

“ADJ - Purpose, Passion, and Gifts Part 1” (11-6-22)

Series Introduction: Living on purpose by discovering our gifts and glorifying God with our lives!

Today: Living with Purpose - discovering God’s purpose through his unique design & redemptive work in me

Psalms 139:13-16 (ESV)

(13) For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. (14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (15) My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (16) Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

1) Made with Purpose

Psalms 139:13-14a (ESV)

(13) For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. (14) I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . .

- **Inward parts** - literal use: essential organs. Used often metaphorically: heart/mind - the interior self
- **Fearfully** made - made with awe, respect, honor, reverence
- **Wonderfully** made - distinct or unique / amazing & wonderful

Note: The whole idea here is that we were made thoughtfully, purposely, and attentively with great care!

Psalms 139:14b (ESV)

(14) . . . Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

How do I discover my purpose?

- **Externally** - adventure/exploration, education, relationships/culture
- **Internally** - “my heart” my feelings, passions, desires, etc.

Our own nature & the environment around us play a huge part in shaping us & finding our purpose; however, we don’t primarily find our purpose **externally** or **internally**, but **eternally**.

My purpose comes from the one who is eternal, so in finding Him I discover His eternal purposes for me!

Francis of Assisi (ADJ pg. 271)

“Keep a clear eye toward life’s end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God’s creature. What you are in His sight is what you are, nothing more.” (and nothing less)

Application: Wonderful are God’s works - Does my soul know it very well?

2) Unique Purpose

Psalms 139:15 (ESV)

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

- **Intricately Woven** - like material being woven together, or a painter mixing colors
- **Uniquely Made** - Natural Abilities, Acquired Skills, Spiritual Gifts (next several weeks)

Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Note: Notice the relational aspect of this - I'm meant to be on a journey of discovery with Him!

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)

(11) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (12) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. (13) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Note: God has good and hopeful plans for us - seek Him because they are found in him!

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Note: God uniquely made me, and wants me to be able to step into my unique gifting

3) Redemptive Purpose

Psalms 139:16 (ESV)

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Note: Each of my days from beginning to end are known to Him and he works his purpose through them!

A very significant issue remains as it relates to our purpose: the problem of pain, difficulty, suffering, & evil.

John 9:1-3 (ESV)

(1) As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. (2) And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (3) Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Note: God uses even the things broken & marred by sin (and its effects) to display His glory in our lives!

Micah - unique challenge of Down Syndrome / circumstance of orphanage / hearing 2 languages / no early intervention services - He doesn't speak; yet his heart & voice cries out in love, adoration, & worship of God.

Dave Buehring (ADJ pg. 265)

“God’s hand was in the complete formation of our being and its legacy - even to the extent of redeeming the ugly effects of sin in our lives”

John 9:6-7 (ESV)

(6) Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud (7) and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Note: Even the process will be painful & difficult at times. Yet if we yield to Him - we come back seeing!

Romans 5:2-5 (ESV)

(2) Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, (4) and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, (5) and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Note: While it will not always be easy, we have grace for the journey and our hope is well founded and ultimately is fulfilled as his Spirit is poured out in our lives!

Conclusion: Let’s embrace our journey with him - discovering our purpose in relationship with Him, finding the unique ways he has made us, and then yielding ourselves in co-operation with his redemptive work in and through us!