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FINDING YOUR REAL PURPOSE

By Richard Curren

One of the most powerful desires of any Christian is the knowledge of God's purpose for your life; your calling. It is the very reason for your creation, and the absence of that knowledge can cause the deepest and most painful of all longings in the human soul.

MY SECRET PROBLEM

"For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:32-34

Everyone has a secret. For most of us, that secret is hidden from most, if not all, of those in our lives, robbing us of our joy and happiness. It is the hidden thing that causes us shame, pain, and hurt. It can destroy self-esteem, friendships, marriages, and careers. It can even interfere with our relationship with the Father. For most of my life I had a secret also. Only my wife knew how deeply and painfully I struggled every day to fit into the world carrying this burden. Only she knew the tears and hurt that came from this hole in my soul. My secret: I had no purpose.

Sure, I know what you are thinking, you had a purpose. You were a husband, a father, a successful businessman. Heck, you were active in the church and community. You had everything a man could want; money, a beautiful family, a great job, a lovely home. All the trappings of success that comes with hard work and diligent study. So why was I so miserable? Why did I hate Rick Curren? It was because deep down, where I did not talk about, I was empty. Sure I was a Christian. I was saved. That was not the problem. (Although I was certainly suffering from Spiritual Anorexia.) The problem was that I got no joy from my life because I was not seeking God's will for my life. I did not know my CALLING.

Now before you get confused I want to remind you that priests and pastors are not the only ones who have a calling, everyone does. Although we use the term calling to indicate a God given desire to enter into full time service of the Lord, it is much more than that. God has a plan for each one of us if we will only ask Him. But that is the problem, most of us never ask God what He wants us to do. If you are like me, the thought of God directing my daily work life seemed ridiculous. God was concerned with my spirit, my morals, and my faith. The fact that I was unfulfilled in my daily life was my problem. And it was a problem.

Like many young people, I chose my path based upon future rewards and stability. "You should be this" people would say, "it pays well and you can climb up the ladder quickly." "You will never be without a

job" and "So and so is a such and such, and boy does he make money!" were other influencers in my early life. It was all a young man about to be married needed to hear. Money, stability, future- I will be set. But I was also miserable. That misery and emptiness spilled over into all other aspects of my life and poisoned the well of abundance that I thought would bring me happiness. Sometimes it was all I could do to get up and face another day . This was certainly not what I considered living. And then the success began to dry up; the income dwindled, and success became an elusive shadow in my life. I had reached the end. Time to wake up!

A NEW PRAYER, A NEW PURPOSE

"I will cry to God Most High, Who performs on my behalf and rewards me [Who brings to pass His purposes for me and surely completes them]!"

Psalm 57:2 (Amplified Bible)

In my desperation I began to change my thought process. At the encouragement of my wife and several spiritual influences, I began to approach God very differently. My prayers became less about me and my desires and more about what God wanted for my life. I began to stop feeling sorry for my self and my frustrations and became more about God's heart, His desires. One day, I began to pray, " Lord, let me see the world through your eyes, with your heart." That prayer, over time, completely changed my life. I began to see things as I believe Jesus sees them. The man begging in the shadows of a street corner. The woman with the emaciated child in her arms. The guy at work who never smiles, eats alone, and seldom speaks. The child that has lived in the hospital longer than under his parents roof. The addict behind the dumpster at the swank mall downtown. The hopeless, empty eyes of the children on the street corner as the sun slowly disappears, once again bringing the horrors of the night. I was not ready for that. To see the world as Christ does is hard. It is the realization that these are human beings, made in the image of God..... forgotten by man.

Don't try to find your purpose, ask God to reveal it to you.

In this I found my purpose. Whatever happened, I could not live one more day without doing something, anything, to impact the world around me for Christ. I firmly believe that the greatest sorrow Jesus faced in His death was that he saw such suffering around Him, and so few willing to do anything. I believe He took great joy in changing the lives of those he touched through His travels in His ministry. He still takes joy in changing lives, and does it though His servants, you and I, as we open our hearts and eyes to His call. What is His purpose for you? You will know it as you seek His vision because it is the thing that excites you, that grabs your heart, that moves you like nothing else you know. It is what makes your spirit weep.

Not everyone is called into ministry. God needs businessmen and women, doctors, lawyers, secretaries, teachers, actors, mechanics, and sanitation workers. He has a call for each of us and it is in that call that we find our purpose and joy. My point to each of you today is to examine your heart and ask, "Am I truly happy?". If the honest answer is no, you need to reexamine with whose vision do you see. We will never be as happy as when we are purposed by the heart of Christ and walking and working with His heart. That means taking our minds off of ourselves and our wants, and seeking His purpose for us. He will meet our needs in our meeting the needs of others. That is the joy that is above all. In our service to God and His people we will find we all have a purpose.

Discovering purpose lies in knowing that we are not here by accident. We were purposed and planned even before the beginning of the universe. That we each have a purpose and calling is not a question. The question is will we seek to know that purpose and follow God's leading? The Bible tells us through and through that we are set aside by God for his purpose and pleasure. He cares deeply for our joy and welfare. He will accomplish great things for His kingdom through us if we will open our lives to His will. He will guide our steps. In this we will experience the joy God intended for us to have from the beginning.

So, whose eyes are you seeing through?

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

John 21:17



Richard Curren is the co-founder and President of Boundless Limits International and Live Guilt Free. Rick's passion is to speak and motivate others to live to their maximum potential physically, mentally, and spiritually. Through their events and publications, Rick and his wife Tanya are able to inspire others and show that each one has boundless potential to change our world. He is a former United States Army Officer. Rick serves on the Board of Directors for the So Help Me God Project as an Advisor and is a founding Board Member. With a passion for health and fitness, he is a Black Belt in Korean Olympic Tae Kwon Do, and serves as an Associate Instructor for Palmetto Martial Arts School.