

Ross Parsley - September 10, 2017

On Purpose - The Lies We Believe About Our Potential - Part 1

Jude VERSES 20-22 (KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference: <sup>23</sup> and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire.

## Do you feel like you're making a difference?

We get lost in a fog of <u>confusion</u> and <u>dullness</u> ... trying to figure out what our PURPOSE actually is.

We live in a time where our SEARCH for PURPOSE and our PLACE in this world is so DIFFICULT because:

 The world of <u>Science</u> tells us that whatever emotions we feel are just a series of chemical reactions.

Henri Bergson: Since the Renaissance, modern science has gradually extended its causal explanations to one phenomenon after another, psychological and biological as well as the purely physical, accounting even for life and consciousness in purely physical or chemical terms. Creative novelty, human purpose, and freedom have often been disregarded.

- The pressure of <u>Society</u> tells us that any sense of purpose or meaning outside of economic or scientific advancement is unhelpful, and even dangerous.
- The <u>Church</u> tells us that only a select few people who have religious positions, titles, or callings have a meaningful purpose.

USA Today Survey: "What would you ask a god or supreme being if they could get a direct and immediate answer?"

- 16%: "Why do bad things happen?"
- 19%: "Will I have life after death?"
- 34%: "What is my purpose in life?"

**C. S. Lewis ("Mere Christianity"):** "If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe, and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know that it was dark. Dark would be a word without meaning."

Is there a specific purpose or calling for my life?

What specific, irreplaceable purpose does MY life play?

Russell Baker: "There is a hunger in us...for assurance that our lives have not been merely successful, but valuable—that we have accomplished something grander than just another well-heeled [well-off], loudly publicized journey from the diaper to the shroud. In short, that our lives have been consequential."

You will never FULLY discover your purpose **outside of a...** relationship with God.

Judges 6:1-12 (NLT)

Your Purpose:

#1: You do have a <u>God-given purpose</u> within you.

#2: Your PURPOSE is related to people.

Judges 6:12-15 (NLT)

LIES:

#1: You're fixated only on what you can do in your own strength.

#2: You believe that the only way to maximize your life is to <u>focus on</u> and to <u>take care of yourself</u>.

WHO: YOU see yourself to be.

WHAT: YOU'RE able to do with your strengths, talents, and abilities.

WHEN: YOU feel ready to do something great.

Don't settle for weak EXCUSES...don't give into the LIES!

"Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

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