

JULY 2008 Week 1 Teaching: *Walking A Purposeful Path*

It is most befitting to talk about a Purposeful Path during the summer season. The bounty that we associate with its time of harvest is closely aligned with what we expect when we understand our purpose and begin to walk in it. So much has been written and said about the subject of "Purpose" that continuing to write and talk about it may be considered overkill by some. It is a risk that all of us who have any interest in the subject are willing to take, because it is exponentially important to the overall spiritual well-being of every Christian.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ, you and I are privileged to live in the "Grace Administration". The rights and abilities we enjoy as children of the Most High are immeasurable and unmatched by anything the world could offer. We have been cleansed, sanctified, and set apart for God's exclusive purpose, and He has not been clandestine with His agenda....far from it. The fact of the matter is that many of us have traveled quite a distance from the standard of God's Word. We are confused about why we're here and what we are supposed to do. For that reason it feels a bit like God is keeping a big secret, but He isn't.

Hopefully, we will shatter the myth about this "secret" business and shed a great deal of light on walking in Purpose. We will start by examining the record in 2 Chronicles 28. Solomon, King David's son, was chosen by God to become king and to build the temple. This marks the first time in the bible that we see a hereditary monarchy. As King David talks to his son, he tells him in 1 Chronicles 28: 9-10 (NLT) *"9 As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."*

King David knew that the secret to his success was his relationship with God, and this is essentially what he told his son, Solomon. He wanted him to understand that God *"searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."* David had witnessed this firsthand, as he had made mistakes along the way. He had experienced droughts when he did not serve God with his whole heart, and because of this he admonished Solomon that *"...if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."* Of course God did not cast David off indefinitely, but the intensity of his wilderness experience must have felt that way. David had gotten sidetracked a few times and allowed his own personal agendas to interfere with God's. He understood the feelings of emptiness and immobility that accompany the road back to purpose.

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There are times in our lives where we experience what feels to us to be a drought as well. It marks a period when the overflow of which we may have grown accustomed seems to come to an abrupt halt. Some of us dismiss it as the ebbs and flows of life, but for most of us this is a season where we question God and rack our brains trying to figure out how and where we could have gotten off the path.

We can be assured that the path we've veered away from is that of our God-inspired purpose. The path of Purpose is defined by the point in our spiritual walk in Christ where our talents, skills, and abilities meet a need that furthers the plan of God. It isn't just one thing that we will do, but many. And we can be certain that our purpose has much to do with our ability and willingness to make a spiritual investment in the lives of others. We are poised for this level of spiritual maturity when we are wholeheartedly vested in an important truth. It is the fact that not only is God preparing us to handle the weight of the blessings we have longed for, but He is also cultivating within us the desire to minister in ways we haven't before as well.

In 1 Chronicles 29:1, Solomon tells the assembly that the work of building the temple would be great *"... for the palace [is] not for man, but for the LORD God."* This was a monumental commission, one of great spiritual significance. Solomon would oversee the building of a place for God's habitation, and he didn't even have the indwelling Holy Spirit that you and I have. Yet he was chosen, prepared, and purposed for the task. Think of how much more are we equipped to do the will of God. We ought to rejoice that He has called us with a holy calling in Christ Jesus, and that we were predestined *"...according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"* (Ephesians 1:11 KJV)

David had received divine revelation from God for every single detail regarding the plans for the temple. He was even specific about the materials, how the finished products would be used, and who would use them. He knew all of this. For many years he had the vision of the temple in his mind, but he also had to grapple with the reality that he would not see it completed. That's a trip in and of itself!

Building the temple was one of David's greatest personal desires, but it was not his purpose. He would not live to fulfill that particular desire, but still it says in 1 Chronicles 29:9 that he rejoiced greatly. Verse 10 tells us that he blessed the Lord before all the assembly:

1 Chronicles 29:10,11 NLT

10 Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the assembly; and David said:

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"Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness,

The power and the glory,

The victory and the majesty;

For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;

Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,

And You are exalted as head over all.

Why is that...why do you think that David was able to put aside his own agenda and praise God in this way? He praised God because he developed an understanding about his purpose, and more than that he knew that God was pleased with how he had carried it out. His purpose was to oversee the collective and extensive labor that was needed to prepare the way for the construction of the temple. He did so heartily, diligently, and meticulously.

God dreams a bigger dream for us than we do for ourselves. As a parent or guardian, I'm sure you can imagine the sheer unadulterated pride and joy of having your child or loved one complete the work that you have started. Very little on earth compares. David wasn't simply happy about Solomon's purpose in the will of God, he was overjoyed. He gave over and above what was expected in support of God's desire to have Solomon build the temple.

Matthew 24:32 NLT

32 "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its buds become tender and its leaves begin to sprout, you know without being told that summer is near.

Jesus admonishes us to learn from the fig tree. The tenderness of the buds and the sprouting of the leaves signal that summer is near. Proverbs 10:5 NIV tells us *"He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."* Summer is the season that brings the harvest from what we've sown. The assumption that we have to be confused about whether we're in seed time or harvest, or that God's timing means that we wait and wait, and then wait some more is one that can cause us to lose valuable opportunities. The drought exists not because God is making us wait, but because there is an expanse of time of which we are without what we desire most and we have a deep feeling within us that something is missing.

Proverbs 4:26,27 NLT

*26 Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe.
27 Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.*

Not knowing where the pieces of the puzzle fit or knowing we don't have them can leave us feeling very frustrated. The root cause of that frustration is our own impatience with God's order; we haven't followed it. Throughout His Word, reflected in nature and all creation, we know that for everything there is a time to sow and a time to harvest. And no matter how many temper tantrums we throw, if we have not sown the seeds that will produce a bountiful harvest we will not reap one.

Romans 12:1 KJV

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

A fraction of our existence isn't enough for reasonable service to God. He requires every single drop of us. Every morsel of our being is needed to fulfill our purpose within His plan. Jesus Christ gave us our marching orders. He said in Acts 1:8 *"But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* We do not have to audibly hear instructions as to how we should begin to walk in our purpose. God has already told us through His Word. It is our honor, privilege, and our indisputable responsibility to leave a lasting imprint of God's love. We are to get busy as wise stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ and give it out to all those who desire to hear it; when we have done so we will position ourselves on a purposeful path.

Doing what God intends us to do will leave no room for a drought or doubt. When it came to the construction of the temple, Solomon's father, King David, took care of every single detail. The architectural plans, the artisans, even the construction workers were all in place, ready to receive Solomon's instructions. Our desire to please God is evidenced by our commitment to move the gospel, and when we stay on the path to that purpose—blessings will fall in our laps even before we recognize we have need of them, just as they did for Solomon.

JULY 2008 Week 1 Prayer

Heavenly Father,

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the honor and privilege to come before You. I do so realizing that this honor was purchased with a price and paid out of Your love for us, Your people. I humbly ask that You show me how to overcome any feelings of impatience and frustration that I may have about my purpose in Your will. Help me to redirect my steps and mark out a path that solidifies my standing as an ambassador for Christ and a witness of the good news of salvation. I thank You for my continued growth and maturity in the spirit, and for letting me know in undeniable ways that I'm on the right track. Thank You for loving me better than I could ever love myself. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

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Scriptures link to
[New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)

WEEK 1 Scriptures:

Day 1:

[1 Chronicles 29:10, 11](#)

Day 2:

[Romans 12:1](#)

Day 3:

[Ecclesiastes 8:5,6](#)

Day 4:

[Proverbs 4:27](#)

Day 5:

[Philippians 3:13,14](#)

Day 6:

[1 Corinthians 9:24-26](#)

Day 7:

[1 Corinthians 14:1](#)

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