

**INTRODUCTION:** Several years ago, I was driving to speak at a women’s conference. I was praying about the meeting and I noticed I was running just a little behind and I came to a place where it was a passing zone. I pushed the pedal to the floor and went around the car that was holding me up, however when I raised my foot to decelerate the pedal was stuck. I pumped the pedal and it didn’t unstick. I immediately began praying in the Spirit. I had a purpose that morning to speak into the lives of Women, to encourage them with the word, to give them hope to deliver a message that the Lord had given me for them. Here I am on the journey there and my vehicle is out of control, speeding down the highway. Thankfully no cars were in my path. I put my car in neutral and shut off the engine. As the car came to a stop there was a business that I was able to pull into and now my brake worked so I put the car in park & got out! There were two older men in the parking lot talking and one of them knew something was wrong and came over. I explained that my pedal had stuck. He checked it and said it looked like it got caught under the mat. I got back in – gained my composure and proceeded toward my purpose that day. It was a scary ride for just a minute. I didn’t have control of how fast I was going. I didn’t have the control of the other cars on the road that day. I was doing everything I had been taught to do in that circumstance from Driver’s Ed but I needed something more than that. I needed the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and His guidance to get me back on course! I yielded to HIM and he gave me clarity and presence of mind to know what I needed to do and I believe he helped me! I arrived on time. I fulfilled my purpose for that day.

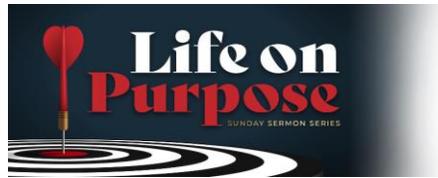
Sometimes we feel that way in life. Like we’re heading down the highway of life and things begin to move quickly and sometimes we feel like it’s speeding out of control. Things aren’t going the way you thought they would and you may even find yourself on a road that you didn’t intend to take.

It may look like you’re going to miss your purpose!

It may feel like you have lost control!

But you too can yield to the Holy Spirit, ask Him to direct your path and show you what to do. He can change your course He can redirect you in just one moment. He can help you avoid the danger that is in your path. He can bring your life back into control when you give him the wheel.

Even if it feels like you have missed your purpose, He can bring course-correction that will get you exactly where you need to be. On time. Intact.



As long as you have breath, YOU HAVE PURPOSE!

**TRANSITION: YOU HAVE A PURPOSE**

**I want to open with a quote:** “There are accidental parents, but no accidental births. There are illegitimate parents but not illegitimate children. There are unplanned pregnancies but no un-purposed people.”

**There are no un-purposed people.**

**As we are doing this study on Life on Purpose, my prayer is that every person here will become aware that: YOU HAVE A PURPOSE!**

- You were NOT a mistake!
- You’re not here by some fluke!

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)** – *“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”*

**In other words: I knew you before I formed you AND I formed you for MY purpose.**

**Jeremiah 1:5(MSG)** – *“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations – that’s what I had in mind for you.”*

**God had something specific in mind for YOU!**

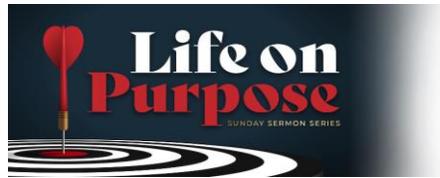
**Galatians 1:15 (NLT)** – *But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace*

**Isaiah 44:2 (CEV)** – *I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.*

**Psalms 139:13 (ESV)** – *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.*

**THESE SCRIPTURES SHOW US THAT:**

We were designed by God!  
Shaped and formed by God!



He brought each of us into this world with a plan and a purpose for our life!

**CONFESSION: “I WAS CREATED FOR PURPOSE. You were WIRED FOR PURPOSE.”**

**Pastor illustrated this beautifully when he talked about how God wired us for our purpose.**

- He wired us with gifts and talents!
- He wired us with passions and interests!
- He put desires in our hearts!
- TD Jakes – If you can’t figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose.

**PURPOSE** – The dictionary tells us purpose is: **the reason something exists, an intended end; aim; or goal.**

**When I was born in December on the 22<sup>nd</sup> back in 19\_\_\_\_ I came here with purpose. I came here on purpose. I have an earthly assignment and so do you.**

**Earth is my assignment, heaven is my home.**

**My assignment is my PURPOSE!**

You weren’t made for *your* purpose or *your* pleasure for *your* goals. There is a GREATER PURPOSE for your life.

**Proverbs 16:4 (NLT) – *The Lord has made everything for his own purposes***

**YOU WERE MADE BY GOD AND YOU WERE MADE FOR GOD**

**Psalm 33:11 (GNT) – *His plans endure forever; his purposes last eternally.***

- **A LIFE WITHOUT PURPOSE ISN’T WORTH LIVING**
  - A life without aim, without direction, without purpose is a life that is lifeless
  - **1 John 5:12 (NKJV) – *He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.***
  - When a person can’t find a deep sense of meaning they distract themselves with pleasure.
    - Increase of drugs and alcohol
    - Increase of sexual promiscuity
    - Increase of infidelity

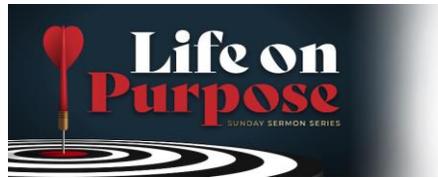
- Because they’re empty
- Because they’re unfulfilled
- Because they’re out of alignment with God’s plan!
- **HOW DO I KNOW MY PURPOSE?**
  - Talk shows, seminars, self-help books, astrology, tea leaves, will not determine your purpose.
  - **You have to go to the Creator to know your purpose**
    - If you want to know the purpose of an invention, you have to ask the inventor or read the owner’s manual.
    - The same is true for us.
- I DON’T WANT TO MISS MY PURPOSE!
- I DON’T WANT TO FAIL MY ASSIGNMENT!
- I DON’T WANT TO GO THROUGH THIS LIFE AND MISS WHAT GOD HAD IN MIND FOR ME!

***The greatest tragedy is not death but life without purpose.***

I’m thankful that a young age I gave my life to the Lord and began to seek His will for my life.

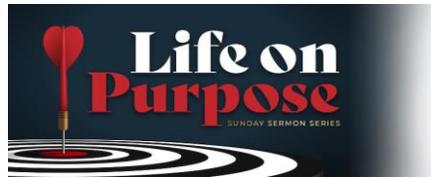
1. God’s will doesn’t just happen. You have to seek His will and submit to it.
2. Every door that opens in life isn’t a God purposed door. I’ve seen some people go through doors that appealed to their flesh but brought destruction to their souls. The door looked enticing but it didn’t produce true happiness, peace or joy in their lives.
3. God’s purpose for you will align with His Word.
4. When you fulfill God’s purpose, He will receive GLORY FROM IT! It won’t be all about you and the praise that you get from others, but fulfilling God’s purpose points people to Him.

I was a normal kid and was full of mischief and curious about many things. I was far from perfect! I felt like I was up and down spiritually...in and out...but I always had a hunger for God and at the age of 14, I was ready to seek His purpose for my life and sell out to completely. A friend and I were talking one night about our visions and the things we wanted to do for God. I’ll never forget how the Holy Spirit came down in my

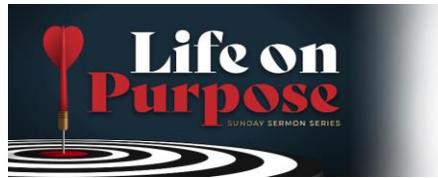


living room and we began to pray and I heard the Lord begin to define my purpose. I even heard Him tell me that I was going to be in the ministry and preach His word.

- I was overwhelmed.
- I didn’t really know of any women preachers.
- I didn’t know if I even believed in women preaching.
- But I began to prepare myself the only way I knew how, by getting in the word, learning it and memorizing it and I fell in love with it.
  - There was no Christian TV
  - No Christian radio at that time
- I began to pray and develop a relationship with the Lord.
  - I found something in his presence that I couldn’t find anywhere else.
  - Peace – Joy – Unconditional Love
- God was preparing me for my purpose and I was committed to do anything He told me to do.
- Our church was without a piano player and they asked me to play.
  - I KNEW 3 CHORDS!!
- I continued to practice and pray!! Lots of praying!
- When I was 16, I was serving in my local church, helping with music and one night in October 1984 a Christian singing group came to my church and I met their 18-year-old piano player and he invited me to revival. One year and 4 days later we were married. It was my PURPOSE coming together – my ministry partner!
- The thing that drew us together from the first conversation was our hearts for God. I had met a lot of guys in church that weren’t any different from the ones not in church! This guy was different!
  - He had standards!
  - He had manners!
  - He was a gentleman!



- We would talk for hours about our dreams and visions of things we wanted to do for the Lord.
- I still hadn’t stepped out into preaching, that didn’t come for many more years. I thought maybe the Lord meant he wanted me to marry a preacher! That was a lot more appealing to me! Not nearly as much criticism.
- We began evangelizing in churches in this region even before we were married. God was developing our purpose – It was training!
- When he was 21 and I was 19 we pastored our first church! NOW, God was defining our purpose. We had thought maybe we were to be evangelists but God had something else in mind. He had led us into the pastoral ministry.
- Pursuing God’s purpose took us to Georgetown, to Harlan, to Atlanta, to Louisville, to Greenville MS and back to London to Grace Fellowship.
  - Every kind of training we could get into
- Every transition was a step of faith. Trusting God that we were walking in his plan and being obedient to his call.
- Pastor said in one of his sessions that our purpose is always evolving and over 35+ years I’ve developed in some areas that I never foreseen as a 14-year-old.
- Who would have thought when I was playing 3 chords on a piano that someday I’d be leading a team like we have today?
  - Who would have thought that I’d be directing choirs for the state or serving on our state music committee? It’s part of my purpose at this time.
- We went to Harlan KY as pastors and we needed a youth minister. Pastor told me I was the new youth pastor! Totally new territory!
- The Lord blessed my obedience and willingness to serve and we grew to an average of about 120 teenagers a week with an all-time high of around 170.
- It was while we were pastoring in Harlan that we were expecting our daughter to be born and Pastor had scheduled a Mission’s trip to Mexico. I wouldn’t leave because she was due any day, I asked him who was speaking, he said, “YOU are! You’ve been called for years and it’s time for you to step out”.



- I’ve learned through all of my years of serving the lord that Purpose is not a destination. You don’t just arrive one day and that’s it. It is continually unfolding and when you seek the Lord He will lead you and guide you.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)** – <sup>5</sup>*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

**CLOSING: We want to fulfill God’s Purpose**

**Psalms 37:4-5 (KJV)** – <sup>4</sup>*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

- Those desires that you have to do something significant for God, are desires He has placed within you.
  - To reach hurting people.
  - To help the helpless.
  - To make a difference in the lives of those around us.
  - To tell others about the Lord.
  - To finance the work of the ministry.
  - To work with children.
  - To help troubled teens.
  - To reach out to the forgotten in our nursing homes.
  - To minister to the needy.
  - To provide food for the hungry.
  - Clothes for the poor.
  - To help single moms.
  - To work with people with special needs.
  - To help others find freedom from:
    - Drugs & Alcohol – Addictions
    - Abuse
    - Poverty