

Purpose Driven Life 4

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So far we have talked about the first 2 purposes:

- Worship - Knowing and Loving God
- Fellowship - Knowing and Loving God's Family

Purpose #3:

Discipleship – You were created to become LIKE CHRIST.

Romans 8:29 – From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him – and all along he knew who would – should **become like his Son**. *TLB*

- Becoming like Jesus is the 3rd purpose of our lives.
- It is more important than becoming successful, happy, and wealthy.
- Becoming a disciple requires that God comes **FIRST** in our lives.

Luke 14:26-27 – ²⁶ If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-yes, even his own life-he **cannot** be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me **cannot** be my disciple. *NIV*

- Following Jesus requires a “cross” or “self-sacrifice.”
- Following Jesus comes before even my most intimate relationships and before my own interest.

Ephesians 4:15 – God wants us to grow up . . . like Christ in everything. *The Message*

- Spiritual growth is not an event, but a process.

2 Ingredients Needed to Become a Disciple

1. **The Word of God** – Our road map to becoming Christ-like.
Disciples of Jesus make “His Word” their “Final Authority.”

1 Peter 2:2 - as newborn babes, **desire** the pure milk of the **Word of God**, that you may **grow thereby**. *NKJV*

Colossians 3:16 - **Permit** the word of Christ dwell in you **richly**, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..... *NIV*

- PERMIT means – Put the Word in your life ON PURPOSE
- RICHLY means – Do it ABUNDANTLY

2. Obedience and Suffering – Rick Warren Doctrine

Jesus is our example.

Hebrews 5:7-8 – ⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he **learned obedience** from **what he suffered**. *NIV*

- This refers to when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane.
- He submitted to God's will for us!
- Not my will, but your will be done!

I Peter 4:19 - So then, those who **suffer according to God's will** should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. *NIV*

- There is a suffering **ACCORDING** to the will of God and a suffering **APART** from the will of God.

2 Types of Suffering Jesus Endured

1. Substitutionary – Suffering in which He took our place
2. Exemplary – Suffering that Jesus left as an example to follow

SUBSTITUTIONARY SUFFERINGS:

Substitute – One that take the place of another.

SIN:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For He has made Jesus to be sin **for us**, when he knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

MENTAL TORMENT:

Isaiah 53:5 - But He was pierced for **our** transgressions, He was crushed for **our** iniquities; the punishment that brought **us peace** was upon Him, and by **His** wounds we are healed.

SICKNESS:

Matthew 8:17 - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took **our** infirmities, and bare **our** sicknesses.

POVERTY:

II Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for **your sakes he became poor**, that you **through his poverty** might be rich.

EXEMPLARY SUFFERINGS:

Example – A pattern or a model, as of something to be imitated

I John 2:6 - He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. *NKJV*

2 Kinds of Sufferings we must Endure

1. Persecution

II Timothy 3:12 - Yes, and **all that will live godly** in Christ Jesus shall **suffer persecution**.

2. Putting away Sin

I Peter 4:1-2 – ¹ Therefore, since Christ **suffered** in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has **suffered** in his body is **done with sin**. ² As a result, he **does not live** the rest of his earthly life for evil **human desires**, but rather for **the will of God**. *NIV*

Does God Bring Suffering Upon us to Teach Us?

Romans 8:28 – In all things God works for the good of those **who love Him**, who have been called according to his purpose. *NIV*

- God doesn't cause **ALL THINGS**, but he **WORKS** in all things to my good and because I am called according to His purpose.
- This is a promise to those who have chosen to fulfill the First Purpose of life, to Worship and Love God!

James 1:13,16-17 – ¹³ Let **no one say** when he is tempted, tested or tried, "I am tempted, tested or tried by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does **He Himself tempt, test or try anyone**.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **no variation** or **shadow of turning**.

John 10:10 - The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. I have come that they may **have life**, and that they may **have it more abundantly**.

Trails are not of value, but THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH is of great value!

I Peter 1:7 - That **the trail of your faith**, being much **more precious than gold that perishes**, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

- The trying of your faith is more precious than gold.
- When gold is refined, it is heated to over 1,000 degrees, the dross moves toward the top, and it is skimmed off.
- When a trial comes, it reveals the impurities in your belief or faith life or where you are being governed by the senses.
- You must wipe the dross (a life lived by the senses) away or stir it back in and take another trip around the mountain.

Hebrews 2:18 - Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted or tested, He is able to help those who are being tempted or tested. ***NIV***