

January 2017

Transform

Magazine

VOLUME I ISSUE 1

Proving what is that good , acceptable and perfect will of God!



2017
Year of
Relevance &
Purpose!

**Go forth to prove what *is* that good, and acceptable,
and perfect, will of God!**



**And be not conformed to this world: but
be ye transformed by the renewing of your
mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good,
and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Transform *You*

Magazine Vol 1 January 2017

Contents

Identifying Purpose & Relevance Stacie Daniels	4
The Voices in the Street Ella Alexander	8
Crossing over the threshold into a New Year Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II	10
A Life of Purpose Tony Martin	14
Believe, You Will See Judith Allwood	18
Dare To Be Mark Dudley	20
All About Health Stacie Daniels	22



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Identifying
**PURPOSE &
RELEVANCE**
STACIE L DANIELS

The year is 2017. What does that mean for you? While there has been continuous advancement in technology, science, medicine, and knowledge, will your life exhibit advancement this year? Many individuals still feel like they are stagnant when it comes to personal growth and progress while others are searching for their purpose.

Indeed, we have entered a new year on the Gregorian calendar. Some have entered 2017 with much anticipation, hope and excitement. Still there are others dreading the days ahead due to the political climate, fear of the unknown, and increased world tensions. The truth of the matter is there are things beyond our control and our immediate environment. However, we gain much ground when we learn to become silent, listen and focus in on what it is we are called to do on this Earth. Everyone has relevance and purpose for their existence---including you reading this article.

Although we live in a world estimated to be approximately 7926.42 miles in diameter with currently approximately 7.5 billion people, God still had you on His mind when He created you. He knows who you are and everything about you, even more intimately than you know about yourself. How can one be so sure? If you believe the Bible, you

can see it clearly. Think about this for a moment. If I develop a secret recipe for a dish that I create, then I will know every single ingredient contained in that dish and its complete composition. Thus, the creator of mankind knows everything there is to know about the human being He fashioned and breathed life into. God is omniscient which means He possesses the foreknowledge to know history before it occurs. Isaiah 46:10 states “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

Let us examine some biblical examples. Jeremiah 1:5 declares “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” God knew Jeremiah before he was birthed from the womb of his mother and consequently ordained him for his purpose on earth---a prophet to the nations. Despite reservation and self-doubt, Jeremiah accepted the call and remained faithful in his commission even in the face of stiff opposition. Therefore, today you can be confident that when you tap into the call and purpose on your life, God has already equipped you with what you need to carry out that assignment. Although it is inherent to human nature to sometimes fear and doubt their capabilities, do not become crippled by this paralyzing mindset. I John 4:4 reminds us that “...greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world.” Philippians 4:13 also declares “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Another example we find is Samson, who was chosen before conception (Judges 13:3-5). The angel of the Lord appeared to the mother of Samson who happened to be barren at the time and gave her specific instructions regarding her diet and the child she was going to bear. Samson was chosen and his purpose was to deliver the people of God from their oppressors (the Philistines). There are plenty of other biblical examples including Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-3), Cyrus (Isaiah 45), and John the Baptist (Luke 1:7-17). Maybe you are thinking I am not called to be a renowned prophet like Jeremiah or a Hercules like Samson but you must take inventory closely and realize that there is something that God has placed down inside of you that is unique to only you. Consequently, no other vessel will have the impact or effectiveness that was designed solely for you. What is the gift or gifts resident in you? How does this interplay with your purpose? Therein, you will also find your relevance in the earth because relevance and purpose parallel one another. What you have down on the inside has been predestined to potentially transform lives and ignite positive change.

In 2017, do not get distracted with “distractions” that come to steer you off course or mute the inner voice that comes to guide. Do not let the external interrupt your internal wavelength with Jesus Christ. Do not shortcut the time you spend with God. Prayerfully study the word of God, meditate on it daily and communicate with your creator in prayer. Ask Him to let His spirit have free rein within. If you nurture your relationship

with God, it will grow. Guess what else will happen? You yourself will grow not only spiritually but holistically. In Him is the pathway of life and where true, lasting happiness is found (Psalms 16:11). The more time you spend with God the more you will learn about yourself. The spirit of God will illuminate intrinsic qualities, behaviors (good or bad), and habits within. Our mores are not all the time in agreement with the prescribed guidelines outlined in the word of God. Therefore, it is needful to have divine enlightenment through His spirit and His word. How can we properly and effectively walk in our divine purpose if our character does not align with that destiny? Your character should reflect what God has said about you. God says you are the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21); He chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and unblemished in His sight in love (Ephesians 1:4); and you are His friend when you obey Him (John 15:14). These are just a few biblical illustrations that display how much God love and value every single individual that He created. You have immense purpose and relevance that can only be discovered and maximized by having a personal relationship with Him.

As we move forward in the year of 2017, move forward with renewed faith and hope in Jesus Christ. Be confident that if His eye is on the sparrow and he clothe the lilies of the field, surely, He will take good care of you. Allow Him to unleash that divine purpose and relevance that you have in the earth in a new way. This gigantic world is waiting to receive your indelible imprints.

Purpose & Relevance reference

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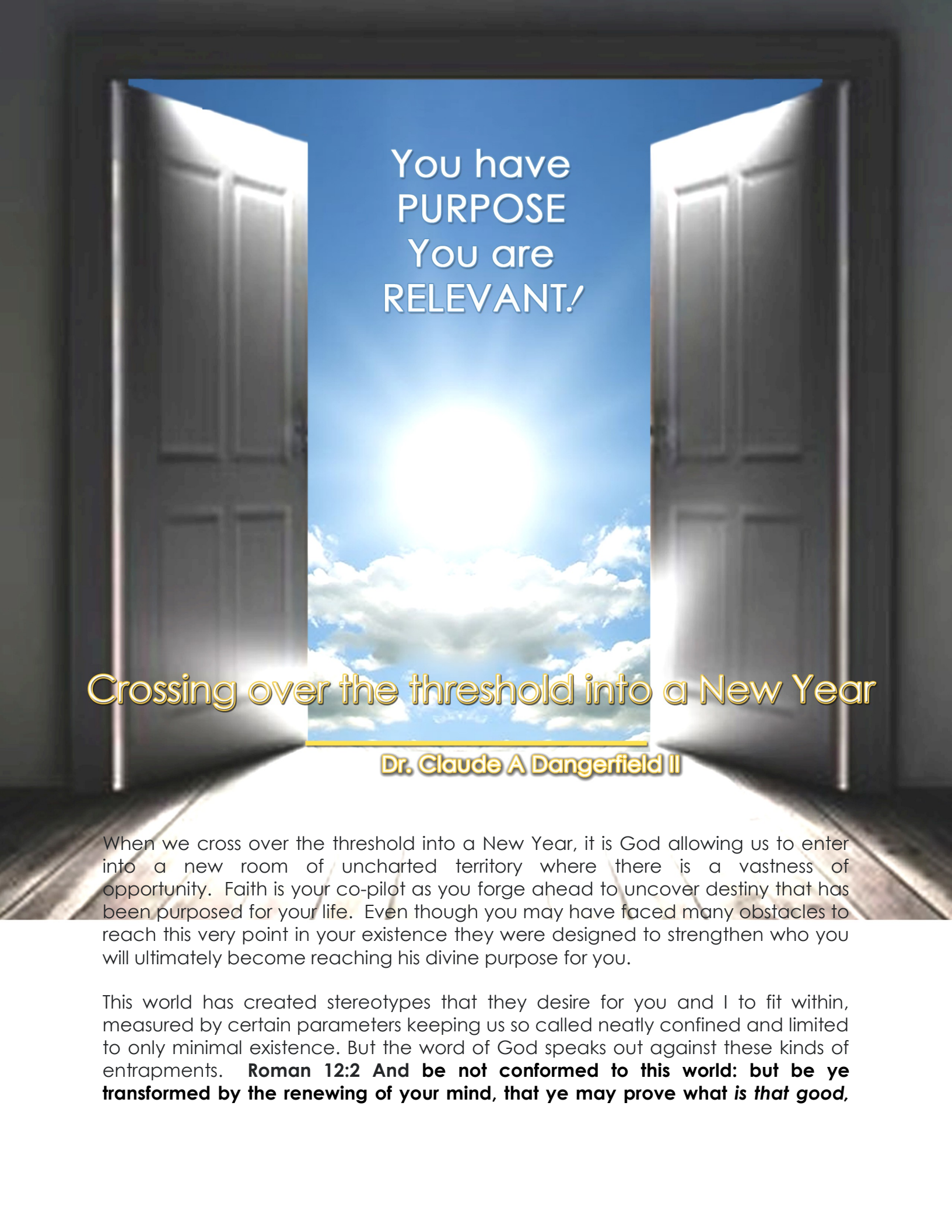
The Voices in the Street: *by Evang. Ella J. Alexander*

As 2017 began, many remember the many lives that were lost due to police shootings; others remember car accidents, gang violence, rapes and murders; even down to the new president which shall be. However, there are voices and people that are crying out and is yet unheard. They have one foot in the grave and one still here in their life; in this world. As God constantly calls out to them and pulls at them with loving kindness the question remains; why aren't they seeing God showing relevance and purpose in their life? Why do they refuse to have any dealings with the body of Christ or come to church? A young woman said, "The truth of the matter is many of the people that walk around every day won't go to church is because they are seeing the same things happening in the world that is going on in the church." Another woman said, "There is no difference anymore between the people of the world and the people of God. I am treated better by the unsaved than those who claim that they are saved and go to church. Those church people talk about God having power, but they don't walk in power. They talk about God being a provider, but many of the members are struggling to put food on their own table. Why should someone go to a place that seems to be doing worse off than the world? And those leaders in the church that are doing extremely well have mega churches and don't even know their members names. Many gang members join because they want to be accepted, they won't leave because they feel like that is their family. Many people see people leaving the church, hear about the drama in the church and would rather deal with their lives outside the church no matter how messed up that may be. They are not seeing the true Love of God coming from God's people. The church needs to come together and stop arguing and

fighting against one another for positions and titles that God gives out. So that the people of the world will not only see but feel the true love of God.”

As I continued to talk to people about God's, purpose and relevance this one young man, Apostle Williams of Dominion Church of God's grace said these words concerning purpose and relevance: “First principle is Romans 8:14, They that are led by the Spirit of God is called the sons of God” concerning purpose and relevance. Only those who have a true relationship with God through worship and praise have the ability to help others. The bible says, they that worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth. Only those that have purpose through worship and their worship in the spiritual realm towards God would be able to get people's attention. People deal with religion so much they don't know how to respond. People have to learn how to deal with righteous and the true meaning of God which is pure life. Everybody is worrying about how to achieve to get something and no one is worrying about helping somebody else and trying to help them get to the next place. The only way that we, as sons and daughters of God, can come together to try to reach people out there with that type of mentality or people in the church with that type of mentality, because people need to be healed and delivered is to understand who are you in God, why are you important to God and why has God chosen you to meet the person you have met. The church doesn't know how to get connected to God to reach the people where they are at. People must understand that there is only one source that keeps us alive...God! The only way we can really operate in the purpose of God is by knowing God on the inside you. People don't know why they are living because they don't know the essence of who they are. They don't know their identity. Purpose and Identity are connected. Connection with the image of God with your identity is the purpose of God. God's power is connected to our image. God put himself inside of us to see if we would learn how to operate on this earth, through his image although you will go through situations to understand your purpose. Your purpose is whatever gift you have and have the relevance to help people in this world, is that God uses your gift to help someone to get to the next level so you could understand the establishment of who you are. Relevance is how you could experience your purpose and how you could help somebody and how somebody could help you; by working together. Knowing who you are and where you come from. People need to stop thinking that they are just living. They are not just living. If people want to know their purpose and experience change they must bring change to themselves.

As we start this year, let us examine ourselves as vessels of God to reach these people. We must show God's relevance and purpose through our own life to them that can't see God's purpose in their own life.

An open doorway with two white doors, leading to a bright, sunny sky with white clouds. The sun is shining brightly in the center of the sky. The floor is dark wood, and the walls are dark. The text is centered in the sky area.

You have
PURPOSE
You are
RELEVANT!

Crossing over the threshold into a New Year

Dr. Claude A Dangerfield II

When we cross over the threshold into a New Year, it is God allowing us to enter into a new room of uncharted territory where there is a vastness of opportunity. Faith is your co-pilot as you forge ahead to uncover destiny that has been purposed for your life. Even though you may have faced many obstacles to reach this very point in your existence they were designed to strengthen who you will ultimately become reaching his divine purpose for you.

This world has created stereotypes that they desire for you and I to fit within, measured by certain parameters keeping us so called neatly confined and limited to only minimal existence. But the word of God speaks out against these kinds of entrapments. **Roman 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good,**

and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3:For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. The remedy, the way of escape God has provided to enable all of us to walk into our destiny is found in the word of God.

Our true purpose was established before the foundation of the world. It is our mission to fulfill it. We cannot afford to get caught up with every fad and trend that the world adapts to because someone says it the new in thing. We then become a prison to society and its whims. The transformation of the mind is when we consider the attributes of God first and not as a secondary ideal or way of thinking. But, it is our primary way of thinking and pursuing life and excellence. This provides us with the opportunity to prove what that good acceptable and perfect will of God is because he then will manifest himself within us by his spirit. Humility is a truly great entity within any success that God affords us because it allows us to maintain in this place. When God has selected you for a purpose just as he has selected many in the past he will equip you in every way to become victorious.

As we embark on this New Year and new room let us dare to love thy neighbor as thyself. Let us do less murmuring and complaining, however put into practice the mandate and promise set forth in the Word of God in **2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.** It is as simple to do as these words that have been spoken over us with promise. We that believe and are called by his name must live day by day to maintain the balance that provides us so much grace and mercy. We must be purposeful in speaking out the wisdom given to us by God. We as ambassadors must be relevant in our quest to free others from the imprisonment of the dark side. It is through wisdom and compassion for those who lack the knowledge and understanding. That true greatness still resides inside of all of us awaiting the opportunity to come forth---impacting those we encounter on a daily basis so we can witness the manifestation of God in their lives bringing forth a Transformation. It doesn't matter the condition you may be in now or the past that one may try and conceal. For when you yield your will over to God you open yourself up to unlimited potential. The Apostle Paul was once known as Saul of Tarsus the persecutor of Christian until he experienced an encounter with Jesus that transformed him into one of the Apostles known for writing a large part of the New Testament. In my opinion, it goes to show that anyone can be change for the Master's use. Saul impacted the lives of the early Christians in a negative way by killing them for their beliefs and as we can see after the encounter, his

efforts were just as intense. His mission in life dramatically changes because he now has a new found purpose that would impact the world including you and I.

When we yield our purpose to God he will do unthinkable things with and through us that we could have never imagined. Obedience to the will of God yields so many benefits that are so far reaching. This one great act will define your purpose and make you relevant because of those you are to so many that they can also have a life changing event. **Proverbs 3: 5,6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.** In All thy ways acknowledge him very important statement and fact proven by those in history who have heeded to this statement! Now it is our turn and I will venture out say responsibility to keep the message of God in the forefront for the rest of the world to benefit from the same love and understanding. Go forth this year that you may prove, what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God!

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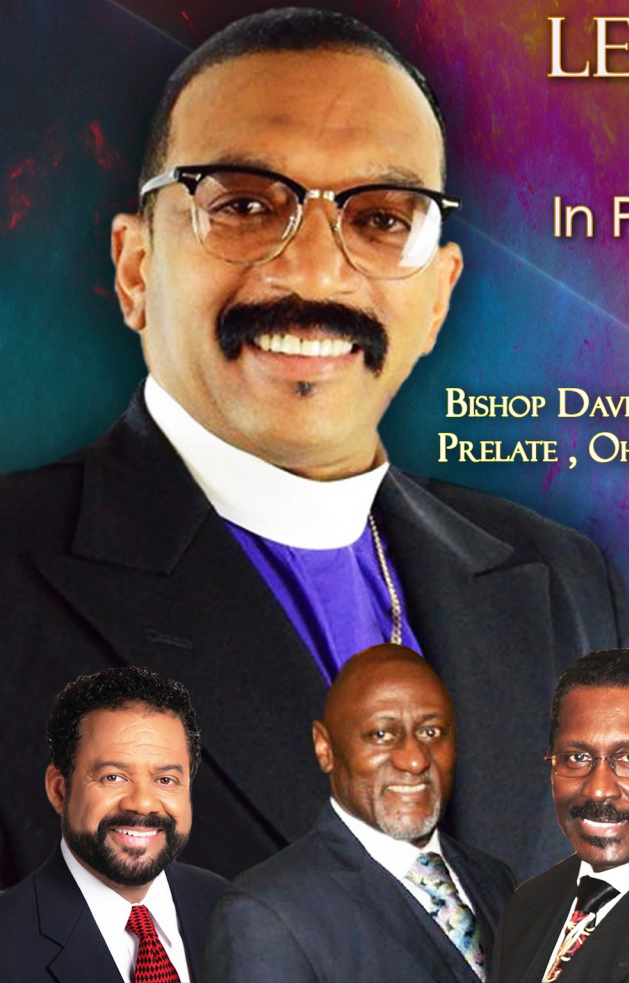
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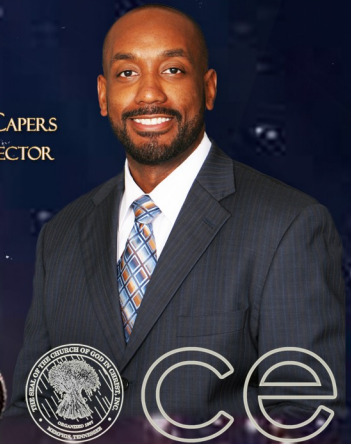
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A LIFE *of* PURPOSE

Tony Martin

Would you live a life of Purpose? If so, what would it look like? Simply put, for one to live a purposeful life, he or she must establish a set of core values and firm beliefs that *guide* their everyday decisions and *govern* their every action. Individuals of this calibre not only know the importance of making a good name for themselves - and maintaining that good name - they also hold their 'name' and reputation in high esteem and are considered persons of honor and integrity by their peers; their very lives inspire the trust and respect of others. Such a man or

woman lives with a good conscious, having nothing to fear.

cal·i·ber

'kaləbər/

noun: **calibre**

the quality of someone's character or the level of someone's ability.

"they could ill afford to lose a man of his caliber"

Today, we see far too many people who walk away from a commitment, or contract, when they see circumstances changing into a perceived disadvantage, either real or imagined. There are those who take, for example, a solemn oath of office, and then proceed to side-step or contravene the duties and responsibilities they so freely obligated themselves unto. Other folks accept, say, a fiduciary role or position of trust in behalf of others, and then proceed to violate, or ignore, the terms of that trust. A meaningful life of purpose is virtually impossible for such.

Someone once said that "The purpose of life is a life of purpose". Our very nature as humans is to be purposeful. Unlike our fellow Earth inhabitants in the animal kingdom, we are not limited to mere instinct; we have the ability to choose our life course, possessing a substantial level of control over the kind of person we intend to be. Another author put it this way: "Know your values, and then, be in integrity with them. When you know what you stand for, and do what you believe in, your confidence and sense of self-worth will be sky-high, regardless of [the situation]."

In directing our attention to the Holy Scriptures, the Psalmist asks a question in this regard, to wit:

1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

2 The one whose walk is blameless,

who does what is righteous,

who speaks the truth from their heart;

3 whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;

Psalm 15 - *A Psalm of David.*

NIV

Such individuals are indeed honorable and trustworthy persons of their word, for the Psalmist goes on to say in verse four that such a high integrity person "... keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind."

In the final analysis it comes down to the immortal words of the Christ, as enshrined in the *Golden Rule*: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." (*KJV*) Expressed in a more contemporary manner, "Everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the essence of the Law and the prophets. - *Berean Bible*

We know how we wish to be treated. We know very well what we would *not* have done unto us. We can, therefore, better appreciate how important it is that we apply such scriptural discipline within; that we govern our actions *and* our utterances based on this uniquely innate knowledge. We will, thereby, bless the lives of others, in addition to our own, through purposeful living.

But there is a bonus! In these words of the Christ we also learn that we must *proactively do* for others the things that we want done for ourselves. We take the *initiative* to act in behalf of others; we do not sit back and wait for a leader or anyone else to come forward. It is within us. This superlatively wise declaration from the Holy Scriptures offers innumerable opportunities for creative acts of kindness, consideration, and compassion toward our fellow human beings, whoever or wherever they might be. Can a life be more purposeful than that?

In summary, some indispensable ingredients for a life of purpose are:

Character

Integrity

Self-Discipline

These characteristics return priceless dividends beyond measure. Wise is the individual who values and cultivates these in daily living.

So, would you live a life of Purpose? We hope these thoughts prove helpful in your life course.

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Judith Allwood

I once asked a Christian friend of mine, “How does one believe?”

“Have faith!” she responded confidently.

“And how does one have faith?” I was looking for my friend who is also a teacher to share any step-by-step process she may have used to exercise her faith, for I genuinely wanted to learn how to apply the Word so I could have more results to my prayers. I was very disappointed when she matter-of-factly answered, “By believing.”

Jesus told His disciples to, “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22) if they wanted to see and experience certain outcomes in their lives. I looked up the word *have* and found that one of its many definitions is to “*hold something in the mind.*”

One of the instances in which Jesus exhorted His followers to have faith was when they needed to feed the people attending one of His teaching sessions in Matthew 14:17. All the disciples could see with their eyes was a small boy’s lunch of five loaves and two fish.

That they were to *have faith* meant that they would have to look – not with their physical or natural eyes – but with their minds or non-physical eyes, that there would

be food enough to feed four thousand people. In other words, look not on what was apparent but on what was possible.

That is hard work, especially for those of us who have been plagued by pessimism. Many people, like me, grew up with negative mental programming or conditioning and live accordingly – as pessimistic and faithless – without the ability to believe much. Hence my quest to find out how.

I have learnt that we can we can recondition our minds to think optimistically. In fact, there is a field of study called neuroplasticity, which suggests that the brain is not 'hard-wired' as we have been taught. It can be re-programmed or reconditioned.

With all respect, neuroscience is a little behind because the Scriptures have already told us that we can transform our lives by renewing our minds (Romans 12:2). The only big question is, "how?" That's what I wanted my friend to help me with, because I so desperately wanted to transform my negative way of thinking and learn how to believe so that I could "see the glory of God" in my life as Jesus promised in John 11:40.

So picking up on my definition of 'have' I have been practicing to hold a mental image of what I am praying for – provided that I am clear about God's will surrounding the request – believing I have received it – as Jesus said we should do in Mark 11:24 and moving into thanksgiving about it while I wait for it to be manifested. For faith is "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1).

That's the process in a nutshell and with it I have really been transforming my world.

I was looking for a new job contract, and like many other job applicants I desired to not have to do an interview. I made my request known and saw myself on my new assignment. Only a day had passed when I received an email with an immediate need for contractors and because of the urgency of it there would be no time for an interview. Prayer answered. Amen.

A few years ago when the news hours were filled with rising unemployment numbers, I declared that I would not subscribe to the pessimistic thinking. I prayed for a job and received a well-paying contract which lasted for three years.

Every day I get an opportunity to be transformed by renewing my mind in small ways and big. To be honest, sometimes I see a challenge, not an opportunity and get into my woe-is-me mindset. But thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit which nudges me and reminds me that I have the power to choose how I want to think. "Be it unto you according to your faith", the Spirit often says to me. Thank God I'm gaining the strength in my 'legs' to walk by faith and not by sight.



1 Samuel 17:1-18

There's a point in the above named scripture I want to show you. We know that this is the encounter David had with this giant Goliath. Before David came on the scene Goliath was defying the armies of Israel day and night for forty days. Now defying means he was daring them to come against him. This great army was in fear of this man who didn't raise a sword but just spoke fear into them.

Now, the Bible declares that the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. I look up the word "devil" in the Greek dictionary and the word they used for devil is "diablo" and it is defined as "someone who keeps coming at you hurling false accusations until it penetrates your mind". Think about it, the devil is defying you each day, daring you to believe God's word when the circumstances seemed to be contrary to what His word declares. He screams at you: "I dare you to trust God for your healing". "Look what you've done, no one saw you but God saw what you did". "Look at you, brought your tithes and offering and you're still broke". And I'm sure you can put your own spin on the negative stuff the devil been trying to feed your mind. You respond to the devil's negative words the same way David did. Goliath laughed when he saw this young man coming towards him. He said a few words, but after David answered him; you don't read Goliath saying anything else. That's how you answer the devil.

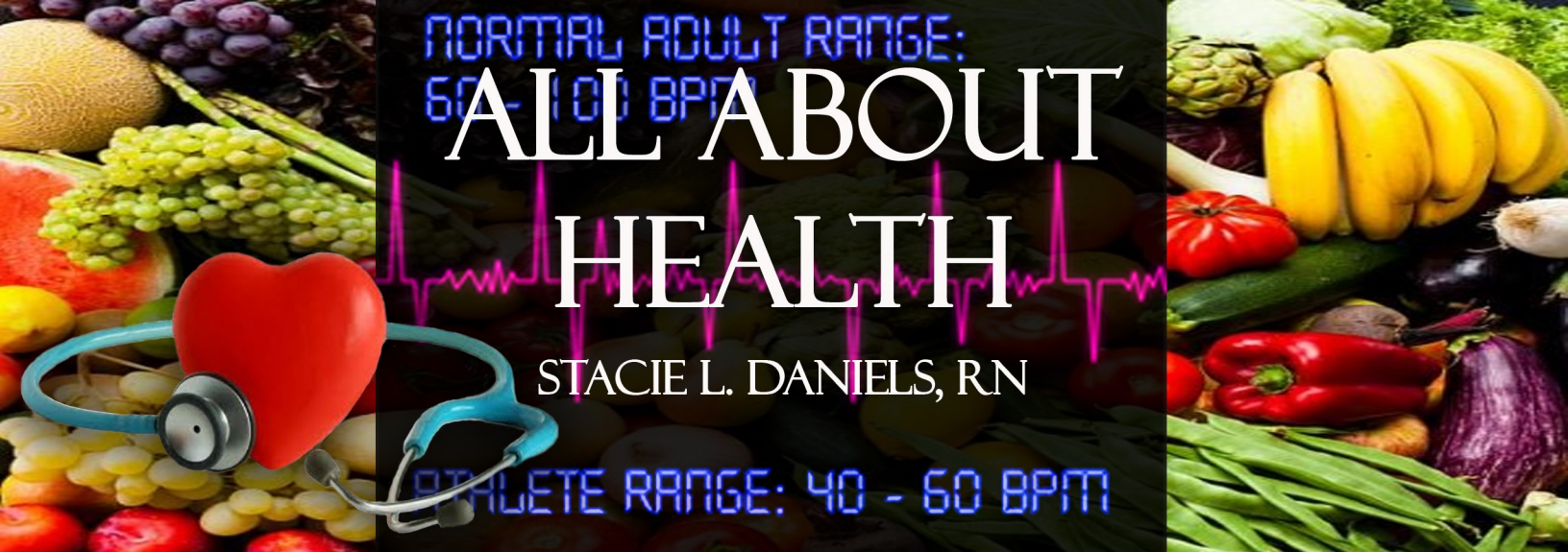
Do you dare to stand on the Word of God? You have to find scrip-

tures pertaining to the thing you are asking God for and stand on it. You may have to read it a few times every day, but hold fast to your profession of faith. Today, I challenge you....I Dare you to dare yourself and go forward.

DARE to be the person that is not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation.

DARE to be the person who gathers all the prayer warriors in your community to pray against the drug dealers and gang violence that is killing our young people.

DARE to be the person God has called you to be: An Over comer, and more than a Conqueror.



One of the many resolutions or goals individuals set at the start of the year are health related. Sound familiar? Let's face it, we all want to be physically fit and maintain an optimal level of health. However, often, our behaviors such as diet, minimal physical activity and stress induced schedules prevent us from achieving that optimal level of health that we seek. More importantly, there is an imbalance spiritually, physically, and/or mentally. The World Health Organization asserts individual health is defined as "a state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The spiritual component has also been proven to be vital as we are not simply beings that created ourselves (Genesis 2:7, 21-22). The American Psychological Association featured an article from a leading expert in the psychology of religion and spirituality. Research studies found that groups dealing with major life stressors such as illness, natural disaster, loss of loved ones, divorce and serious mental illness show that religion and spirituality are generally helpful to people in coping. On the other hand, a growing body of research has linked spiritual struggles to higher levels of psychological distress, declines in physical health and even greater risk of mortality. Therefore, striving for improved health through more integrated approaches is a necessity.

Taking the Necessary Steps:

If you have not already, start taking steps toward taking care of the WHOLE you. The following are a few suggested steps that you can take to do just that:

Morning Meditations--- Begin your day with quiet time in meditation/prayer/devotional reading. From my own personal experience and others attesting to the same, I have found that one can attain a clearer sense of direction, purpose, and meaning for the day(s) ahead. Biblical application for everyday life situations will result in peace, empowerment, and success.

Morning Fuel Up-- It has been said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. No matter what your take is on that statement, consuming breakfast has been proven to jumpstart your metabolism, increase your energy, improve focus and memory. Even if it is not a full plated breakfast, foods such as yogurt, fruit, protein bars, and oatmeal are great starters to your day. If you need one more reason not to skip breakfast, studies show that most people who lose weight and keep it off eat breakfast every day.

Get Moving--- We have heard several prominent voices campaign similar slogans to motivate increased physical activity. It is simply fact that the body functions best when physically active. There is a plethora of benefits derived from exercise. Some of these benefits include: prevent weight gain or maintain weight loss; boost “good” (high-density lipoprotein) cholesterol levels while decreasing unhealthy triglycerides; improved mood; boost energy; promote sleep and combat disease. Engaging in activity that is enjoyable to you can increase your motivation to get moving.

Managing Stress--- It is true that we live in a fast-paced world. We are challenged with the hustle and bustle of life in various ways. Stress symptoms can affect your health, even though you might not realize it. Common effects of stress on the body are chest pain, headache, fatigue, muscle tension or pain, stomach disorders, and sleep disturbance. Stress can also negatively impact mood by causing irritability, restlessness, anxiety, depression and even lack of motivation. The good news is there are strategies that one can implement to decrease or manage stress. Setting aside time for hobbies (reading a book, music), socializing with family and friends, and relaxation techniques (deep breathing, massage) are all steps to manage stress.

All About Health references:

- 1) WHO. Constitution of the World Health Organization: basic documents. 45th ed. Geneva: WHO; 1989
- 2) Pargament, K. (2013). American Psychological Association

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