

Finding God's Will for My Life

QUESTIONS

- What is my purpose in life?
- What is the meaning of life?
- How can I find this out?
- Do I have more than one purpose?

"If you find out the answer, let me know."

THE STARTING POINT

- Start at the beginning (Genesis 1:1)
- Contrast to will of others & self

"Without God, life makes no sense."

WHY WAS I CREATED?

- "for _____" (Colossians 1:16)
- "for _____ pleasure" (Revelation 4:11)

Popular Opinions

"It's time for me to be happy."

"If it makes you happy, do it."

"Whatever you do, make sure it makes you happy."

TRUE HAPPINESS

- Psalm 37:3-7 (trust, delight, commit, rest)
- Matthew 6:33 (seek first-Kingdom of God)
- Starting point must be _____

GOD HAS PLANS FOR YOU

- Consider Creation
- Ephesians 1:4
- Jeremiah 1:5
- Jeremiah 29:11

FINDING GOD'S WILL REQUIRES FOCUS

- Consider the power of focus
- A life lived on purpose
- Living in the light of Eternity
- "Life Motto"
 - define motto: _____

Popular "Life Mottos"

"Life's just a party; then you die."

"More good times."

"Go for it; no matter how it ends, it was an experience."

- What is the source of the above "Life Mottos"? _____
- "Life Mottos" from the Bible: _____

- How do "Life Mottos" create focus? _____

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING?

#1 Cultivate a Relationship With God

- 1 Timothy 2:4 – Be saved
- Spiritual disciplines (grow in knowledge)
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Acknowledge – know, perceive, find out, consider
- Learn what makes God smile (Numbers 6:25)

Studying to gain a greater understanding of the Bible and be changed by it.

Youth Bible Study

- Constant conversations with God (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Meditation (Psalm 1:1-3)
- Get the Mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)

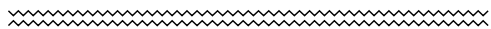
#2 Surrender Your Will to God's Will

"The greatness of a man's power is in the measure of his surrender"
(William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army).

- What are some barriers to surrendering?
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- "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31)

"There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right then, have it your way'" (C. S. Lewis).



WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

#1 Be Part of God's Family

- salvation
- a member of the body of Christ
- be part of a church family
- 1 Corinthians 12:18

#2 To Serve God

- serve God by serving others
- Mark 10:44
- Philippians 2:4

Some people are more interested in "serve us" than in "service."

- Be committed to your church family (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- Protect the unity of the church (Ephesians 4:3)

What's your excuse for not serving?

"Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor, Samson was dependent, Rahab was immoral, David had an affair and family problems, Elijah was suicidal, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least, Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered, Martha worried too much, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was unpopular, Thomas was doubtful, Paul had poor health, and Timothy was timid."

#3 Finding Your Individual Purpose

- Job 10:8 "fashioned me together" ("shaped and formed me" HCSB)
- What are we shaped by?
- How to discover our spiritual gifts
- How to develop our strengths
- Use what God has given you
- Accept & develop your SHAPE

"David . . . served his own generation by the will of God." – Acts 13:36

"David . . . served the purpose of God in his own generation." –Acts 13:36 AMP

"David . . . a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." –Acts 13:22

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