

God Wants to Help Those Who Have Lost Their Purpose

Fuel Your Faith 17

January 18, 2022

As our nation and culture run from God, the cynicism and disillusionment seem to be everywhere. We're disillusioned with the police. We're disillusioned with our political leaders. We're disillusioned with the media. And we might be tempted to be disillusioned with our religious leaders.

How do we turn this all around? What does all of this have to do with loving others through the storm?

Today on Fuel Your Faith, we'll be talking about an Old Testament passage that not only reminds us of our purpose for living but it also tells us about the God we serve. These are huge reminders we can bring to the table as we seek to encourage and build up those who are enduring the downward pressure of intense storms.

Here are some of the highlights from the opening verses of [Isaiah 43](#):

- 43.1: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.
- 43.2: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and the rivers will not overwhelm you, When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched and the flame will not burn you.
- 43.4: you are precious in my sight and honored, and I love you
- 43.7: everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory.

The basic message of [Isaiah 43](#) is that God wants to help those who have lost their sense of purpose. God says, "I created you for my glory, and I want to fill your life with a compelling and inspiring new sense of destiny." If life's storms have beat you down, you *can* recover God's purpose for you. You can trust God. When He makes a promise, He keeps it. When He makes a plan, the plan works out according to His purpose. When He determines something to be, He speaks it into existence. And the more you believe God, the more it gives you reason to pursue Him with all your heart, and ultimately trust in your very personal experience of God's *great and precious promises*.

To best understand and make the application from [Isaiah 43](#), you have to know a little about what is said in the previous chapter. Much of this you can read for yourself, but God's "servant," Israel, is said to be as blind as the pagan nations. What was clueless Israel failing to see? What was God's purpose they never understood? Verses 20-21 say "the Lord was pleased, for His righteousness sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious." Their purpose was to show the world how beautiful it is to live for God according to His word. That's our purpose too. Now Israel failed in it. They saw, but didn't observe. They heard but didn't hear. And because of that, God brought His people under discipline.

Now, as we look at the opening verses of [Isaiah 43](#), the focus turns from Israel to God and His grace. And to this disillusioned people, God says *fear not. I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine*. In fact, despite the storm of correction has rained down upon Israel, God is still committed to them. He says, I created you. I formed you. I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. God is saying that what matters most about you is not what you deserve, but whose you are. If you are going through a time of discipline – that is not is not God’s final word to you – His salvation is.

Now look at [Isaiah 43.2](#). Whether we create them or not, the floods and fires of life will come. “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and the rivers will not overwhelm you, when you walk through the fire you will not be scorched and the flame will not burn you.” God will go with you through it, into the water, across the river, or through the flames. He goes with us through our afflictions. We are precious to Him.

Now look at [Isaiah 43.3-4](#). God is not aloof. These verses teach He orders events for the benefit of His people. God will even orchestrate world events for his blind and deaf servants who are precious and honored. I think Paul, in the New Testament, helps us make this personal when he says, “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose,” [Romans 8.28](#). When we serve others during their storm we must remind them that even amidst the difficulty, God is at work in their life, shaping and molding them into the image of Christ, so that ultimately He will be glorified.

Note how His people are described in verse 7: everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.” We might compare this to [Ephesians 1.3-6](#) where Paul tells us how God wants to put our lives on display to testify to good he is to people who don’t deserve it. He wants people to delight in their salvation and the deliverance He provides.

Whether a person deals with a storm of correction or a storm of perfection, God’s truth is always before us. Will we see? Will we hear? Will we follow? We’re not that good sometimes at paying attention, even when times are good. And it really becomes challenging when the distraction and noise of the storm comes. When that happens we may go our own way and miss the lesson when the floods and fires of life come. Sometimes we’re set on fire through discipline, but we don’t feel it enough to take it to heart. Even worse, we may be tempted to turn things around and blame God. He is not the problem.

When the storm comes, we need to, and we need to help others bring our lives to relate more to God’s purposes. We need to ask, *is there evidence that I am adapting my life to His plan?* Remember, you have been recreated to glorify God. You have been given a new identity and life to do that.

So as you are helping others through the storm ... use this passage to remind them who God is, who they are, and for what purpose they’ve been recreated. None of that changes just because

a storm is going on. The storm is there to help reorient our focus and bend our life more closely to God's purpose ... showcasing God's way of life.

Thank you for listening to Fuel Your Faith. Join us again tomorrow as we continue to talk about loving others through the storm.