

Pursuing Purpose – Key Principles to Live By!

By Schlyce Jimenez

PRINCIPLE # 1 – YOU HAVE TO FIND OUT GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

“...For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]..” (Ephesians 2:10 – AMP)

Before the foundation of the world, God planned out “good works” that we were to accomplish during our time here on earth. In addition, he also prepared the specific paths that we would need to take in order to walk them out. Nothing has been left to chance. God is not confused about why he called us. He is not still trying to decide what to do with us. No God is a God of purpose. He declares the end from the beginning and he designed us specifically with the gifts, talents, personality traits and desires that would be needed to fulfill his master plan. And the exciting part is that the plan for our individual lives is part of an overall strategic plan for the Kingdom of God. You are important, your purpose is important, and God needs you to step into it and pursue it with all your might so that His will can be accomplished in the earth.

But how do we come to know God’s plan? How do we receive it? There’s only one way. By revelation received through communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and shows us things to come. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says that we have received the Holy Spirit so that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. So, it’s the Holy Spirit’s job to reveal God’s plan for our lives to us. It’s also his job to lead and guide us every step of the way. Praying in tongues is probably the best way get “in tune” with the voice of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must discipline ourselves to pray in the spirit regularly and to on purpose seek the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in the decisions that we are making. We need to know if we are in God’s will and if so what to do next, and if not, how to get back on track.

Personally, I have found that journaling is the best way to stay connected to the voice of the Holy Spirit. I always bring my journal into my prayer time and write down everything I sense that the Lord is speaking to my heart - whether it’s a scripture, a specific instruction or an answer to a question. Also, when I pray in tongues, I frequently ask to receive the interpretation according to 1 Corinthians 14:13. And guess what? Because I believe I receive when I pray (according to Mark 11:24), I get it. So I encourage you to get out your prayer journal or start one if you don’t already have one. Seek the Lord in prayer. Find out the good works that God predestined for you to do and exactly how to go about doing them. If you

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haven't received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and don't currently pray in tongues. Contact the ministry and we'll provide you information on how to receive both.

PRINCIPLE # 2 - WHENEVER GOD CALLS YOU TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING FOR HIS KINGDOM, IT WILL ALWAYS REQUIRE LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

"...get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." (Genesis 12:1 - KJV)

God called Abraham to leave what was familiar when it was time to pursue God's plans and you can bet that at some point he is going to ask you to do the same. There is no one in the history of man that has done anything for God by staying in their comfort zone. No, they had to take steps of faith trusting that they heard from God. I can tell you from a personal perspective that Brian and I are very familiar with leaving our comfort zones. In fact, we joke sometimes that being uncomfortable has almost become comfortable. Whether it was Brian leaving his family to move from California to Chicago, or me leaving my cushy, high-paying corporate job with no clue of what I was supposed to do next, or us leaving our wonderful Pastor and church family in Chicago to move to Colorado in 2007, we've had to step out on faith many times and trust that God had a plan.

Now for you, it may not mean a cross country move, but if you seek the Lord's will, most likely God is asking you to do something that is uncomfortable. It may be going back to school, starting your own business, changing careers or just doing something you've never done before. But at some point, you can count on the fact that your surroundings are going to have to change in some way in order for God's purpose for your life to come to pass. The Lord has to get us out of what is familiar so that we can (1) learn to trust him, (2) discover His hidden potential in us, and (3) activate the supernatural realm by faith. This was true of Abraham as well as every other great man or woman of God throughout history. It's just the way it works. In order for God to make a life great, he has to have control of it. Therefore, at some point we all have to just say "yes Lord" and do what he's prompting us to do.

PRINCIPLE #3 - YOU MUST GET INTO ALIGNMENT WITH GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE IN ORDER TO TRULY PROSPER.

"I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." (Jeremiah 29:11 – Message Bible)

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In prayer recently, the Lord spoke to my heart to “get organized for increase.” As I meditated on that statement, I realized that living the abundant life that Jesus died to give us requires that we get our lives in agreement with God’s plan. True prosperity in the life of a believer is very much tied to fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives. Therefore, we must get our lives organized and into alignment or agreement with God’s plans. Not our plans, but heaven’s plans. When we do that, the increase of heaven will burst onto the scene to make sure that God’s plans are fulfilled.

God is only obligated to bless and provide for His plans. But, so many times we make our own plans and then hope God will bless them, or we just seem to be making no progress at all. We end up in the same place this year as we were last year, thinking to ourselves, what is wrong with this picture. But think about it, all throughout the Bible, God worked supernaturally through people to bring His plans to pass. He’s the one that calls us. He’s the one with the master plan. So our job is to find out what God wants us to do and then organize our lives according to that. As long as we’re headed in the wrong direction, life is hard. Think of Jonah or the Apostle Paul before they got into agreement with God’s plans.

I really believe that life is supposed to have a divine flow. It’s not supposed to be a constant struggle. Sure we have challenges and the devil is going to try and oppose us. But when we are in God’s purpose and plan, I believe that God’s grace is sufficient. The apostle Paul after his conversion is a great example of that. After his rude “awakening” on the road to Damascus when he got into agreement with God’s plan for his life, he was empowered by the grace of God to fulfill his destiny. Was it always easy? No. But God’s grace was there to empower him to obey and finish his course with joy. Check out what Paul said:

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify of the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24 KJV)

Yes he had trials, yes he encountered obstacles, but he said he wasn’t moved by these things. He was a testimony of the grace of God that comes upon you when you are in God’s will. Paul was, in his own words “not disobedient unto the heavenly vision” (Acts 16:19). Paul submitted to God’s plans, became obedient to a heavenly vision and the grace of God enabled him to fulfill it. This is what I believe God is calling us to do in his hour. He is looking for people that will “sell out” to His plans.

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PRINCIPLE #4 - YOU HAVE TO “SELL OUT” TO GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE TO REALLY LIVE.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 16:25 – KJV)

I can still remember the moment that I “lost my life.” It was back in the fall of 2001, the night I also received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I was saved when I was 10 years old, but I never actually sold out or gave up my life to the Lord. I received him as Savior but never really made him Lord. But one night that fall, I went to hear a speaker who described the very thing Matthew 16:25 talks about. During the service, the speaker explained how God wants us to totally surrender our lives to him by comparing it to signing a blank contract and then giving God permission to fill it in. Well that’s exactly what I did when I got home. I remember I went into my bedroom and laid down on the floor. I told the Lord, “I don’t have anything to offer you, Lord. My life is a mess, I’m a mess, but here I am. You can have me. Take my life and make it what you want it to be.” And that’s the night I lost my life. That’s the night I got out of the drivers seat and “died” to myself, my dreams, my plans, and my desires. All I wanted was what God wanted. And from that moment on, I can tell you it’s been one awesome ride. I may not know all the details of His plan yet, but the interesting thing I found out was that the plan for my life had been written before the foundation of the world. What really happened that night was that I tore up the plan that I had had for my own life and agreed to submit to Gods.

PRINCIPLE #5 – OBEY AT ALL COSTS.

“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.” (John 2:5-KJV)

It’s imperative that once you sell out to God’s plan that you then listen for his instructions and do whatever he says. Theocracy is one of the great things about the Kingdom of God. There’s only one king and one way – his way. There’s no debate, no vote, and no decisions by committee. No, the Lord gives the instructions and it’s our job to just follow them. It kind of reminds me of those old report cards we used to get in grade school where you got a happy face for satisfactory and a sad face for unsatisfactory, and one of the major categories was “ability to follow directions.” Well I don’t know about you, but I want a happy face on my report card for the Lord. Also, I don’t want to go around the same old mountain a hundred times or end up totally in the wrong place because I didn’t follow directions or get them straight. No, I want to follow his instructions and get to my destiny on time. This is a very important point. We have to hear from heaven and then like the Nike ad says, we have to “just do it.”