



Purpose: To be like JESUS – September 17, 2017
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Today we continue our journey to understand the purpose of life. We are praying that as we continue this journey we all commit to a holy pursuit of God and His purposes for us.

Romans 8:29, From the very beginning, God decided that those who came to Him- and He knew who would- should become like His Son.

Ephesians 4:15, God wants us to grow up...like Christ in everything.

My Primary Purpose: to become like JESUS.

3 UNEXPECTED WAYS GOD USES TO HELP US BECOME LIKE JESUS

1. God uses TROUBLE to teach us to TRUST HIM

Trials in life create a dependent weakness that's necessary for transformation

Mark 14:32-34, 36, They came to a garden called Gethsemane and Jesus said to His disciples, 'Sit here while I pray'...Distress and anguish came over Him, and he said, "the sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me."

"Father, "he said, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine!"

Keep a spiritual journal

Numbers 33:2, At the Lord's direction, Moses kept a written record of their progress.

To see the work of God in your life, all that must be done is for you to **look back and worship His faithfulness.**

Remember the reward

2 Corinthians 4:17, For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever.

JESUS is the true reward. He's the only reward that matters. Is that good enough for you?

2. God uses TEMPTATION to teach us to OBEY

Every time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus- Rick Warren

Only those who have tried to resist temptation know how strong it is...you find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down- C.S. Lewis

Matthew 4:1, Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:10, "Get out of here, Satan" Jesus told him. "The scriptures say, worship only the Lord God. Obey only Him."

Keep focused on good thoughts

Philippians 4:8, Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right, pure, lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Get a spiritual partner

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, You're better off to have a friend than to be all alone...if you fall, your friend can help you up.

3. God uses WRONGDOINGS to teach us to FORGIVE

Matthew 27: 39-44, People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus...and the elders made fun of Him...even the bandits who had been crucified with him insulted Him in the same way.

Luke 23:34, Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing."

Remember God has forgiven me

Ephesians 4:32, Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

Remember God is in control

Genesis 50:20, You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people, which is being done.

*Philippians 2:5, your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*