

GROWTHguide

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2016

"What Does God Want Me to Do?"



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

John 15:16, John 16:7 and 13-14, Acts 16:5-10, Revelation 1:10-11, Proverbs 19:21

REFLECTION AND STUDY

DAY 1

Have you ever wondered, "Why am I here? What is my life really all about?" We all need to ask and pursue the big God question, "Why am I here?" Throughout scripture we see that all of us were created with a *personalization of purpose*. God has gifted every single one of us according to our design. Jesus came for a specific purpose—to facilitate God's work on earth. The greatest tragedy in life is to get all the way to the end of your life and never have lived that purpose. When you stand before the Lord, will you be able to say, "Father, I have finished the work you sent me to do." **Read John 15:16**

- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- Who are you now and how different is it from who you thought you'd be when you were young?

Thank God for creating you with a purpose. Pray that your purpose is revealed and that you are willing to live it out.

DAY 2

How can you know what your purpose is? Scripture gives us the general work of God for his people, but the only way we can know our specific purpose is through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "*It's to your advantage that I go away... Unless I go away, the Father cannot send the Counselor.*" Once Jesus fulfilled his work on earth, the Father in Heaven sent the Holy Spirit and the purpose of the Holy Spirit is: "*To counsel you in all God has designed in you and what is to come.*"

- How do you discern the Holy Spirit?
- Do you feel that God, through the Spirit, is leading you?

Praise God and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all God has designed you to be.

DAY 3

Read Acts 16:5-10. The word "churches" or *Ecclesia* is a secular word meaning "those called out of the community to transact city business." So the church are those people called out of the general population to transact the business of God. Remember, Paul wasn't travelling alone. It is important to actively participate in a community of faith. The Holy Spirit speaks in midst of community in a way that the Spirit will not speak to us when we are by ourselves. If we want to hear what God says and know what our life's purpose is, we need to surround ourselves with those who are disciples. Believing in Jesus is not enough.

- Who do you "travel" with?
- How can you participate in conducting the business of God?

Pray and ask God to help you grow as a true disciple. If you are isolated or lonely pray and ask God to begin connecting you with other disciples that you can share your life with.

DAY 4

We need to intentionally nurture our spiritual identity. If you come to worship passively expecting the pastor to give you a good word for the day, you will not hear God's voice. All of us must take responsibility to ready our spirit to hear God. If we don't nurture ourselves, we will remain lost with little direction. Instead, we must come to worship with our hearts prepared to hear what the Spirit will say. **Read Revelation 1:10-11** The apostle John received a vision on the Lord's Day. For the early Christian the Lord's Day was the Day of Resurrection, for us it would be our Sunday Sabbath. Early Christians got together and met for study of God's Word, shared the "Lord Feast" (a meal) and Holy Communion. John wrote, "On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit." He was already in the Spirit when he came to church. He had been practicing his faith and living it all week long so when he came to church he was truly ready to hear and experience what the Spirit desired of him.

- How do you prepare your heart for the message on Sundays?
- How can you carry the message from the Sunday sermon into your week?

Pray that your heart would be prepared to hear from the Holy Spirit during worship. Pray that the words you hear would take root in your life.

DAY 5

All of us must create space in our life everyday so we may hear the Spirit. This means we must withdraw from the noise of the day and set a boundary so we can hear what God says. God speaks through the Spirit out of the silence when we withdraw from the noise of life. In Acts 16 we see Paul actively pursuing the business of God. If you and I aren't actively transacting the business of God we are only part of the crowd. Paul sees a need and he fills it. He keeps searching and seeking the purpose for which he was created. He was actively engaging the Kingdom's purpose in life. Life's Purpose is identified through persistent service. When we serve the Kingdom's purpose we discover what is called our BHAGG (Big Hairy Audacious God Goal). Your BHAGG is your life's purpose. Your Life's Purpose is different than your Life's Provision. Your Life's Provision is your career where you earn a living. Your Life Purpose is how you make a life.

- What's your BHAGG?

Today intentionally create some space in your life. Take time to reflect you your life's purpose. Thank God for your unique gifts and talents!

DAY 6

Read Proverbs 19:21. Don't chase your provision. Chase your Purpose! When you chase your purpose, your provision will be freely given and that is the promise of God. How can you find your life purpose? Ask yourself these three questions:

- **Where do you see the greatest need?** God has intentionally put that burden on your heart.
- **If you could do one thing to change the world, what would that one thing be?** For Pastor Bob it was to get into the local church and move the community of people to do kingdom work. For you it might be something else. The important part is to ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to that one thing that will change the world.
- **How can I meet that need with the gifts and talents I have been given?** We all have God-given gifts, as well as skills we've learned, that we can turn to God's specific purpose. Even things that may seem like flaws, may be exactly what you need to fulfill your purpose.

Continue to meditate on these questions. Ask for God to speak into your heart. Praise Him for giving you purpose!

DAY 7

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.