

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 6

Life is a Temporary Assignment

POINT TO PRAY ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

Life is both a Test and a Trust.

Remember what a Trust is?

What example do we have in our life that is BOTH a Test and a Trust?

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

“Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won’t be faithful in large ones.”
– Luke 16:10 NLT

Don’t go thinking that you can do whatever you want in the small matters, as long as you pull it together when the big things come up...

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*What has happened to me recently that I now realize was a test from God?
What can I learn from that experience that will help me see God’s tests sooner?*

It’s easy to look back and see God working in your life... Developing a sense of Awareness of God’s Tests NOW is vital to being successful at passing them.

What is the easiest way to tell when God is testing you in something?

- **Life is a Test**
- **Life is a Trust**
- **Life is Temporary**
- The Bible is full of verses that talk about the temporary, transient nature of Life...
 - ***A mist, a breath, a wisp of smoke, a shadow...***

- Job 8:9 NLT

- 9) For we were born but yesterday and know so little. Our days on earth are as transient as a shadow.

- To make the best of this temporary existence, you have to realize two things:

- 1) Compared to Eternity... Life is Short
- 2) THIS world is NOT our Permanent Residence

- Like David in Psalm 39, you need to ask God to help you see Life as He sees it...

- Psalm 39:4-5 NLT

- 4) LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away.
- 5) My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath."

- God continually refers to our life here as temporarily living in a foreign country

- God describes us with terms like "**alien, pilgrim, foreigner, stranger, sojourner**"

- We don't really belong here...

- We SHOULD be required to carry "Green Cards"... Maybe that would help us to remember

- Paul refers to us as Ambassadors:

- 2nd Corinthians 5:20 NIV

- 20) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

- What is an Ambassador?

- A person living in the land of the Enemy because their King has asked them to is called an "**Ambassador**"

- A person living in the land of the Enemy because they've grown comfortable with the way of life offered in that country, and have come to prefer it to their own, is called a "**Traitor**"

- *Why are you living here?*

- Just because you live on the Earth, it isn't your home country
 - You are citizens of Heaven
- 1st Peter 2:11 MSG
 - 11) Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.
- ***Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it...***
- You won't be here long...
 - Don't get too attached to it!
- 1st Corinthians 7:31 NLT
 - 31) Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away.
- For you to continue to see things through God's eyes...
 - To look at life through with a Biblical context
 - To remember that this is not your home
- You have to remember these 3 things:
 - Life is a Test
 - Life is a Trust
 - Life is Temporary
- ***Only when these truths become ingrained in your heart, will the appeal of the things in this World lose their grip on your life***
 - You will begin to see the World as it really is...
 - Only then will you begin to see Life as God's sees it...
- 2nd Corinthians 14:18 MSG
 - 18) There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.
- There's another reason that it's important to understand the true nature of this life...

- In His mercy, God has also designed this World to help you from becoming too attached to it...
 - That's an odd way to look at things, but if you are willing to look at it that way, it helps to explain some things that are hard to understand:
 - Like why some of God's Promises seem unfulfilled
 - Like why some Prayers seem unanswered
 - Like why some Circumstances seem unfair
- **God has designed the World purposely so that you experience a certain amount of Discontent and Dissatisfaction with your Life**
 - Deep longings in your heart that can never be fulfilled
- You are not INTENDED to live in THIS World...
 - Life a fish would never be satisfied living on land
 - Or a bird would never be satisfied being denied the right to fly
 - You will never really be satisfied living on Earth
- God has created you for a Better Purpose
- This world is not always bad
 - You will have happy moments, but it's NOTHING compared to what God has planned for you
- 1st Corinthians 2:9 NIV
 - 9) However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"
- In God's eyes, the greatest people are **NOT** the ones who achieve prosperity, success or power...
- Many of God's followers do achieve these things, but what God is really looking for is a person who thinks differently
 - Great people in God's eyes are those who treat this life as a temporary assignment and serve God faithfully
 - Not looking for happiness now, but anticipating their reward in Eternity
- Great people are the people like the ones spoken of in Hebrews 11:

• Hebrews 11:13-16 MSG

- 13) Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world.
- 14) People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home.
- 15) If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted.
- 16) But they were after a far better country than that—*heaven* country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.

• That is the kind of person that God wants you to be...

• There's an old story about a missionary who was returning to America after years in the jungles of Africa, and he happened to be arriving on the same boat at the President of the United States. Cheering crowds, confetti, a military band, red carpet, banners and photographers welcomed the President home, but the missionary walked off the boat unnoticed. Feeling self-pity and resentment, he began to complain to God... Then God gently reminded him... "But my child, ***you're not home yet.***"

• Our home is yet to come...

• After you've spent two minutes in the Kingdom, you will wonder why you ever wasted so much time, energy and concern on the things in this world that weren't going to last...

• When life gets tough, when you are overwhelmed with doubt, or when you wonder if living for Christ is worth the effort...

• Remember that you aren't home yet.

POINT TO PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK:

This world is not my home.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

"We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen." – 2 Cor. 4:18 NIV

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

How should the fact that life on earth is just a temporary change the way I Am living right now?