

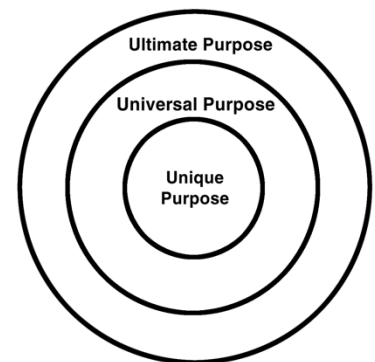
PERSONAL PURPOSE

MENTORING TOOLS

We can find the purposes of God for men on three levels. Picture these levels as three concentric circles. We'll label the outermost circle God's ultimate purpose - God has called all mankind into a love relationship with Himself. This is an intimate relationship which we will enjoy for eternity.

God then calls us to join Him in His purposes - that of the gospel. This is universal in that it applies to all Christians. His Word makes it clear that all followers of Christ are to devote themselves to prayer, to love one another, to study and apply God's Word to their lives, to share the gospel, to be salt and light, as well as the other spiritual disciplines the Lord admonishes us to pursue. Every believer is called to share Christ and to help other believers in the growth process. It is not an option.

Our individual calling is the innermost circle - the unique life-mission that becomes the context where we live out the relational and universal calls of God. Everyone has a different individual calling, yet we all have one. No individual calling is higher or more spiritual. They are all equal in God's eyes.



*Thou didst form my inward parts;
Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb...
Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Thy book they were written,
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.*

- PSALM 139:13, 16

One of the most fulfilling challenges for Christians is discovering God's unique purpose for our lives. Finding our unique purpose is, to a great extent, a pilgrimage - a journey of exploration rather than an immediate "ah ha" experience. It comes in little bits as God, over time, reveals insights into why you (as a unique individual) are here. It comes as we pray asking God to reveal His purpose for us (Matthew 6:7-8), study His Word, and reflect on the influences and forces He has brought to bear in and on our lives. When it comes to a unique

purpose, we must take into special account the way God crafted us, that is, the gifts, interests, aptitudes, and temperament He designed into our lives just as He did into the lives of David, Jeremiah, and Paul.

When we have received and clearly defined our purpose as from God it will have a dramatic effect on how we live our life day to day. We will be able to rest and enjoy God working through us in a miraculous way. We will experience fruit and joy like we have never known. Our lives will be characterized by peace and contentment. Although having a purpose does not mean a pain free life, one without difficulty or struggle. Quite the contrary, we may experience more trial and difficulties when we walk with God, yet He never leaves us or forsakes us.

The old and honorable idea of 'vocation' is simply that we each are called, by God, or by our gifts, or by our preference, to a kind of good work for which we are particularly fitted.

– WENDELL BERRY

This approach includes several different exercises and assessments, some of which you may have already done, or will need to do separately from this document.

- Life path
- Spiritual gifts
- Personality profile
- What energizes you
- Life lessons
- Skills and knowledge
- Passions

In the end, you will look for common themes and patterns that will shed light on God's unique purpose for your life, and you'll start to craft your personal purpose statement.

Let's get started!

EXERCISE 1: ENERGIZING ABILITIES

What energizes you? What are the activities that you can easily get lost in, do for prolonged periods of time, and that leave you feeling fulfilled? Check only the words that apply. Use the blanks at the bottom to add your own.

- Adventure
- Advising
- Analytical Thinking
- Arranging
- Arranging
- Assessing
- Bookkeeping
- Collaboration
- Communications Skills
- Competing
- Computing
- Confidence and Self-Discipline
- Conflict Management
- Consensus-Building
- Corporate Communication and Relationships
- Creating Process, Procedures
- Data Analysis
- Data entry, maintenance
- Decision Making
- Employee Development
- Entertaining
- Entrepreneurship
- Ethics and Integrity
- Evaluation
- Facilitation
- Financial Management
- Fundraising
- Graphic Design
- Influencing/Negotiating
- Innovation
- Inventing
- Leveraging Partnerships
- Motivating
- Organizing People, Things, Information
- Performance Management
- Persuasion
- Planning
- Planning and evaluation
- Prioritizing
- Problem Solving
- Process Development
- Project Management
- Promoting
- Relating with People
- Researching
- Resource Management
- Risk-Taking
- Seeing Big Picture
- Selling
- Strategic Planning
- Supervising
- Teaching
- Teambuilding
- Teamwork
- Training
- Travel
- Tutoring
- Vision
- Work Achievement
- Working Accurately
- Working Independently
- Writing
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

EXERCISE 2: LIFE LESSONS

The unexamined life is not worth living.

– **SOCRATES**

Complete the Life Path exercise and look back at the key events and influences that have shaped your life up to this point. What are some of the lessons God was or is teaching you? Here are some areas to consider as you think back.

- Relationship with God
- Influences
- Goals and priorities
- Character qualities
- Personal discipline
- Relationships with others

Example: Learned from my father the importance of pitching in to maintain our small church building

God has been working in your life through your triumphs and your failures, preparing you for a grand purpose in His master plan. The things you wrote above are key to knowing your “WHY” – the reason you care about the things you care about. As you can see by now, your story is really His story – God shaping and redeeming you for a unique role in His kingdom. As a result, the following have become true in your life:

- COMPETENCE.** Because of your life journey, you are now more competent in many areas.
- CONFIDENCE.** You have the confidence to go forward because of an increased faith in God for all that He has done and brought you through.
- CHEMISTRY.** Certain people will now naturally relate to you due to your life experiences.
- CONNECTION.** God has exposed you to a unique network of people you can learn from and share with.
- COMPASSION.** Your life experiences have given you a greater compassion for various people and needs.
- CAPACITY.** God has expanded your capacity to love and serve through your experiences and connections.
- CONVICTION.** Because of your experiences, you have solidified and become passionate about various convictions.

EXERCISE 3: SKILLS AND HOBBIES

What do you do for fun? What skills do you have that you enjoy using? When you are surfing YouTube videos or browsing magazines, what kinds of things do you like to learn about? List the things that come easily to you, even if they're not something you get to use (or play with) every week at work.

List 3-4 skills that stand out.

Example: building things, assembly, handyman labor

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EXERCISE 4: PASSIONS

Identify 1 or 2 areas from each of these categories that tend to move you deeply.

I gravitate most toward working with people from this group: *(check one or two)*

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Infants | <input type="radio"/> Young Parents | <input type="radio"/> Executives |
| <input type="radio"/> Preschoolers | <input type="radio"/> Parents of Teens | <input type="radio"/> Politicians |
| <input type="radio"/> Children | <input type="radio"/> Senior Citizens | <input type="radio"/> Military Personnel |
| <input type="radio"/> Junior High Students | <input type="radio"/> Men | <input type="radio"/> Blue Collar Workers |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior High Students | <input type="radio"/> Women | <input type="radio"/> Professionals |
| <input type="radio"/> College Students | <input type="radio"/> Internationals | <input type="radio"/> Entertainers |
| <input type="radio"/> Young/Older Career | <input type="radio"/> Different Races | <input type="radio"/> The Poor |
| <input type="radio"/> Singles | <input type="radio"/> Different Religions | <input type="radio"/> LGBTQ+ |
| <input type="radio"/> Couples | <input type="radio"/> Mentally Challenged | <input type="radio"/> Prisoners / Former Convicts |
| <input type="radio"/> Physically Challenged | <input type="radio"/> Athletes | <input type="radio"/> Divorcees |
| <input type="radio"/> Young Marrieds | <input type="radio"/> Educators | <input type="radio"/> _____ |

I gravitate most toward working with people ... *(check one or two)*

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> in normal stages of development | <input type="radio"/> who need special services | <input type="radio"/> who are fighting addiction |
| <input type="radio"/> in crisis | <input type="radio"/> who need basic life skills | <input type="radio"/> who deal with anxiety |
| <input type="radio"/> in pain | <input type="radio"/> who need encouragement | <input type="radio"/> who are depressed or suicidal |
| <input type="radio"/> in transition | <input type="radio"/> who need to know Christ | <input type="radio"/> who are estranged from family |
| <input type="radio"/> with illnesses | <input type="radio"/> who are hungry to grow | <input type="radio"/> _____ |

I gravitate most toward working with this issue/activity: *(check one or two)*

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Marriage | <input type="radio"/> Education | <input type="radio"/> Inner-city issues |
| <input type="radio"/> Parenting | <input type="radio"/> Government | <input type="radio"/> Pro-life |
| <input type="radio"/> Family issues | <input type="radio"/> Community service | <input type="radio"/> Criminal justice |
| <input type="radio"/> Men's issues | <input type="radio"/> Financial management | <input type="radio"/> Homelessness |
| <input type="radio"/> Women's issues | <input type="radio"/> Environmental issues | <input type="radio"/> Entertainment |
| <input type="radio"/> Building relationships | <input type="radio"/> Cultural issues | <input type="radio"/> Sports |
| <input type="radio"/> Business | <input type="radio"/> Rural issues | <input type="radio"/> _____ |

I see myself working in a ... *(check one or two)*

- Local capacity
- Regional capacity

- National capacity
- International capacity

- Business association
- _____

Look over the items you've checked. Combine one checked item from each list into a cluster that best describes your passions. Here's an example: "I would like to work in a local capacity, having a teaching ministry, addressing parenting issues with parents of teens." List up to 3 clusters.

EXERCISE 5: SUMMARY OF GIFTS AND PERSONALITY

Go back to the Spiritual Gifts that you took recently. Write the 4 gifts you scored the highest on, and a brief description (in your own words) of that gift.

Example: Service

Offer practical assistance to those in the body of Christ – time, money, expertise

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Now revisit your [DiSC profile](#) and read the description under Your ID story. Write 5-6 of the strengths you see listed in those paragraphs.

Example: deliberate, thoughtful, prioritizing quality

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TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Copy the information you've completed on the prior pages to this Summary page.

**ENERGIZING
ABILITIES**

LIFE LESSONS

SKILLS / HOBBIES

PASSIONS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

PERSONALITY

Now, prayerfully look for any common themes that stand out and take a shot at writing a personal purpose statement that takes into consideration the elements you've discovered about yourself in these exercises.
