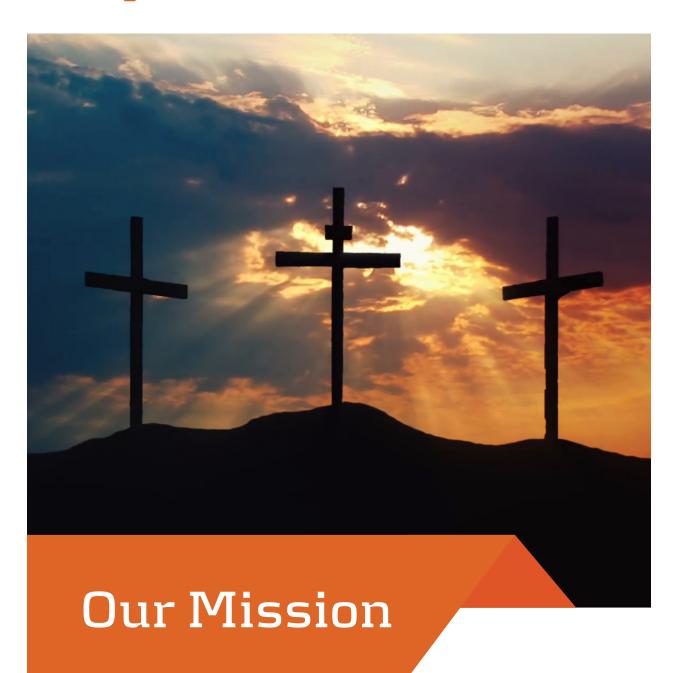
God's Greatest Purpose





God's Greatest Purpose



1. GOD DESIRES THAT WE SHOULD BE "SAVED" (2 PETER 3:9)

"THE LORD IS NOT SLOW TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOW-NESS, BUT IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERY-ONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE."

The first step in fulfilling God's Greatest Purpose and plan for all of our lives is of course that we know Him and have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This simply means that God wants us to turn from our self-centered life of sin and with His help, we now live a Christ-centered life of surrender. Basically, we are forgiven of our sin and free to live the life that He wants us to live. Without this life-transforming step, everything else we do will be eternally useless. That may sound harsh, but without Christ, when our lives are over, all the effort and things we built will have ended, and neither we, nor the people around us, will have made it into heaven.

Simply put, His will for everyone is for us to turn from our sins (Repentance) and turn to Him (Faith). Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me I will in no way cast them aside." Once a person has truly surrendered their life to Jesus, they now have a living, daily, & intimate relationship with God. Now the foundation is laid, and the journey of discovery begins. I've heard it said that our purpose is not created it is discovered. I have found this to be true. God's Purpose is already inside of us. He may need to cultivate some things in us, or we may need to further develop some skills, but God's greatest purpose for our lives is that we know Him personally; that we turn away from our sins and surrender our lives to Christ. This plan was already laid out before the foundation of the world.



2. GOD DESIRES THAT WE SHOULD BE "SERVING" (MATTHEW 25:14-30) (GOD HAS GIVEN US THE TOOLS NEEDED TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES)

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. He who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I

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scattered no seed. Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming, I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This portion of Scripture is known by many as the "Parable of the Talents." There is much to learn and apply to our lives from this passage, but I feel that the central message is that God has given talents to everyone and He expects us to use them to the fullest extent possible to further God's Kingdom.

It is true that He gives us all different talents and abilities. It is also true that He gives more talents and giftings to some than He does to others. But the underlying fact remains, that whatever He has given to you, He expects you to use it for His Kingdom.

People at both ends of the spectrum need to remember the following:

For those who have been blessed with many obvious gifts, talents, and abilities-

Remember that to whom much is given, much will be required.

For those who feel they don't have any talents or anything to offer-

Nothing could be further from the truth. God still expects you to use the few talents He has given you to the fullest extent.

Someday, when we see Jesus in Heaven face to face, I want to know that I did all I could with what I was given. I gave it all away and I held nothing back. I just want to hear Him say, "Well done."



3. GOD DESIRES THAT WE SHOULD BE "STIRRED" (2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7)

"THEREFORE I REMIND YOU TO STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN YOU THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF MY HANDS. FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND."

The gifts, talents, abilities, passion, and calling that God has placed in our lives should never be neglected or be dormant. We should be inspired, excited, and grateful, every day that God has chosen to use us. We should daily be looking for ways to use these spiritual and natural gifts to make a difference. We should also put forth the effort to perfect and develop these skills. We should be filled with zeal, and consumed with a driving passion to glorify God with whatever He has given us!

I have found in so many areas of my life, that becoming great at something takes time, repetition, and determination. If you are looking for opportunities to be used by God, they are all around you. They are the people in your life, the situations you are in, and the time you have been given. **Please don't waste them.**

A Final Word

God never ceases to amaze me. He can do so much with so little. The way He can take something so simple (some might even say silly) like a drama presentation or some old-school rap music with scriptural lyrics, and He can use it to change thousands of lives

and reach so many. As I've said before, the greatest ability is availability. It humbles me how He takes someone that most would consider fairly ordinary, and I have seen Him use me in so many surprising and powerful ways.



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"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (1 Car. 1:25-27)

I know for a fact that He does not use me because I am super-talented. I know that there are far better actors, directors, preachers, rappers, singers, carpenters, & Me's than I. Even in spite of my past, my failures, my faults, my mistakes, and yes, my sins, He still uses a willing vessel. I think it's simply because I'm still crazy enough to believe Him. I'm just crazy enough to believe that with God, all things are still possible (Matt 19:26), and that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13) and so can you!





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