

WHAT IS GOD'S HEART ON
PURPOSE
IN LIFE?

Excerpt from

KEYS FOR LIVING LIBRARY



PURPOSE IN LIFE

Pinpointing Your Priorities

What's Is God's Heart on Your Purpose in Life?

Why am I here? What's the point? Do I matter? Can I actually make a difference?

These are important questions. They all revolve around our purpose in life. The good news is that God has answers for you. His Word reveals that you do have purpose, you do matter, and you can make a difference. Even more, you are not alone. The Lord is faithful to help you discover your purpose and to fulfill His purposes in you, through you, for you, and with you.

*“He who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion
until the day of Christ Jesus.”
(PHILIPPIANS 1:6)*

12 Truths on Your Purpose in Life

God has plans and purposes for you.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (JEREMIAH 29:11).

God had a purpose for you even before you were born.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart” (JEREMIAH 1:5).

God has good works that He prepared specifically for you.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (EPHESIANS 2:10)

God is committed to fulfilling His purpose for you.

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever” (PSALM 138:8 ESV).

God’s purposes for you do not change based on shifting circumstances, cultural trends, or feelings.

“The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations” (PSALM 33:11).

God wants you to look to His Word to discover His purposes and the path He has for you.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (PSALM 119:105 ESV).

God can use wise, insightful people to help you understand your purpose.

“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out” (PROVERBS 20:5).

God gives you a specific spiritual gift to help fulfill your purpose and to serve others.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another”
(1 PETER 4:10 NLT).

God’s purpose in every circumstance and season of life is to make you more like Jesus.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”
(ROMANS 8:28–29).

God has purposes for your suffering—to reveal His compassion to you and use you to comfort others.

“The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort . . . comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–4).

God’s highest purpose and priority for you is to love the Lord and love others.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ... Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these” (MARK 12:30–31).

God’s purpose for you is to know Him and make Him known to others.

“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” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:20).

Prayer of Purpose

*“Dear Lord,
Thank you for having a unique plan and purpose for me.
Thank you for caring about every detail of my life.
It gives me hope to know that my life has meaning
and that you will accomplish your purposes in my life
through the good times and even through the difficult times.
I ask that you reveal your purposes for my life as I study your Word,
talk to others, and pray for your leading.
Help me discover your specific goals and plans for my life.
Thank you, Father, for the gifts you have given me,
and that you will accomplish your purposes in and through me.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

20 Questions to Help Discover Your Purpose in Life

Use the following questions to help discover and pinpoint your God-given purpose. It can be helpful to talk through them with someone, especially someone who knows you well. As you think through these questions, ask the Lord to guide you in the path He has for you.

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”
(PSALM 32:8)*

1. What activities have been the most fulfilling to you—ones that brought you great joy and satisfaction?
2. When do you feel like you’re “in the zone” or “at your best?”
3. What has God clearly revealed to you in His Word about His purpose for you?
4. What would you like to spend more time doing?
5. What do you know should be a priority to you?
6. What is your greatest passion? (i.e. What do you love doing the most?)
7. What activities come naturally to you?
8. What activities/work have you been successful at?
9. What have others noticed you’re good at?
10. What dreams, desires, or goals do you often think about?
11. What are your most important roles and responsibilities?
12. What are your God-given gifts and talents?
13. What current opportunities do you have?
14. What resources do you have at your disposal?
15. What do you really want out of life?
16. What problem in the world do you think needs to be solved?
17. What people do you have a heart for helping / praying for? (i.e. Who needs help?)
18. When have you felt like you’ve made a difference?
19. What would you like to be remembered for?
20. What do you want to accomplish before you die?

*“I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.”
(PSALM 57:2 NLT)*

4 POINTS OF GOD'S PLAN

Whether you're trying to make sense of your past, trying to overcome something in the present, or trying to make changes for a better future, the Lord cares about you. He loves you. No matter what challenges you or your loved ones are facing, no matter the pain or difficult feelings you may be experiencing, no matter what you've done or what's been done to you, *there is hope*. And that hope is found in Jesus Christ.

God has a plan for your life, and it begins with a personal relationship with Jesus. The most important decision you can ever make is whether you will accept His invitation. If you have never made that decision, these four simple truths can help you start your journey together with Him.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.’”*
(JEREMIAH 29:11)

God's Purpose for You: *Salvation*

What was God's motivation in sending Jesus Christ to earth? To express His love for you by saving you! The Bible says, *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”* (John 3:16–17).

What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth? To forgive your sins, to empower you to have victory over sin, and to enable you to live a fulfilled life! Jesus said, *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:10).

The Problem: *Sin*

What exactly is sin? Sin is living independently of God's standard—knowing what is wrong and doing it anyway—also knowing what is right and choosing not to do it. The apostle Paul said, *“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway”* (Romans 7:18–19 NLT).

What is the major consequence of sin? Spiritual death, eternal separation from God. The Bible says, *“Your iniquities [sins] have separated you from your God”* (Isaiah 59:2). Scripture also says, *“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

God's Provision for You: *The Savior*

Can anything remove the penalty for sin? Yes! Jesus died on the cross to personally pay the penalty for your sins. The Bible says, *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

What is the solution to being separated from God? Belief in (entrusting your life to) Jesus Christ as the only way to God the Father. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). The Bible says, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved . . .”* (Acts 16:31).

Your Part: *Surrender*

Give Christ control of your life, entrusting yourself to Him. Jesus said, *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”* (Matthew 16:24–26).

Place your faith in (rely on) Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and reject your “good works” as a means of earning God’s approval. The Bible says, *“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast”* (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Has there been a time in your life when you know you’ve humbled your heart and received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior—giving Him control of your life? You can tell God that you want to surrender your life to Christ in a simple, heartfelt prayer like this:

*“God, I want a real relationship with you.
I admit that many times I’ve chosen to go my own way instead of your way.
Please forgive me for my sins.
Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins.
Come into my life to be my Lord and my Savior.
Change me from the inside out and make me
the person you created me to be.
In your holy name I pray. Amen.”*

What Can You Now Expect?

When you surrender your life to Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit who empowers you to live a life pleasing to God. The Bible says, *“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life . . .”* (2 Peter 1:3). Jesus assures those who believe with these words:

*“Truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me
has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*
(JOHN 5:24)

The information in this resource is intended as guidelines for healthy living. Please consult qualified medical, legal, pastoral, and psychological professionals regarding individual concerns.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)



P.O. Box 7, Dallas, TX 75221
hopefortheheart.org

© 2022 Hope for the Heart

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God gives us His Word not just for information but for transformation. The Lord wants you to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (Romans 12:2). This isn’t something you do alone, but something God does in you by His Spirit.

The following questions are designed to help you reflect on the biblical truths in this resource. Take a moment to pray and ask God to settle your mind and quiet your spirit as you reflect on His truth.

“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”

(2 TIMOTHY 2:7)

What are two key truths, Bible verses, or “takeaways” from this resource that you found helpful—or that you simply needed to be reminded of?

In relation to this topic, what behavior(s) do you need to *begin*, *change*, or *stop* in order to help you grow into the person God created you to be?

In relation to this topic, what is the biggest obstacle you need to overcome in order to move forward?

What might your life look like a few years from now if you do *not* make changes regarding this issue? How might your life be different if you *do* make changes?

Is there anyone in your life who needs help with this topic/issue? How can you pray for them, and what is one thing you can do to encourage them?

What can you give thanks to God for today?

*“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself
and God our Father, who loved us
and by his grace gave us eternal comfort
and a wonderful hope,
comfort you and strengthen you
in every good thing you do and say.”
(2 THESSALONIANS 2:16–17 NLT)*

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

You can get any of our *Lifeline to Hope* Topical Video Courses for 30% off!



**Use code TOPICAL30 at checkout
and take 30% off today!**

Our topical video courses provide biblical instruction and practical guidance on specific emotional, relational, and spiritual issues such as Abuse, Addiction, Anger, Anxiety, Depression, Fear, Forgiveness, Grief, Marriage, Parenting, Stress, and more. Get the tools to face life's challenges with courage and confidence.

These video courses are great for:

- Personal study and growth—helping you overcome specific personal challenges
- Learning how to help others move toward greater freedom and spiritual maturity
- Anyone who wants to learn more about what God's Word teaches on various subjects

Each video course includes a downloadable workbook with helpful, biblical insights on the topic and discussion questions for further study and growth.

hopefortheheart.org/topical