

# 40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 3

## What Drives Your Life?

### POINT TO PRAY ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*You are not an accident.*

*Nothing that happens to us is by accident. We are put here by God for a purpose. To figure out that purpose requires us to get to know the Creator.*

### VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

*“The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what He does for us.” – Romans 12:3 MSG*

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*Knowing that God created me for a purpose, what areas of my personality, background, and physical appearance am I still struggling to accept?*

*We're NOT talking about accepting parts of your character that need changing. We're NOT talking about living with your sins and not trying to change. We are talking about those parts that you can't really change, and yet you aren't happy with. God made you who you are. Accept that.*

### • **What Drives Your Life?**

• Everyone's life is driven by something...

• Ecclesiastes 4:4 NLT

4) Then I observed that most people are motivated to success by their envy of their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless, like chasing the wind.

• To Drive: To guide, to control or to Direct

• What are the driving forces in your life?

• We are driven by: Problems, Pressures, Deadlines, Painful Memories, Haunting Fears, and Unconscious Beliefs

- There are literally 100's of things that drive us...

- I'd like to discuss FIVE Today:

## 1 - Many people are driven by GUILT

- These people spend their time running from regrets and hiding their shame
- *Guilt driven people allow the Past to control their Future*
  - *You are a product of your past, but you don't have to be a prisoner of it*
- God's purpose is not limited to your past
  - He turned a murderer named Moses into a deliverer of millions, and a coward named Gideon into heroic leader
- God specializes in giving people a fresh start:
- Psalm 32:1-2 MSG
  - 1) How happy you must be that your sins are forgiven - you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.
  - 2) How happy you must be, GOD holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him.

## 2 - Many people are driven by ANGER

- These people hold on to hurts and never get over them
  - Instead of releasing their pain through forgiveness, they rehearse it over and over again in their minds
- There are two common responses to Anger
  - Some people "Clam Up" and internalize all of their anger
  - Some people "Blow Up" and explode it unto others
- Both responses are unhealthy, unhelpful and wrong
- *Anger driven people are hurt more by their anger than the people they are angry at*
  - The person who offended you have probably forgotten the offense and gone on with their life, while you continue to stew in your pain, perpetuating the past
  - *It can't hurt you if you let it go...*

- The past is past...
  - Nothing will change it
- You are only hurting yourself by hanging on to it
  - Those who hurt you in the past can only continue to hurt you now if you hold on to the past
- Job 5:2 NIV
  - 2) Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.

### 3 - Many people are driven by FEAR

- Your fears may be the result of a Traumatic Experience, Unrealistic Expectations, Growing up in a “High-Control” Home, or some other cause
  - Whatever the cause, you are probably missing great opportunities in your life because you are afraid
  - *Fear is a self-imposed prison that will keep you from becoming what God intends for you to be*
  - You MUST move against fear with the weapons of faith and love
- 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:18 ESV
  - 18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

### 4 - Many people are driven by MATERIALISM

- The *desire to acquire* becomes the goal of their lives
- This drive to always want more is based on a misconception that having more will make you more happy, more important or more secure
- Possessions only provide temporary happiness
  - Because THINGS do not change, you eventually become bored with them and then want newer, bigger and better versions
    - *Materialistic Electronic Gizmo, Version 2.3 is clearly better than Materialistic Electronic Gizmo, Version 2.2!*
- Some people are deluded into thinking that if they get more, they will be more important

- *He who dies with the most toys, DOESN'T win...*

- *He just has more stuff for the relatives to fight over!*

- *Self worth and Net Worth are not the same*

- It's myth that if you get more, you will be more important

- Your value is not determined by your valuables

- Matthew 6:24 NIV

- 24) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

5 - Many people are driven by the need for APPROVAL

- *These people allow the expectations of others to control their lives*

- Many adults are still driven by trying to earn the approval of displeasing parents

- Many people are always worried what others might think about them

- *"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody"*

- 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17 NIV

- 15) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- 16) For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world.

- 17) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- *What we are looking for during this class is to show you how to live a PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE*

- *Without a purpose:*

- *Life is Motion without Meaning*

- *Life is Activity without Direction*

- *Life is Events without Reason*

- What is your life like when you do not allow yourself to be driven by fear and anger and guilt?
- What is your life like when you are driven by a Purpose to please your Father?
- What are the benefits of knowing what your purpose is?
- Here are 5 benefits of knowing the Purpose for your life...

## 1 - Knowing Your Purpose gives MEANING to your life

- We were made to have Meaning in our life
  - *Without God, Life has no Purpose*
  - *Without Purpose, Life has no Meaning*
  - *Without Meaning, Life has no Significance*
  - The greatest tragedy is not really death, but a life without purpose
    - *Every man dies... not every man truly lives*
  - Hope is essential to survival in this life...
    - Hope comes from having a purpose in your life
- When life has meaning you can bear almost anything
  - When life has no meaning, you can hardly bear anything

## 2 - Knowing Your Purpose SIMPLIFIES your life

- Knowing your purpose gives you a simple standard to evaluate which activities are essential in your life, and which aren't
- You don't run around trying to do too much, because you have a simple basis to decide what you should do:
  - *"Does this help me fulfill one of God's purposes for my life?"*
- Without a clear purpose you have no foundation on which you base your decisions, allocate your time, or use your resources
- People who don't know their purpose try to do too much, and that causes stress
- It's impossible to do everything people want you to do

- Knowing your purpose leads to a simpler lifestyle and schedule

### 3 - Knowing Your Purpose FOCUSES your life

- Knowing your purpose concentrates your energy on what's important
  - *You become effective by being selective*
- Without a clear purpose, you aimlessly try different things, thinking,  
*"Maybe this time it will be different"*
- Without a purpose you keep changing directions, jobs and relationships, hoping each change will settle the confusion in your mind or fill the emptiness in your heart
- With a clear purpose, you can weed out what doesn't matter in your life, and focus on what you know is the right thing for you to do
- For anything to be powerful, it has to be focused
- Consider LIGHT...
  - When it's diffused, it has no real power
  - But when you focus it with a magnifying glass... You can burn ants!
- *Stop trying to do it all.*
  - *Focus on the important things, and do less...*

### 4 - Knowing Your Purpose MOTIVATES your life

- *Purpose produces Passion*
- Nothing energizes like a clear purpose
  - *It's usually meaningless work, not overwork that wears you out...*
- Knowing your purpose will motivate you

### 5 - Knowing Your Purpose PREPARES you for eternity

- What ultimately matters is what God says about your life, not what others say
  - All of your achievements will eventually be surpassed and forgotten
  - It can be disheartening to look around at the transient nature of the world around you

- Living to create an Earthly Legacy is a short-sighted goal
  - It's much wiser to build an Eternal Legacy
- Focusing on the purpose for your life helps you to realize that the eternal things are much more important than the earthly
- Eventually, you will stand before your Father...
  - You will want to be prepared...
- You weren't put here on Earth to be remembered by other men
  - You were put here to prepare for Eternity
- The big question we will all face at the Judgment is:
 

*"What did you do with that which I have given you?"*
- Focus on answering that question NOW

**POINT TO PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

*Live on Purpose.*

**VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:**

*"Let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us." – Philippians 3:15 MSG*

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:**

*What would my Non-Christadelphian friends say is the driving force in my life?*