

## Take Another Look at Christmas, Pt 4: God's Purpose for Your Life

### I. Review

A. Why Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago:

- To show us who God is and restore our relationship with Him;
- to show us how to live a righteous life and steward the resources He's given us,
- to pay the price for our sins and secure our eternal life,
- to seek and save those whom He dearly loves and are presently lost..

B. Who God says we are:

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.* Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

C. Where God says we belong—in His Church.

*We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.* Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)

- For the Church to function properly we all must use our strengths to serve others and let others serve us in our areas of weakness.

*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.* Romans 12:3 (NIV)

### II. What Am I Supposed to Do?

A. Your purpose and significance are closely related.

1. God has created you to love you and spend eternity with Him.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (NIV)

2. God has gifted and equipped you to fulfill a mission that He's prepared for you before you were ever born...

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

3. He chose us and our mission before the foundations of the earth were laid.

*Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)*

B. Our mandate is to discover two things:

- What God has entrusted to you in the way of spiritual gifts (stewardship) and;
- What passions He's placed in your heart regarding good works (purpose).

*In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)*

C. The question: What am I supposed to do?

1. The answer: Discover and deploy your spiritual gift to fulfill your role in the Body of Christ.
2. The point: You and I have a spiritual gift that is a primary indicator of what God wants us to do with our lives.

*God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

D. Your presence in this new kingdom is sealed by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

*Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)*

- The Holy Spirit indwells you to equip and empower you for ministry!

*I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. Ephesians 3:16-17 (NLT)*

E. God will align your spiritual gift with your passions, experiences, abilities, talents and circumstances to fulfill God's purpose for your life, regardless of the stage of life you are in.

- Place your time and energy around developing and deploying your primary spiritual gift.

### III. Cornerstone Must Become a Church Known for Three Things:

- A. Cornerstone people would be growing deeper—actually maturing and becoming like Jesus.
- B. Cornerstone people would be growing wider—with a steady stream of new people putting their faith in Jesus here.
- C. Cornerstone people would be making community changing impact—meeting some of the most significant social needs of our community.

### IV. Why You Need to Discover Your Spiritual Gift:

- A. Your primary spiritual gift becomes the basis for making major life priority decisions.
- B. Your primary spiritual gift is an affirmation of God's love for you.
- C. A proper understanding of your primary spiritual gift keeps the work of Jesus central in your heart, mind and spirit.

*I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.* Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

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### V. Three Closing Truths to Never Forget:

- A. God has uniquely created you—you are eternally valuable.

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.* Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- B. God has uniquely placed you in His family—you are unconditionally accepted.

*God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.* Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

- C. God has specifically gifted you—you are uniquely significant.

*God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.* 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

- D. A closing thought: Do you know what your mission is?