

**UNLIKELY HEROES** *Ordinary Life, Extraordinary Purpose* July 8, 2018

“Use your ordinary life to live out your extraordinary purpose”

**Daily** walking w/ Jesus, fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives.

**Ephesians 1:11 MSG** *It’s in Christ that we find out who we are & what we’re living for. Long before we first heard of Christ & got our hopes up, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He’s working out in everything & everyone.*

*Jesus knows you. Jesus made you. He has a plan / a purpose for your life*

*Jesus has a reason for you being alive, in this place, at this time, now!!*

*It’s up to each of us to spend time w/ God & make sure that we have the Lord’s will & purposes for our lives.*

**Colossians 1:15b MSG** *...everything got started in Him & finds its purpose in Him. **JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!!***

With that passion for Jesus and the Word of God, you’ll receive direction & purpose for your life.

*At Kings Circle, we’re a dynamic purpose powered, passionate people!*

*Let God use you for His purpose, don’t use Him for your purpose.*

### **PHILIP THE EVANGELIST**

**Acts 6:1** As the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should

spend our time teaching the Word of God, not running a food program  
3 So brothers, select seven men who are well respected & are full of  
the Spirit & wisdom. We'll give them this responsibility. 4 Then we  
apostles can spend our time in prayer & teaching the Word." 5  
Everyone liked this idea & they chose the following: Stephen (full of  
faith & the Holy Spirit), **Philip**, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, &  
Nicolas of Antioch... 6 These seven were presented to the apostles, who  
prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. 7 So God's message  
continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in  
Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

**Acts 8:4** The believers who were scattered preached the Good News  
about Jesus wherever they went. 5 **Philip** went to the city of Samaria &  
told the people there about the Messiah. 6 Crowds listened intently to  
Philip because they were eager to hear his message & see the  
miraculous signs he did. 7 Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as  
they left their victims. Many who'd been paralyzed or lame were  
healed. 8 There was great joy in that city. 9 A man named Simon had  
been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria &  
claiming to be someone great. 10 Everyone, from the least to the  
greatest, often spoke of him as "the Great One—the Power of God." 11  
They listened closely to him because for a long time he'd astounded  
them w/ his magic. 12 **Now** the people believed Philip's message of  
Good News concerning the Kingdom of God & the name of Jesus Christ.  
As a result, many men & women were baptized. 13 Simon himself  
believed & was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went  
& was amazed by the signs & great miracles Philip performed...

**Acts 8:26** As for **Philip**, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south  
down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he  
started out, & he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great  
authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had  
gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 he was now returning. Seated in his  
carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

29 The Holy Spirit said to **Philip**, “Go over & walk along beside the carriage.”<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over & heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”<sup>31</sup> The man replied “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” He urged Philip to come up into the carriage & sit w/ him. <sup>32</sup> The passage of Scripture he’d been reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to slaughter. As a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.<sup>33</sup> He was humiliated & received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? His life was taken from the earth.”<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Beginning w/ this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” <sup>38</sup> He ordered the carriage to stop & they went down into the water & Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

**Acts 21:8** The next day we (*Paul & Luke*) went on to Caesarea & stayed at the home of **Philip the Evangelist**, one of the seven men who had been chosen to distribute food. <sup>9</sup> He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy.

***We can all be unlikely heroes; ordinary life; extraordinary purpose!***

***What or who MOTIVATES your life? What’s the DRIVING FORCE?***  
Hundreds of **circumstances, emotions, & values** can motivate you.

**Ecclesiastes 4:4** I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

**1. Guilt** – running from regrets; hiding your shame; manipulated by memories; past controls your future; wandering through life w/out purpose.

**Psalm 32:1** What joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! **2** Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt whose lives are lived in complete honesty...**5** Finally I confessed all my sins to you & stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I’ll confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone!

*“We’re all products of our past, but God’s purpose isn’t limited by our past. God specializes in giving people a fresh start!”*

**2. Resentment & Anger** – hold on to hurts, never let go; rehearse the pain over & over in your mind; shut down & internalize; blow up & explode; continue to “stew” in your pain - always hurts you more than the other person.

**Job 5:2 MSG** The hot temper of a fool eventually kills him, the jealous anger of a simpleton does her in.

*“You’re hurting yourself w/ your bitterness. Learn from it and let it go!”*

**3. Fear** – Origin = traumatic experiences? unrealistic expectations? high control home? genetic disposition? regardless of origin: you won’t venture out; play it safe; avoid risks; maintain status quo.

**1 John 4:18 MSG** There’s no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

*“You must fight against fear w/ faith & love”*

**4. Materialism** – acquiring is the goal; believe the lie = **having more** will make you happy, important & more secure. Eventually we get bored = we want newer, bigger, better & more! ALSO, you believe if you **get** more then you'll **be** more. (Self-worth & importance)

**1 Timothy 6:10** The **love** of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, **craving** money, have wandered from the true faith & pierced themselves w/ many sorrows.

*“Your value is **not** determined by your valuables.”*

**5. Approval** –**expectations** from parents, spouses, children, teachers, or friends control you; peer pressure; worried what others think; follow the crowd; please everyone; opinions of others

**Matthew 6:24** “No one can serve two masters. For you’ll hate one & love the other; you’ll be devoted to one & despise the other.”

*“Controlled by others means missing God’s purposes for your life.”*

**“All of these negative motivations & driving forces lead to unused potential, unnecessary stress & an unfulfilled life.”**

**Eph 1:3 PT** Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm’s already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father the Father of our Lord Jesus; all because He sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate Him w/ all our hearts! **4** He chose us to be His very own, joining us to Himself before He laid the foundation of the universe! Because of His great love, He ordained us that we’d be seen as holy in His eyes w/ an unstained innocence. **5** It was always in **His perfect plan** to adopt us as His delightful children, through our union w/ Jesus, the Anointed One, so that His tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify His grace—for the same love He has for His Beloved One Jesus, He has for us. **This unfolding plan brings Him great pleasure!**