

OVERCOMING PURPOSELESSNESS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

WORSHIP

See the Light, Grace that Won't Let Go, When I look into Your Holiness

WELCOME

What item do you have in your home that has the most number of functions (multi-purpose)? How about the one that has served its purpose for the longest time (long-lasting)?

WORD

ECCLESIASTES 2:10-11

¹⁰ All that my eyes desired, I did not refuse them. I did not restrain my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor; and this was my reward for all my labor. ¹¹ So I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold, all was futility and striving after wind, and there was no benefit under the sun.

EPHESIANS 1:18-19

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

Have you ever asked what your purpose is? Are you wrestling with a sense of purposelessness in your life?

There was somebody who was very much like that in the Bible. King Solomon was the richest and wisest man that had ever lived. He had everything. He did not hold back and tried all the pleasure that he could have (**Ecclesiastes 2:10**). His conclusion was that all was vanity (**Ecclesiastes 2:11**) and futility (**Ecclesiastes 2:17**). Death is sad, but there is something sadder than death, and that is a life without purpose!

How do we overcome purposelessness?

BE IN PRAYER (v.18)

We cannot overcome this toxic reality of purposelessness if we are not in prayer. The Apostle Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus (**Ephesians 1:18**). His prayer was that the “eyes of their heart be enlightened”. We need to be enlightened because we are in darkness. That darkness is not just because of ignorance. There is darkness because of a hardness or refusal to believe in God or to follow God. Unless we experience the power of God to open the eyes of our hearts, we will not know the truth and we will not be able to recalibrate our lives towards the right purpose.

KNOW YOUR IDENTITY (PERSON) IN CHRIST (v.18)

We are to know the hope of His calling—our identity. When we don't know who we really are, we are swayed to and fro like a double-minded person (**James 1:8**).

Know that even though we are made in God's image, all of us at a certain point in life, are spiritually dead (**Ephesians 2:1-3**). But in the grace and mercy of God, He makes all things new when Jesus enters our life. We are chosen and called to proclaim the excellencies of God (**1 Peter 2:9-10**). We are a showcase of God's mercy and grace in this age and the age to come (**Ephesians 2:4-6**).

When we know who we are in Christ, we become secure. We can recalibrate what's going on around us and find the purpose that God made us for. Knowing our identity in Christ, we can fulfill our eternal destiny in Christ.

KNOW YOUR PURPOSE (v.18)

While His calling is the beginning of our relationship with Him, the “riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” talks about our end, or destiny (**Ephesians 1:18**). Coming to Christ is just the beginning but sometimes we treat it as the end. What you become and how you become what God made you to become brings glory to God. God made us for a purpose.

In the preceding verses (**vv.13-14**), it says that the Holy Spirit was given to us as a pledge of our inheritance as children of God.

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We have an inheritance to look forward to. God is a rewarder; how we live our life now, matters.

We are God's "workmanship" created in Christ Jesus for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). To be God's workmanship means we are called to do good works. We have to participate with God in becoming all that He made us to be. This doesn't happen overnight. There is work involved and it takes time. When we know who we are and we understand that we were made for a purpose, we can become all that God made us to be.

He has chosen us to bear fruit (**John 15:16**). This talks about the fruit of the Spirit but there is also the fruit of the good things you do for other people. God has called you wherever you are to be the reflection of Jesus Christ to the people around you. We are His ambassadors.

Live your life to glorify God. God is glorified when we bear much fruit (**John 15:8**). Live a life for others and you will experience the joy of the Lord (**John 15:11**).

You may have had a clear purpose but you find that purpose blurred over this season of life. We have to be careful of the influences that we allow into our minds, where we recalibrate truth. Maybe it could also be stubbornness. If you are in Christ and if you find that you have drifted from God's purpose for you, repent and surrender your life to the Lord and allow Him to live out His purpose through you. Don't allow the distractions in life to derail you from your purpose.

KNOW HIS POWER TOWARD YOU (v.19)

Ephesians 1:19 tells us that we live this life through the power of Jesus. It enables us to live a purposeful life. It is made available to us (**vv.20-21**). This is the same power that God has over death. God is all-powerful in this age and even in the age to come. Our eternity is secure. This is the power that we have in Christ.

Jesus said that He is the vine and we are the branches (**John 15:5**). There is no wilderness and dry season in Jesus because He is the source of everything we need to bear fruit. If we do not abide in Jesus, we have no power on our own to bear fruit. The secret to fulfilling God's purpose in life is by listening and being sensitive to God's Word. To abide in Him is to love just as He loved us. We are to love others (**John 15:9-10**). When we love and obey God, we allow power from the vine to flow to us to bear fruit. Bearing fruit means doing whatever God calls you to do at the moment.

Will you allow the power of God to flow in and through you? You can only do this when you are in Christ. You will recognize that you are His workmanship made for good works. Your life will bring glory, honor, and pleasure to the Lord and you will experience the fullness of joy like you've never experienced before as you fulfill God's purpose for your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Married couples/ parents

As a spouse or a parent, how do you abide in Christ? What are the vain and futile things that you've done in the past that you would like to warn other married couples and parents against??

2. Single adults

What hinders or distracts you from living a life of purpose during this season of your life? What influences you the most in your decisions?

3. Children

Have you ever thought that knowing and doing your purpose in life is for adults only? Why? Do you know of a person in the Bible who served the Lord and other people at a young age? What will you do to follow their example?

4. Everyone

How has your discovery and understanding of your identity in Christ impact the way you see yourself and others? In what ways are you going to live out the God-given purpose you have in the power of the Holy Spirit?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are feeling empty, burnt out, lost, and wandering through life without purpose. Be a channel of blessing to them through your words, actions, and influence. Live a life intentionally doing good works for others. Share the good news that there is a purpose-driven life in and through Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 1:18-19

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