

1 Purpose

Did you write your mission statement in Question 6? It made you think didn't it? When Steven Covey's book came out in the 90's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, I wrote my first mission statement. I probably stared for hours at a blank sheet of paper before even beginning to write. But once I did, it was a life changer for me. It was like building a house and putting all the pieces together. I went from feeling like a seashell being tossed around in the waves crashing on the beach, to becoming a rudder directing my sailboat. I felt like I was grounded, yet going somewhere.

We are women of purpose. We are living on purpose. And we are learning how to purpose to live. You don't just live on purpose. You purpose to live. This is what defines your life. It's why we started strong writing a mission statement. ***"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;" Jeremiah 1:5a NIV.*** God created you on purpose, in His image. He created you to live on purpose. So many people are looking for purpose in their life, but they don't even know what purpose is. I've heard them say, "I wonder what my purpose is." Or "I wish my life had purpose." If you understand what you're looking for, then you can find it. Turn to Ecc 3:11, ***"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end." AMPC.***

Purpose is intention, determination or resolution. It is an intention that guides your actions. Sometimes it helps to understand by knowing what it isn't. There is a difference between purpose, meaning, destiny and goals. Meaning is the message behind what you do. What is God speaking to you through your circumstances? Destiny is your God fate. Once you know Jesus, heaven is your destiny. A goal is a target, something you are aiming for. Your purpose is to love God. We may have the same purpose, but it will manifest differently in each one of us because we're all different. You are unique!

Purpose is not just a noun. It's a verb. I don't just have purpose. I purpose to have. We are created in the image of God and will always be best-suited living according to His nature. God purposed eternity in our hearts. Turn to

Ephesians 1:9: ***"Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him," AMPC.*** Some commentators interpret "in Him" to mean "in Himself," while others see it as "in Christ." God purposes to "protithémi" (pro-ti'-thie-me) a Greek verb meaning to set before, or propose. It lays stress upon the personal interest that God had in foreordaining His Will for us. Let's look at 2 Cor 1:17-20 NLT: ***"Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?" NAS.*** Here, purpose is the Greek verb "bouleuó" (bool-yoo'-o) meaning to take counsel or deliberate. What God is saying here is that He purposes or takes counsel to resolve with determination with Himself. As God purposes, so He fulfills. Let's read on in verses 18-20: ***"As surely as God is faithful, our word to you does not waver between "Yes" and "No." For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says. For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory."*** When you understand what God's will for you is, then you determine that you will follow through. You purpose in the power of God to stay the course. This is your victory!

He purposed that we live out His kingdom. God is love and we are happiest when we are loving others. This is why purpose as a verb brings me hope. God gives me the power to purpose or be proactive about my intentions. I purpose to see what He has for me. Every moment has a purpose. When you purpose you become proactive and cement it in your heart.

How many of you see that love is a huge motivator? My mission statement in this study is to live life like a rag and squeeze every drop out of it. I live like what my epitaph will read someday: "She was loving kind and wise." This is the main event. I used to think out into the future... when such and such happens or changes. Turn with me to 2 Cor 6:2: ***"For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation." NLT.*** Jesus says, "Now is the day of salvation!" The spirit world is the present world. When you write out and say out loud your mission statement you give it power. "I

want to live joyfully!!!” I am thinking about what I am saying. I am envisioning joyful moments throughout the day no matter what happens. Let’s look at Hebrews 1:3... Ask the person sitting next to you if they need help finding Hebrews. All of us are at different places learning the Bible. We are officially living in an illiterate Bible culture. We are here today changing the culture!! **“He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God’s] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high.” AMPC.** Your words are literally creating life! Believe, own, confess, live it out. This is why mutual life application of God’s Word is so important. You need to apply your life to God’s Word.

What are you saying? What are you saying about your life? Turn with me to Hebrews 11:3: **“By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.” AMPC.** God spoke and the worlds were formed. What you speak about your life you speak into your life. What you speak about your world forms your world.

You have been created on purpose, for a purpose. You are here to live with purpose and understand your purpose. You are learning to speak words that build new life and creation in you and around you. Stop speaking negativity into your life and your loved ones. It took me years to stop speaking the downside to every situation. I prayed for God to reverse generational curses and restore generational blessings. Do you know how He did this? Through MY words. I had to stop cursing and start blessing every person, every situation, every thought, every angry feeling, every thing negative that came into my mind. I had to learn to choose life on purpose so that I could live. You need to stop cursing, stop blaming, stop seeing the negative side to your loved ones and situations. This isn’t about being “Pollyanna.” Of course there is hurt, pain and badness. But when you start speaking God’s Word over that person, seeing with the eyes of Jesus, owning your own stuff and moving forward, you shift the atmosphere. Holy Spirit seismic shifts begin to take place. Life will never be the same. Make purpose a verb in your life. **Purpose to live on purpose.**