

“Tombstone Testimonies” Living Your Life on Purpose

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I. Five of the Most Important Questions You Will Ever Ask and Answer

A. Do you live with _____?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Weak

Strong

This is the true joy in life — being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I’ve got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

— **George Bernard Shaw**

B. Do you live your life on _____, by intention, and _____?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Weak

Strong

I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life! To put to rest all that was not life. And not when I came to die, discover that I have not lived.

— **Henry David Thoreau**

C. How are you going to _____ the world? (Making a significant contribution)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Weak

Strong

Tchaikovsky put a sign on his gate: Visiting hours Monday and Tuesday between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Other times please do not ring. He was saying, “I’m a composer. This is how I’m going to bless the world — not by idle conversation.”

D. What is your _____? (A vision bigger than yourself)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	Weak					Strong				

On August 28, 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave one of history’s most heart stirring speeches; one with a voice and message still heard today for the civil rights movement. That speech, “I Have a Dream.”

E. What will your _____ say? (Do you know where you are going?)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	Weak					Strong				

What I really lack is to be clear in my mind that I am to do, what I am to know... The thing is to understand myself, to see what God really wishes me to do... to find the idea for which I can live and die.

— **Soren Kierkegaard**

II. **God Has a Purpose For You**

Don’t act thoughtlessly but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to.

- **Ephesians 5:17 (The Living Bible)**

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

The feeling of being hurried is not usually the result of living a full life and having no time. It is, on the contrary, born of a vague fear that we are wasting our life. When we do not do the one thing we ought to do, we have no time for anything else — we are the busiest people in the world.

Eric Hoffer

III. The Process of Developing Your Personal Mission

- A. _____. Ask _____ to reveal your specific mission.
- B. Be _____. It is usually a long process.
- C. Take time to _____ and examine your _____.
- D. Seek wise _____.
- E. Picture a _____ to assist you in the process.
- F. Make it _____ for you, not generic in nature.
- G. Don't aim for _____ or _____ at first.
- H. Remember, the _____ the better.
- I. Ask yourself the tough questions, and be honest.
 - 1. What am I passionate about?
 - 2. What are my values and convictions?
 - 3. What do I want to be doing in ten years? Twenty years?
 - 4. What are my strengths and weaknesses?
 - 5. Am I fulfilled in my career?
 - 6. What is the primary loyalty in my life?
 - 7. What do I want to be remembered for?
 - 8. What is the condition of my family life?
 - 9. What am I willing to die for?
 - 10. How willing am I to take a risk?
 - 11. Who are the people I admire most and why?
 - 12. What are my greatest fears and am I willing to give them to God?
 - 13. What do others think I do well?
 - 14. What opportunities do I have?
 - 15. What burdens in life tug at my heart?

- J. Share the journey with your _____ or closest friend.
- K. Make sure your mission aligns with _____ principles and values.
- L. Begin Writing!

Three Practical Insights About Your Purpose

1. Your mission may or may not be consistent with your professional career.
The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker!
2. You will realize both fruit and joy as you live out your mission. Fruit only is drudgery and joy only has no impact. You must have both. (John 15)
3. You will experience nearly an endless energy. Your mission will be like fuel to a jet and cause you to fly.

IV. Setting and Achieving Your Goals

A. Defining goals

A goal is a statement of faith about a specific event in the future.

A goal is measurable by:

1. Time (rate)
2. Performance (event happened)

Goals and the achievement of goals are not the primary aims of life. "Your life is a journey, a process that never ends. You never "arrive"; you are always learning and always growing.

Enjoy the journey!

We are all learners on the way...

Your mission statement, life principles, and goals provide guidelines by which you live your life into God. They prevent chaos and ultimately a wasted life. And provide a productive, meaningful existence.

B. The value of goals

1. Goals motivate you. (Especially in tough times)
2. Goals help you realize your purpose.
3. Goals keep your priorities straight. (Tyranny of the urgent)
4. Goals channel and maximize your potential.
5. Goals give you power to live in the present.

6. Goals force you to plan ahead.
7. Goals promote enthusiasm in your life.

C. Ten steps to goal planning

1. Prepare your goals in the framework of your biblical principles.
2. Make your goals realistic.
3. Write your goals down.
4. Make your goals specific.
5. Make the goals measurable.
6. Make sure the goals are your own.
7. Surround yourself with the people you need to accomplish your goals.
8. Ask: "Am I willing to pay the price?"
9. Reward yourself for the accomplishment.
10. Give God the glory.

Long-range goals: The first set of goals you write for as far out as you do the planning.

D. Six steps to achieve your goals

1. Attach a date to every goal.
2. Write down how you will accomplish your goals. (Strategy, plans, etc.)
3. Define the steps needed to accomplish these goals as your intermediate goals.
4. Go from general to more specific with your intermediate goals.
5. If you do not have intermediate goals, go directly to immediate goals (daily to-do list) from your long-range goals.
6. Rate your goals A, B, C, A-1 etc.

Discover Your God-Given (Unique) Purpose

Note: Your Christian “universal” purpose is to love God and serve people. Your “unique” purpose falls under that ultimate purpose. Your unique purpose is answering that grand question — Why has God placed you here on planet earth? What has He created you to do?

Questions: These questions are a “snap shot” of affirmation, or lack there of, of your purpose statement. They are not a primary tool in the development of your purpose but will give you insight to your purpose.

1. What can you do well? (Talent)
2. What do you want to do? (Desire)
3. What do you do well? (Results)
4. What do others think you do well? (Recognition)
5. What opportunities do you have? (Circumstances)
6. What do you enjoy doing? (Pleasure)

Living On Purpose...

With a Sense of Personal Purpose and Vision

I. Setting and Achieving Your Goals

- A. What is the value of focus in your life?

- B. Do you feel you are focused in your overall life direction and purpose? Explain.

- C. On a scale of 1–10 do you find your current place in life fulfilling and meaningful — briefly explain.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Don't Know What
My Game Is**

**At The Top
Of My Game**

- D. If you occasionally find your schedule “out of control,” describe why you think that happens.

- E. Write out your own definition of freedom. Describe how you can get it.

- F. What prevents you from making the necessary commitment to becoming strongly “focused” on a clear direction and set of life values and priorities?

II. The Values You Live By

You need a tall cup of coffee, probably several, to begin this process. Candidly, you won't get this done in one session or even in one month. But you can make great progress. The goal is to get a great start.

List out your personal values in life. Don't make the list too long. I can't tell you how many should be on your list, but I will offer a guideline to you. If you get more than 7–9 you probably have too many.

As you begin the process, don't write a mental "academic" list of what should be, but a set of values that you are willing to die for. Think deep and be honest. Don't write to impress anyone. Write what you want to live. Write what you are willing and committed to live.

Each value can be stated in a short phrase or a short sentence. These values will give you good insight to your mission. Your mission and your values must be in total alignment with each other.

You may want to add a scripture reference to each one.

My values are...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

III. Writing Your Personal Purpose Statement

Start thinking, dreaming, “visioning,” and praying about your own purpose statement.

Start by answering the question:

WHY HAS GOD PUT ME ON THIS EARTH?

Be sure not to answer “to glorify and praise Him,” etc.... This of course is good, but that is everyone’s (universal) purpose, it’s a given. God has YOU here for a specific reason...for a specific (unique) purpose!!

Helpful Ideas:

1. Pray first...ask God for guidance.
2. Be brief — one sentence (the shorter the better).
3. Make it specifically for you — not generic in nature.
4. Picture a decade (10-year span) to assist in the process.
5. Remember, it can be reshaped as you mature in Christ.
6. Don’t worry about perfection; it can take a long time to develop.
7. Don’t try to do it all in one sitting.

My Unique Purpose...

IV. Roles and Goals... Living Your Purpose

- A.** What is the difference between a purpose and a goal?
- B.** Are goals Biblical? (Do man's goals interfere with God's will?)
- C.** Write out the three top goals you set and accomplished last year.
- D.** Write out one or two goals you set and didn't accomplish last year, and tell why you think you didn't accomplish each one.
- E.** Each of us have several different roles we must play as a man — listed are the primary roles. Please write a brief personal statement of definition for each role in your life.
- Son of God
 - Husband
 - Dad
 - Friend
 - Provider

F. Write out one goal in each of these areas:

- a. (Don't worry about right, wrong, or what anyone else thinks; just *write* goals that *you* really *want* to achieve!)
- b. Note: You are likely not to be working on all of these goals at the same time.

- Son of God

- Husband

- Dad

- Friend

- Provider

“Master, Mate and Mission” – You and Your Master

Date: _____

Score 1-7

1 = Weak

7 = Strong

Answer honestly. This is not intended to produce a sense of guilt, frustration, or legalism. You are loved unconditionally by God and saved by grace. This is intended only as a tool to aid you in reflection to strengthen your most important relationship.

- 1. I base my security and significance in Christ Jesus. _____
- 2. I often hear the “voice” of God giving me clear answers and direction. _____
- 3. There is no unconfessed sin in my life. _____
- 4. I do not struggle with pride or control issues. _____
- 5. I invest daily time in intercessory prayer and prayer concerning my personal spiritual life. _____
- 6. I invest daily time in the study of scripture for personal growth. _____
- 7. There is no unresolved conflict with a brother or sister in Christ, so far as forgiveness on my part is concerned. _____
- 8. I do not struggle with materialism but have found the joy of contentment. _____
- 9. My thought life is pure and under God’s control. _____
- 10. I have a sense of inner peace and presence of God’s spirit. _____
- 11. Both personal and corporate worship are alive in my life, and I experience a sense of renewal and refreshing as I praise God. _____
- 12. I regularly practice the “deeper” disciplines such as fasting, meditation, and solitude. _____

“Master, Mate and Mission” – You and Your Master

After thought and prayer through the twelve items listed in the “You and Your Master” Personal Reflection, select the three priorities you believe God would lead you to strengthen.

Priority #1:

Action Plan:

Priority #2:

Action Plan:

Priority #1:

Action Plan:
