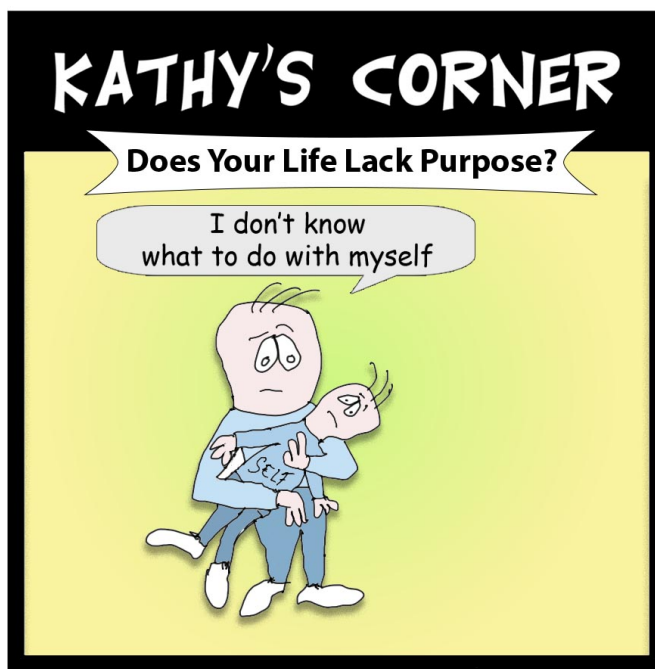


Does Your Life Lack Purpose?

How can we live joyously without purpose? We have heard of a “midlife crisis,” when a person realizes his life is roughly half over—a life that hasn’t really been satisfying—or may have been filled with disappointments; these lead a person to desire changes. This is a point when many people have made bad decisions. We have also heard of the “empty nest.” This can be a rough time for many who have devoted their lives to their children who have now left the nest—no longer are they under the watchful eye of caring parents. These people, too, may be searching for purpose.



We have seen people excited by meeting Jesus and trusting Him for their salvation. I believe they knew God valued them enough to give His Son so they could have eternal life; but then, the excitement dwindles for many. Is it because they don’t know that their life has purpose? Is it because they don’t know what their spiritual gift is, or they don’t feel like they have one? Is it because they can’t do *such-and-such* as well as *so-and-so*? Do they feel devalued because what they wish to see in their life takes time, and they don’t have the patience for it? Do they think they do not have faith for it?—a mustard seed isn’t very big! I am not judging here, I have struggled with a lot of what I have mentioned. **Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.** (Romans 14:4 NIV)

The Holy Spirit is not in a hurry. There is a period of refinement and transformation. It seems a mother and her sons had lofty expectations for their service:

Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

“What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:20-28 NIV)

Jesus said to take the low place. He also said that many who were first would be last, and many last would be first. Are you **willing** to start low? Yes, this is also a matter of the will. Jesus was God, and He took the low place of service while physically on this planet. Now this “Servant” has the name above all others, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Are you **willing** to serve?

You are valued, and you do have a purpose. You have probably heard, **For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV) Do you believe this? You may have heard, **For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** (Ephesians 2:10 NIV) Do you believe Him? There is powerful purpose that is God-designed for each of us.

These two verses show what we can do—a purpose we all have:

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. (Hebrews 3:13 NIV) If you suspect someone is struggling, a shared scripture, a simple note that shows you care—a text—a call, all make a difference. Even those who are not necessarily struggling still need encouragement.

When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. (From 1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV) We cannot do *this* alone!

Your presence alone may be an encouragement in the meeting—assembly, but even more as you share what God gives you day-to-day.

When you pray the words of the Lord’s prayer, **“Give us this day our daily bread,”** do you realize there is bread for spirit and soul, not just our bodies? Who is the Bread of Life? The Lord’s prayer is a body prayer (of the church body). It is “us,” not me. What He gives you can be shared like the bread Jesus broke to feed thousands. In the Lord’s prayer, we are praying for all our brothers and sisters to receive this bread. I believe He answers and gives this bread to all His body—don’t be a hoarder! How do you share what He has given you? Are you **willing** to share it? What can man do to you? Jesus said, “if they receive my words, they will receive your words.” Do you believe Him?

Receiving and sharing is a purpose for every life. To love is a purpose for every life. ARE YOU WILLING?

Jesus said in John 20:21, “As the Father has sent me, I send you.” As a Spirit-filled Christian, do you know your purpose in warfare? How many times I have mentioned that Jesus came to undo the works of the devil. We are surrounded by those dark works! A verse—Psalm 115:16 really caught my attention this morning. **The heavens are the Lord’s, but the earth he has given to the human race.** The word *given* in this verse is Strong’s # 5414, *nathan*. It has many meanings. Biblehub.com summarizes it this way:

Topical Lexicon

Summary of Usage

תָּן embraces every aspect of “giving” in Scripture: bestowing gifts, assigning responsibility, granting authority, surrendering objects, setting in place, permitting, delivering into another’s hand, and even causing an outcome. It appears in every genre of the Old Testament—narrative, law, poetry, prophecy—totaling over two thousand occurrences. The breadth of its application highlights a God who gives graciously and a covenant people called to mirror His generosity.

If things aren’t the way they should be down here, *and they are not!*; are we doing our part which includes purposeful prayer and fighting the fight—“the good fight?”

YOU HAVE PURPOSE!—Do you believe it?