

There Is A Purpose

- ❖ We only know in part - 1 Cor 13:9-12
- ❖ As we grow in our relationship with God, He doesn't grow but we become more acquainted with Him and His will for us
- ❖ We should grow to a place where we only want to please God - 1 John 3:22, Pro 16:7
 - This requires us to be able to distinguish our will from His - Heb. 13:16; John 5:30; 1 Thes 2:4
 - You will never find purpose or realize His will conforming - Rom 12:2
- ❖ When we reach this level of surrender, it is then that we begin to see the Hand of God in all of our life - Gen 50:20; Dan. 6:17
- ❖ We begin to ask questions like:
 - Why did I survive that
 - Why did I have the family I have
 - Why didn't I get that promotion
 - Why didn't the career go the way I thought it would
- ❖ But a deeper relationship with God brings us to a peace in knowing that it is all a part of His purpose - Romans 8:28,
- ❖ God revealed Himself to you and reveals He has purpose in you
 - 1 Pet. 1:20
 - Eph. 1:11
 - 2 Tim. 1:9
- ❖ Know that your purpose is not found by how others value your actions – Mat. 26:8

There Is a Purpose – Even in the Loss

- ❖ Our relationship with God becomes real when our experiences in life draw us closer to God.
 - For understanding, comfort, guidance and encouragement
- ❖ It's often in what seems to be failure or frailty that we realize the strength that only comes from the Lord – 2 Cor. 12:1-11
- ❖ We can not afford to be men who quote but don't trust God –
 - His thoughts are not like ours – Isa. 55:8-9
- ❖ We have to stay focused on God despite:
 - Your success – Deuteronomy 8:18
 - The trial – Joshua 1:2
 - The challenge – Genesis 22:7-14
 - The temptation – Romans 7:15-25
 - Your exposure – Joshua 24:14-16
 - The trauma – Genesis 50:15-21

We learn much and grow not only in what we gain but in our losses:

- ❖ **Loss of a Person**
 - David's son – 2 Sam. 12:18
 - Moses, Joshua's mentor – Joshua 1:2
 - David in Uzzah's death – 2 Sam. 6
 - Loss of families in Ziklag – 1 Sam. 30
- ❖ **Loss of relationships**
 - Psalm 41:9
 - Heb. 13:5
- ❖ **Loss of employment**
 - Isa. 41:10
 - Jer. 29:11
 - Psa. 37:25
- ❖ **Loss of status**
 - Mat. 18:1-5
 - Phil. 2:3-5
- ❖ **Loss of ability**
 - Gen. 32:22
- ❖ We learn that –
 - God is our Comforter – Psa. 34:18; John 14:26
 - Our loss often reveals purpose – 2 Cor. 1:3-4
 - We understand the purpose of Grace
 - We can draw closer to God – Phil. 3:7-9

There Is a Purpose – Even in the Gain

The Prayer of Jabez - 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

❖ What we know about Jabez?

- Significance can not be fully understood outside of understanding his name
 - Jabez: ya'bêts: to grieve, sorrowful; the name resulted from the painful birth experienced by his mother (vs. 9)
 - From his birth, grief and sorrow has been spoken over him.
- He must have been well known since the Bible does not give his lineage or much else about him
- He was more honorable than his brothers
 - Honorable: rich, honorable; to make weighty (either good or bad)
- As believers, we must believe that the God can place a greater weight of glory upon us – 2 Cor. 4:17

❖ Jabez renewed his mind

Just like Jabez, we can't change the circumstances of how we were raised. But, we can and must follow his example and renew our minds.

- Rom. 12:2: renewing – anakainōsis: renovation
 - Renew in O.T.
 - chādash – 1 Sa. 11:14; Psalms 51:10; Lamentations 5:21: to be new, to rebuild, to repair
 - chālahaph – Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 41:1: to hasten away, pass on, spring up, pierce or change: - abolish, alter change, cut off, go on forward, grow up, be over, pass (away, on, through), renew, sprout, strike through

❖ Jabez took it to God in prayer

- We should pray in successes – 1 Kings 8:26-30
- We should pray in discouragements – 1 Samuel 30:6-8
- We should pray without fainting – Luke 18:1
 - Faint – ekkakeō: to be (bad or) weak, that is, (by implication) to fail (in heart): - faint, be weary
- Jabez requested to be blessed “indeed”
 - We all are blessed (Matthew 5:45); However, we are not all blessed “indeed”
“There are many who are blessed, but they are not blessed indeed. That is, they have something that is in one sense a blessings (such as family, salvation, wealth, fame, health, security), but yet because of fundamental dissatisfaction in their life, they are not blessed indeed” (David Guzik)
- Jabez requested enlarged territory – request God allow him to go beyond the limits...
 - Surrounded by Canaanites and other idol worshippers
 - Wanted to make greater impact for God – Joshua 17:14-18; Judges 1:27-36; Proverbs 10:22; Matthew 9:37
- Jabez prayed for the Hand of God to be on him – Bible talk for God's Power and Presence – Joshua 4:24; Isaiah 59:1; Psalm 77:10
- Jabez prayed for God to keep him from evil
 - Evil: ra' rā'âh: bad or (as noun) evil (naturally or morally) – John 17:15
Psalm 32:3-4, Psalm 51:8, Psalm 51:12; Matthew 26:75; John 21:17; 2 Corinthians 2:1-7; Ephesians 4:30; Revelation 3:19

❖ GOD DID IT!

1 Kings 3:7-13; Job 22:27-28; Psalm 21:4, Psalm 65:2, Psalm 66:19-20, Psalm 116:1-2; Matthew 7:7-11; Ephesians 3:20

Some things every man know as God increases you –

- ❖ There is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to increase – 1 Chr. 4:9-10
- ❖ The obedience it took to obtain increase is still required to maintain it – Mal. 3:10
- ❖ Increase comes with responsibility – Luke 12:48;
- ❖ God often leaves the measure of your increase up to you – Mark 4:24-25; Pro. 3:9-10
- ❖ God wants you to use it to establish His Kingdom in the earth – Deut. 8:18; 2 Cor. 9:10
- ❖ Premature increase is a not a blessing – Mal. 3:11; 1 Tim. 3:6
- ❖ You should never allow your increase to supplant your godliness – 1 Tim. 6:6-11; Phil. 4:11-13
- ❖ What lessons has God taught you in order to manifest this increase in my life?

There Is a Purpose – Let them Work

5 things and 1 Person we must allow to work for us

Scriptures of Focus: Romans 5:1-5; Heb. 12:1-2

Tribulations

- ❖ Tribulation is a period of great adversity or trial.
- ❖ As believers, we should not be surprised – John 16:33; 1 Pet. 4:12
- ❖ We must keep the trials and tribulations in proper perspective – Rom. 8:18; James. 1:2
- ❖ Stop looking to quit and ask God to strengthen you to endure – James 1:12;
- ❖ It is only for a season – 1 Pet. 5:10;

Patience (Perseverance)

- ❖ Patience cannot be rushed – James 1:4; Phil. 4:6-7
- ❖ Patience is a fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22
- ❖ Patience with the process God has you on – Gal. 6:9; Psa. 37:7-9
- ❖ Patience with others – Ecc. 7:8-9; 1 Thes. 5:14; 2 Pet. 3:9
- ❖ We are called to be steadfast – 1 Cor. 15:58

Experience (Tried Character)

- ❖ Dokime: 1. Proving; 2. approved, tried character; 3. A proof, a specimen of tried worth *Thayer's Greek Definitions*
- ❖ Have you gone through the process? – 2 Pet. 1:3-11
- ❖ Experience is produced from endurance – Rom. 5:4
- ❖ Your Godly character is worth more than you may know – 1 Pet. 1:7

Hope

- ❖ Elpis: expectation
- ❖ Our hope is in the Lord – Col. 1:23-27
- ❖ Our hope in God will not be disappointed – Rom. 5:5; Psa. 22:4-5; Phil. 1:20

Your Witness

- ❖ Mat. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 3:14-16

The Holy Ghost

- ❖ The Holy Ghost residing inside of us is evidence of the love God has poured into us – Rom. 5:5
- ❖ We must yield to the Spirit – Gal. 5:16-26
- ❖ God desires us to be filled with the Spirit – Eph. 5:17-19