



“Most people have uphill hopes and downhill habits.” —John Maxwell

### **Colossians 1:15-17 The Message (MSG)**

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

1. You have a purpose.

### **Psalm 139:16 NIV**

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

### **Psalm 139:16 New Living Translation (NLT)**

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

### **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. How do I find my purpose?

Q. What are you passionate about?

Q. What do you feel your gifts lean toward?

### **Matthew 25:14-30 New Living Translation (NLT)**

Parable of the Three Servants: “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver[a] to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

God deposited into each one of us a gift a talent that we have to uncover. He entrusted us with it.

**The Parable of the Talents teaches that:**

- A. God always gives us everything we need to do what He has called us to do.:
- B. We are not all created equal.
- C. We work for the Master, not our own purposes.

3. What if I've been going down the wrong path for years?

**Romans 11:29 (AMPC)**

29 For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]

**Romans 11:29 Message (MSG)**

God's gifts and God's call are under full warranty—never canceled, never rescinded.

**How to Master the Habit**

1. Decide what is important.

**Philippians 3:7-8** But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

2. Give calendar time to the important things.

**Psalms 90:12 (LB)** Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.

- Make time for renewal.
- Make time for relationships.

3. Eliminate the non-essentials.

**Hebrews 12:1**

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

4. Take inventory regularly.

**Psalms 39:4-5 (NLT)** LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away.

My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath.

**Assignment:** Ask God to begin to direct your steps into your purpose.