:11 -Prov. 19:21 -Rom. 8:28 -Rom. 9:21 -

It begins with knowing God

It consists of walking with God

It's fulfilled in serving God

Ecc. 7:24

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Life seems useless. | USEFUL |
| 2. Life seems tiresome. | ENERGIZED |
| 3. Life seems unfulfilling. | FULFILLED |
| 4. Life is insignificant. | SIGNIFICANT |
| 5. Life seems uncontrollable. | DILIBERATE |

2. We trade our lifelong / eternal purpose for immediate gratification:

Cain...Gen. 4:11,12

Esau...Gen 25:29

Tiger woods

Televangelist scandals

3. We give up on the pursuit of our purpose because the price of sacrifice is too high to pay:

Exod. 9:13-17

Can God use bad things / events to bring about good?

Do we often focus on temporary instead of eternal?
We become victims and play the blame game.

Our natural response:

We waffle, we vacillate, we crater!

James 1:6-8 1 Kings 18:21

Supernatural perspective:

2 Kings 6:17

4. We are unable to recover from failure, _____ so we give up on our dreams:

David was chosen as king when he was a shepherd boy

David killed a bear and a lion without a weapon

David defended a nation and killed a nine foot giant

David was a man after God's own heart

David wrote most of the Psalms and led worship

David gave the money and the plans to build Solomon's temple

David was confronted by the prophet about his greed and lust

David was an adulterer and a second degree murderer

David was a dysfunctional father and lost the city of Jerusalem to his insubordinate son.

David was confronted by his general who said "you love those who hate you, and you hate those who love you"

Acts 13:36 -

Ecc. 7:24 says, "How can anyone discover the meaning of life?"

Jer 1:5—"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jer. 29:11 -For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Prov. 19:21 -Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Rom. 8:28 -And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Rom. 9:21 -Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Gen 25:29 "Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" ...Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."

Gen. 4:11,12—Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth. "

Exod. 9:13-17 confront Pharaoh and say to him... For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶ But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

James 1:6-8 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

1 Kings 18:21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

2 Kings 6:17—And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

____ Acts 13:36 -“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.

What is the purpose for your life? Your job? Relationships?

The Curse of CAIN – **(wandering with no purpose)**

**the tension between Determined people / or
Dependent people (on God)**

Gen 4: ¹⁰ The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth. ”¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over. ” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The purpose of trouble, adversaries, opposition –

Rom. 9:17 - For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

RO 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose**.

pur-pose . 1. The object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal. 2. A result or an effect that is intended or desired; an intention. 3. Determination; resolution. 4. The matter at hand; the point at issue

The man who asks "What?" will always be the servant of the man who asks "Why?"

(Only then will you know purpose)

ISA 1:11 "The multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" (WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE ? KJV) says the LORD.

"I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?"

Exod.9:15 For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. ¹⁶ But I have raised you up for this very **purpose**, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

1 Chron 23:5 Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that **purpose**."

JOB 36:5 "God is mighty,... and firm in his **purpose**.

PS 57:2 I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his **purpose** for me.

PS 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;

you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The LORD will fulfill **his purpose** for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-- do not abandon the works of your hands.

PR 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's **purpose** that prevails.

Isa.46:10— I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My **purpose** will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my **purpose**. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

Jesus' purpose—

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

JN 12:27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very **reason** I came to this hour

JN 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this **reason** I was born, and for this I came into the world

1 Jn. 3:8- The **reason** the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

AC 13:36 "For when David had served God's **purpose** in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers

GAL 4:17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the **purpose** is good,

Proverbs 20:5 - The **purposes** of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.

Purpose is the catalyst that creates Godly plans –

GODS PLAN – He's not winging it! / He made a plan/ so should we

He has a plan for Salvation

(from Adam to the cross, from the cross to this morning)

He has a plan for the future (Eschatology)

Second coming, rapture, tribulation, anti-Christ, mark of the beast

He has a plan for you - your job, spouse, kids, church,

- **Things we should plan with a purpose:**
- Our spouse / healthy marriage
- Our childrens emotional and spiritual health
- Our education / career
- Our financial future /

Jer. 29:11 For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

PS 20:4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your **plans** succeed.

PS 33:10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the **plans** of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

PR 16:1 To man belong the **plans** of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue. All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your **plans** will succeed. PR 16:9 In his heart a man **plans** his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

LK 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

Consider those who made preparations / plans in scripture:

The 5 wise virgins who waited on the bridegroom.

The disciples made preparations before the last supper

Noah prepared a boat for over 100 years

David prepared the plan for Solomon to build the temple

God gave Moses a detailed plan for the tabernacle

Joseph saved a nation by giving Pharaoh a plan to avoid famine

Jesus is preparing a place for us!

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus

How to follow Gods plan:

1. Be decisive— Joshua said, choose you this day.

Elijah said, how long will you halt between two decisions?

2. Be focused— prioritize and learn to say no to lesser important things.

“Jesus set his face like a flint toward Jerusalem” (resolutely set out)

3. Don't be afraid to fail—Gideon hid in a winepress

4. PUT it in writing—Habakkuk 2 says to write down the vision
(this will hold you accountable to progress)