

Mid-Week Service: Agenda (Purpose)

Series 6

9th August 2023

Topic: Partnership in Purpose

Introduction: We have come a long way in this purpose series and I have arrived at the understanding that amidst the pursuit of life, there is nothing more satisfying and preserving than the fulfillment of purpose. It is the only thing that lightens our path and gives us direction in life. A man without purpose has no place of destination, this is why purpose discovery and purposeful living are paramount for us to live with. As I have stated in the previous series, the greatest tragedy that can ever happen to a man is not death (*in fact death is a gain for those in Christ*), but dying without purpose. Remember you are created for a purpose, it is not by accident.

Let's do a quick recap of the first part of our teaching about misconceptions of purpose. We treated three of five:

- **Doing good to people is God's purpose** is a serious misconception because anybody can do good. It is not enough to do good. God is calling us to fulfill purpose.
- **My talents and giftings are God's purpose for my life.** We looked at the life of Moses, a stammerer and we concluded that it is not of our own ability but of God who gives capacity. Never assume your gifts and talents are your purpose, it is not always so.
- **My profession is God's plan for my life** is a myth. In Matthew 9: 9, Matthew was found in his place of profession with many

qualifications as a professional tax collector. Being a chief, he had an office but that was not his purpose. We see that after Matthew was called, he never came back to his profession. Know this: **"The journey of purpose is a journey of no return."** Never assume that your profession is your purpose. Although, as one of the components of purpose, it can be a platform.

The last two misconceptions about purpose are:

4. **"A Wealthy or rich person who experiences no hardship is in the center of God's purpose for his life"**

This is a terrible misconception. Our generation has equated materialism to fulfilling purpose, and this is where the problem lies because they do not equate. Let me show what happened to the Rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. The man was rich but it was all useless because when he was called to give account we realized he did not live a life of purpose. Many have been given the privilege of having a continuous supply of money but due to some selfish reasons, they are failing to act in purpose. Being rich is not bad but not using it to fulfill purpose is a danger.

Purpose is not in hardship nor enjoyment. It is a terrible misconception to think that living a life free of hardship, a rosy life is fulfilling purpose.

5. **"Purpose is standing on the pulpit. "**

People believe this a lot and it is heart-wrenching. We all have our different pulpits in life. It is only people without purpose that will be

adamant and violent about securing a position to be recognized. Purpose is not standing on the pulpit or receiving accolades from people.

Let me put it to you that receiving God's call to be a pastor is different from purpose. It is through prayer that a person with a call discovers the area of purpose in the calling. There are many people in the seminary without purpose who mount the pulpit trying to do everything - *the multi-purpose pastors*. Standing on the pulpit is not purpose.

Let's enter another dimension of purpose in this series.

PARTNERSHIP IN PURPOSE

Text: John 15: 4-5 - *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me, you can do nothing. (NKJV)*

Introduction: In our text, we see an emphasis on something specific as we proceed in the teaching of purpose: "**No purpose is fulfilled in isolation.**" We need God to abide in us as we also do the same in Him for us to become that which we have been called to be. This is the key partnership in our fulfillment of purpose. If we remove God from our lives, our purpose cannot come into reality because He is the one that made us. We have to keep an alignment with our Manufacturer or else we end up as a product of failure.

"There is a call to partner with your Manufacturer."

In verse 4 of John 15, we see that we abide in God and He also abide in Him for our partnership to be effective. It is not a one-sided affair. We can not bear anything of our own nor can we fulfill purpose of our own. The more you remove God from your life, the more your life become shattered.

In handling misconceptions, partnership is important. You will not know what the real purpose is if you do not partner with God. Verse 5 takes it further by saying, you can abide in God and bear fruit but if He abides in you, there is much. **We move from a level of bearing fruit to much fruit by partnership.** Another partnership we can relate to is marriage: "One will chase a thousand but two will chase ten thousand. "

The verse concludes by telling us that **"Without Jesus, we can do nothing."**

It is possible to live and yet not exist. The only force that makes you exist is by allowing a partnership to exist between you and Jesus. There are 5 vital forces in partnership for you to align and fulfill purpose.

Vital Forces of Partnership.

1. Spirituality

John 4:24

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NKJV)

Spirituality is the first force of partnership and this is why I keep saying that before God releases His mindset to you you must build a personal

fellowship with Him. You must be spiritual to have an effective partnership with God.

Spirituality simply means the ability to clearly hear the voice of God. It entails a level of maturity. In one of my series on Spirituality some time back, I talked about how people misunderstand not wearing earrings and putting on long skirts as being spiritual. Whether you wear earrings or not or wear the longest of skirts, it does not correlate with spirituality. There is more. In fact, working out miracles or even speaking in tongues is not proof of being spiritual.

Hebrews 5:14

*" But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern both good and evil.**" (NKJV)*

Maturity is spirituality, that is you have grown personally to discern what is right and what is wrong.

Matthew 13:16-17 - *But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*
(NKJV)

Grow to a point where you can personally hear God speak in any situation where you need answers. **Spirituality demands maturity:ability to pick the voice of the Lord and to go on irrespective of whatever is happening to you.**

Galatians 6: 1.

*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you **who are spiritual restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." (NKJV).*

Maturity demands restoring people that are lost not gossiping about them. People can fall, but as a mature church, it is our responsibility to pull them back up. It shows the very essence of spirituality.

1 Corinthians 9:27

*"But I discipline my body and **bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." (NKJV)*

One of the characteristics of spirituality is the ability to control yourself and flesh, to bring them into subjection. This is the way we grow. It is not spirituality when you struggle with sin every day, standing and falling like a babe.

Here is a command: **Stand! Don't be a babe.**

"Pray that God will give you grace to stand, to be mature and spirituality minded."

Spirituality demands that you are "*addicted*" to the Word of God. Give yourself to studying, prayer, and fasting.

2. Diligence

Proverbs 22:29

"Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men." (AMP)

Skill and hard work go hand in hand with purpose. Don't be empty nor be lazy. Diligence is a key to partnership. God never calls empty-handed people. Peter, Moses, Joshua, and Elijah were people who were found working.

Luke 22:42- 43 - saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. (NKJV).

It was after Jesus agreed to the partnership of God with work that He was given strength. Know, strength comes for diligent people. The Bible affirms this by telling us that the grace of God is always made perfect in weakness. Set a boundary for rest but work.

Lamentation 3:27 -It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth.

Time waits for no one. Work now, and build value in yourself. Diligence attracts favor. God looks for people that are ready to work.

"Pray for grace to be diligent. May the spirit of laziness be banished from your life. "