

1-24-2024 – More in 2024 – Part 3

This study: What we truly need are **More of these 4 in 2024**.

The **4 Ps / more of in 2024: Person. Power. Peace. Passion for our Purpose.**

Purpose. We ask wrong questions: What do *I want to be*? What should *I do* with my life? What are *my* goals, dreams, ambitions?

Focusing on ourselves never reveals our life's purpose.

We won't discover meaning for our lives by looking within ourselves.

An invention. What's it for? You need the inventor to explain it.

“He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Whether they are kings or lords, rulers or powers- *everything has been created through him and for him.*” – **Col. 1:16**

We were created by God, for God.

He purposefully created each of us, and did so for a purpose.

There is a purpose for our lives. It's only in God that we discover our meaning, purpose, significance, and our destiny.

Forrest Gump - “moma, what's my destiny?” You have to figure that/ yourself.
That's right. But we have Bible.

But self-help books aren't the answer.

“Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.” – **Matt. 16:25** [MSG]

And we can achieve goals. Dreams. Records.

It's not the same as fulfilling our life's purpose.

We can be successful in life, but still miss the true purpose for which you were created by God.

We were made by God, for God. Until we understand that, life won't make sense. Invention? **Ask the Inventor.** So . . . ask God to discover your purpose.

Eph. 1: ¹¹⁻¹² “*It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.*”

We can plan our careers. Pick our hobbies, spouses, sports teams. **We don't get to pick our purpose.** That's our Creator's work. Our purpose starts w/ God.

Our lives are not an accident. No mistake. God was not surprised. Some births were not planned by the parents . . . they were planned by God.

- **Psalm 139:16** – “Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.”
 - o No accidental births . . . no accidental lives.
- **Eph. 1:4** [MSG] – “Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.”
 - o **God made us so He could love us.** Build your life on that truth!
 - o **Ex.** – Have a dog to love it. Companionship. But we have free choice

We’re all driven by something. Something guides us, controls, directs us.

Most common:

1 – **guilt.** Have regrets, shame. Allow the past to control the future.

We’re products of our past, not prisoners of it. Cain: “restless wanderer”

But God gives new beginnings. 2nd Chances. Moses. Paul. Peter.

- o **Is. 43:25** – “*But I wipe away your sins because of who I am. And so, I will forget the wrongs you have done.*”

2 – **anger/resentment.** Hold onto hurts, never get over them.

Don’t release pain, rehearse it over/over. May “clam up,” or “blow up”

Those who hurt us in the past can’t keep hurting us unless we hold onto it

- o **Job 5:2** – GNT – “*To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.*”

3 – **fear.** Traumatic experience. Unreal expectations. Lots of control/push.

To avoid failure, they maintain status quo. Don’t venture out.

Fear is crippling. Holds us back from living the life God intended.

- o **1 John 4:18** [MSG] – “There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.”

4 – **Materialism.** Goal of life is to get more, acquire stuff.

Untrue - “having more will make me more happy – secure - important”

Possessions are temporary. Want newer, bigger, etc.

- Jesus said: “Don’t store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them.” **Matt. 6:19**

Self-worth and net worth are not the same!

Our value is not determined by valuables.

The myth about money is more doesn’t make you more secure.

It can be lost so fast! Uncontrollable factors.

Real security exists in what we can lose/taken away: relationship w/ God.

5 – Driven by **need for Approval**.

- The expectations of others drives our lives. Friends control us.
Peer Pressure . . . Family pressure ... Worried what others will think

“Those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it.”

- o Being controlled by others is a way to miss your purpose.
- o *“No one can serve two masters.”* Trying to please God or man?
Gal. 1:10 – *“I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.”*
- o If we want to be approved by God, please Him. His approval.

Q: What drives you?

What should drive us: God. If we know Him, know we were created to be loved.

Created to have a Love Relationship w/God. Created for a Purpose - Les.

We weren’t created, put here on earth, to be remembered.

We’re here to prepare for eternity. . . a **journey to a wedding banquet**.

Along the way, we shine a light... use our gifts... to glorify God. **Account**

Eph. 2:10 – “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.”

Don’t confuse your works w/your purpose!

Matt. 14:25 CEV – “if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”

We find our life, and our purpose, in living for Jesus. **It’s not in another person**

Eph. 5:10 MSG – “Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.”

- And do it with **all your heart**.
- Jesus said: *“Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* **Mark 12:30**

“Rudy” – played with heart, passion. Little. Not great player. But impact.

He gave it his all.

Rev. 3:15-16 – message to the church in Laodicea - *“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!”*

Are we living lukewarm? No passion? Thinking we don’t matter?

Your testimony matters. Your story. Your impact.

In 2024 – time to live w/ more Passion for our Purpose. Created by God, 4 God.

Song of the week: “Burn For You” by Rivers & Robots