

The true power of Purpose

Where is the true power of purpose today? The answer is in Jesus Christ alone. **Romans 8:28**, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.”* **2 Timothy 1:9**, *“Who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”*

So often we are told to focus on our own purposes, and in doing so, we neglect God's purposes - the purposes that really count! His infallible Word frames the subject of "purpose." Notice Who's purpose truly matters... **Isaiah 46:10**, *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”* **Isaiah 55:11**, *“So is my word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”* God is the One with purpose. Any “purpose” we have is only fulfilled if we serve His purposes and come in line with them.

Since God created and sustains the universe, the **purpose of life** is His alone. We only find our purpose as we meet His criteria. What must we do, then, to have purpose in life? We must first be saved.

We must (1) ADMIT we are sinners and then confess and repent of our sin before Jesus Christ. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**). The first part of this verse can so easily be left out in favour of the last part, yet we must admit we are sinners!

Then we must (2) COMMIT to the Lord Jesus Christ. The word "believe" (pistevo in Greek) can also be translated "commit" and when it come to purpose, I think it should have been. Belief is more than just a mental assent to some facts. It is a commitment to believe those facts and continue in that truth which will evidence itself in the fruit of the Spirit and sound doctrine. Salvation is not just a one-time experience. It is not just a belief that Jesus Christ was a good man. It is a lifelong commitment to believe the facts of the Gospel as presented in the Bible.

Finally, we must SUBMIT. This means we must obey the Lord. John tells us over and over again that those who love the Lord demonstrate that fact by obedience. Those who do not love the Lord are disobedient. We must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Let us now examine the words "admit", "commit" and "submit" and see what they mean, by both definition and synonym:

(1) ADMIT

Acts 19:18, *“Many of those who had professed their faith began openly to admit their former practices.”* Back in the days of the early church people would admit to their former sins before others so that people would know there was a change in their lives and could see the results of their faith. (**1 John 1:8-9**) Admission of sin is part of the Gospel. Jesus Christ forgives on the basis of our admission of sin. (**Romans**

10:9) We must admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. Admitting and believing go hand in hand. (**2 John. 1:7**) Those who do not admit Jesus Christ is Lord, that God became a man, are not saved.

- Acknowledge. Another word for "admit" is "acknowledge". Those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as God are not saved. They have no real purpose in life.
- Recognise. **1 John 4:2**, "*This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.*" Those who are saved recognise the Spirit of God - that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. (**John 1:10; 16:3**) Those who are not saved do not recognise Jesus Christ as the Lord.
- Confess. Confession of sin is a prerequisite to salvation. We cannot save ourselves and there is no sacrifice other than Jesus Christ, but we must admit (confess) that we are sinners and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. (**Romans 10:9, 1 John 4:15**)
- Repent. **Mark 1:15**, "*The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"* Repentance is not just being sorry but turning away from what you've done wrong. We must turn away from our failings and wrongdoings, and turn toward Christ. This is necessary for salvation. All men must repent to be saved. And as salvation is ongoing, repentance is also ongoing!

(2) COMMIT

The word "believe" in Greek also means to "commit". The word "believe" in English tends to be associated with mental assent. The sense of a lifetime commitment to believe is not present in the word "believe" in our modern English.

Belief is not just a one-time event but is a continuing commitment to faith. (**2 Timothy 1:12, Romans 6:17**) Our belief in Jesus Christ is a **commitment**. When we commit to belief in the Lord He has promised us He will guard that commitment. (**Jude 1:3**)

- Receive. The word "receive" is a synonym of the word "commit". Belief then consists of commitment, receiving the gift, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ with our lives and future, and then holding on to that faith till the end. The Holy Spirit helps us to persevere, but we must receive whatever He has for us.
- Trust. **Isaiah 12:2**, "*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation'.*" Those who put their trust in the Lord will never be left failing. We trust God because He is faithful to His promises.
- Hold. We must commit, but we must also hold firmly on to Faith. Otherwise our faith is no faith at all (**Hebrews 10:23; 4:14**), and we can easily shipwreck our faith. (**1 Timothy 1:19**)
- Keep. The Bible uses a number of other synonyms meaning we should commit to the Lord Jesus Christ and keep our faith. (**Revelation 14:12, 1 Timothy 3:9**)

- Persevere. We are also told to persevere in our faith. **1 Timothy 4:16**, “*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*”
- Overcome. Finally, we overcome by faith. True believers are overcomers. Those born of God will overcome. We must continue in the faith till the end. Through the Holy Spirit we will overcome. (**1 John 5:4-5**)

(3) **SUBMIT**

The final step is a step that is hardly emphasised in churches today. Many "Christians" are left as babies needing milk instead of moving on to meat and maturity. Baby trees don't bear fruit. We must bear fruit to be of use in the kingdom of God, or else we will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Jesus Christ is our prime example of submission, and we must follow in his footsteps. We can only do this through the power of the Holy Spirit, so we must submit to the work of the Spirit in our lives. (**James 4:7, Hebrews 12:9**) Submission is taught as necessary for attaining the abundant life!

- Obey. To submit means to obey. (**1 John 2:3; 3:24**) Those who love the Lord obey His commands. When we obey Him we can ask, seek and knock and the Lord will answer us. (**1 John 3:22**) Another facet of submission is to love the truth and, correspondingly, reject lies.
- Yield. Submission is a yielding of our will to the will of God. And this act is a conscious living thing. “*Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God*” (**Romans 6:13**).
- Surrender. Finally submission is surrender. “*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.*” (**Romans 6:13**) Whatever or whoever we surrender ourselves to becomes our master.

If we surrender to God, He is our Master. If we surrender to money, the flesh, the world, the devil, God is not our Master. (**Romans 6:16**)

Where is the true power of purpose?

The answer is in Jesus Christ alone. **Romans 8:28**, “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*” Notice that God is not obliged to work all things together for your good until your ‘purposes’ are aligned to His purposes!