Purpose

I know that you can do all things,

and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted,

*(Job 42:2)*

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;

your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

*(Psalm 138:8)*

The human mind may devise many plans,

but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

*(Proverbs 19:21)*

# My purpose shall stand,

and I will fulfill my intention.

*(Isaiah 46:10)*

But he said to them,

“I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also;

for I was sent for this purpose.

*(St. Luke 4:43)*

Jesus answered:

“For this I was born,

and for this I came into the world,

to testify to the truth.”

*(St. John 18:37)*

In China, it's illegal to own any animal as a pet. You can still have a cat, dog, bird or what you have around. You just have to indicate you're raising it for a purpose: to eat, to pull a plow, etc. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Don’t let anyone tell you that the purpose of an apple tree is to grow apples. Not in May, it isn’t. In May the trees proclaim that their reason for being is to achieve a special glory of blossom. *(Hal Borland, in Hal Borland’s Twelve Moons of the Year)*

The first writings appeared during the period of exile when the Hebrew people were threatened with the dissolution of their culture. A few patriotic and fervent men wrote in order to try to quicken a national spirit. So the Bible was originally written for a political purpose rather than a spiritual one. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 56)*

A burning purpose attracts others who are drawn along with it and help fulfill it. *(Margaret Bourke-White, photojournalist)*

Calmness is the living breath of God's immortality in you. Every person needs a retreat, a dynamo of silence where he may go for the exclusive purpose of being newly recharged by the Infinite. *(Paramahansa Yogananda)*

A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder -- a waif, a nothing, a no man. *(Thomas Carlyle)*

I have not much patience with a thing of beauty that must be explained to be understood. If it does need added interpretation by someone other than the creator, then I question whether it has fulfilled its purpose*. (Charlie Chaplin, in Ladies' Home Journal)*

Children are the purpose of life. We were once children and someone took care of us. Now it is our turn to care. *(Cree Elder)*

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In centuries past greedy people attempted to change the nature and purpose of God's church by selling God's forgiveness for a price. God stepped in! Some would point to Dr. Martin Luther's Reformation as an example of such cleansing of the temple. *(Thomas R. Zehnder, in Portals of Prayer)*

The main purpose of the church is to help people to get along without it. *(Henry Drummond)*

Massachusetts passed a law in 1675 to lock church doors during services. Purpose was to cut disturbances not by latecomers, but by early goers. Nothing so infuriates the pulpit personality as this drift of departing people. *(L. M. Boyd)*

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Commitment means that it is possible for a man to yield the nerve center of his consent to a purpose or cause, a movement or an ideal, which may be more important to him than whether he lives or dies. *(Howard Thurman, in Disciplines of the Spirit)*

The need for devotion to something outside ourselves is even more profound than the need for companionship. If we are not to go to pieces or wither away, we all must have some purpose in life, for no man can live for himself alone. *(Ross Parmenter)*

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of anyone else. *(Charles Dickens)*

Everyone has a purpose in life, even if it is only to serve as a horrible example to others. *(The PassTime Paper)*

Finding one’s Quest is hearing one’s own poetry and speaking it so the world is filled with its music. *(Harris Clemes)*

A foot is a device for finding furniture in the dark. *(Bits & Pieces)*

When I forgive people, events and things for my errors, I am accepting my part in God’s plan of salvation; thus, I fulfill my purpose in being here, on earth. *(Susan Barclay, in The Greater Joining)*

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There is a plan to this universe. There is a high intelligence, maybe even a purpose, but it’s given to us on the installment plan. *(Isaac Bashevis Singer, in Conversations)*

Purpose is what gives life meaning. *(C. H. Parkhurst)*

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It is the level of thought that sets the person at cross purposes with God, and only by changing one’s thoughts can one find forgiveness. God always forgives because there is no unforgiveness in God. Love is omnipresent in us, and releasing the thought that obstructed the love frees that love flow. *(Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)*

Lack of something to feel important about is almost the greatest tragedy a man may have. *(Arthur E. Morgan)*

The only true happiness comes from squandering ourselves for a purpose. *(John Mason Brown)*

Health is not an end. Health is a means. Health enables us to serve a purpose in life, but it is not the purpose in life. One can serve a purpose with impaired health. One might even regain health through serving a purpose. *(Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen)*

The highest purpose is to have a purpose at all. *(John Cage, American composer)*

The propagantist’s purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human. *(Aldous Huxley)*

After a big thunderstorm last summer, we found one of our horses dead, presumably killed by lightning. For insurance purposes, we had to have this confirmed by a veterinarian. The vet’s phone was answered by his exuberant young assistant. I told her that we had a dead horse and that we would like the vet to come out to see it. After a long silence, she said in a subdued voice, “Well, the doctor is good. But he’s not that good.” *(David Shapiro, in Reader’s Digest)*

Great minds have purposes, others have wishes. *(Washington Irving)*

Jesus Christ, the Way-Shower, has clearly blazed a trail for you. His teachings serve as guideposts as you encounter what you feel may be bewildering obstacles (such as relationship problems, loss of a job, addictions, ill health) along the path. His teachings will not only keep you heading in the right directions, they will arm you with powerful weapons with which to make your overcomings. Jesus' teachings can (and were meant to) transform the entire world. That was, and is, their purpose: to bring to all humanity the news that we are part of God and that God's desire for each of us is absolute good. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 301 & 302)*

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**Cat says to dog: “My life no longer has purpose. I’ve run out of things to knock off the kitchen table.” *(Catholic Digest cartoon)***

The purpose of life is a life of purpose. *(Robert Byrne)*

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**There's many a mistake made on purpose. (Thomas Haliburton, Canadian jurist-humorist)**

Security exists only in your mind. Security is not the dollars you have in the bank or invest in business or rental properties. Security is the thoughts you have in your mind. Security is a self-generated inside job, created inside your mind. In this incarnation, you exist behind the only eyeballs you have. Choose to be secure. As you increase your security of mind, you will choose work you love rather than work you do only for money. And the truth is that doing work you love will facilitate rapid self-achievement and probably higher earnings, too. All the wealth in the world will not buy, nor be a sufficient substitute for love, family spiritual fulfillment and the real satisfaction of having a meaningful purpose in life. Prosperity is! If it's not for you, who is it for? *(Mark Victor Hansen, in How To Achieve Total Prosperity)*

Normally, we try to stop molds and bacteria forming on food. But many moulds and bacteria are quite harmless and it is some of these harmless ones that give certain cheeses their distinctive taste. For example, Swiss cheeses often have holes in them. The holes are caused by gases given off by bacteria that are introduced on purpose into the cheese while it is maturing. Another special mould produces the blue veins in Roquefort cheese from France. Camembert, also from France, has a greyish-white mould growing on its surface, which many consider the most delicious part of the whole cheese. *(Simon Goodenough, in 1500 Fascinating Facts, p. 234)*

The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how to live a purpose. *(Michel de Montaigne)*

I am a vital and necessary part of the mystery of the Universe. God created me for the sole purpose of making his plan work. Help me to accept my place, dear God, and help me to realize there are no lead singers and no minor roles. *(Malachy McCourt, in Harold Be Thy Name)*

He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how. *(Friedrich Nietzche)*

Struck oil accidentally while exhibiting a drilling set! Portable rotary drilling unit set up for demonstration purposes struck oil at the International Petroleum Exposition in Tulsa, Oklahoma. *(Ripley's Book of Chance)*

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Some people eat dirt every day -- on purpose. More than 200 cultures worldwide do it. The dirt of choice for many is clay. In India, some pour tea into newly formed clay teacups, drink the tea, then eat the cups.*(L. M. Boyd)*

A cowboy applied for an insurance policy. "Have you ever had any accidents?" asked the agent. "Nope," replied the applicant, "though a bronc did kick in two of my ribs last summer, and a couple of years ago a rattlesnake bit me on the ankle." "Wouldn't you call those accidents?" replied the puzzled agent. "Naw," the cowboy said, "they did it on purpose!" *(Our Daily Bread)*

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The peace of God is everything I want. The peace of God is my one goal; the aim of all my living here, the end I seek, my purpose and my function and my life, while I abide where I am not at home*. (A Course In Miracles Workbook, p. 380)*

Straight pins are precisely pointed, not too dull, not too sharp. On purpose. So they’ll pass between the threads, and penetrate them individually*. (L. M. Boyd)*

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**Place before your mind a great and definite purpose, a plan or course you wish your life to take. The purpose or ideal is but the heart’s desire of the sleeping prince or princess that lies within you, waiting for its dream to become a reality so it can begin to awaken. You do not need new circumstances or enhanced powers. These will come when your heart’s desire becomes the most important thing in your life. Nothing can bring so much pleasure and peace as the daily progress that occurs when the sleeping giant within begins to awaken. *(Jack Bolen, in Commitment to a Higher Self)***

To feel that one has a place in life solves half the problem of contentment. *(George Edward Woodberry, poet)*

*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Some of the important human inventions and ideas were originally conceived for the purpose of play -- their practical value to be discovered later. A good example of this is the Moebius strip, a one-sided surface which has many unexpected properties. This topological idea was discovered by the German mathematician and astronomer Augustus Ferdinand Moebius (1790-1868). For years, the Moebius strip was considered to be the “plaything of topology" -- a nice amusement but not much more. In the last forty years, however, some practical applications have been found for the Moebius strip. Rubber manufacturers have used the Moebius strip for conveyor belts. The belt lasts longer because both sides are actually one and receive equal wear. Electronic engineers have found that a resistor with a twist bent back upon itself performs its function more efficiently. A continuous loop in a cassette cartridge will play twice as long if it has a twist in it. Chemists are exploring ways of making molecules in the shape of the Moebius strip. When they split, they get bigger rather than smaller. *(Roger von Oech, in A Whack on the Side of the Head, p. 100)*

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Until my words seemed worn and bare with arduous use  
And all my fervor and persistence brought no hope,  
I paused to give my weary brain a rest and ceased my anxious cry,  
In that still moment after self had tried and failed,  
There came a glorious vision of God's Power and Lo,  
My prayer was answered in that hour. *(Lowell Fillmore)*

In the old prayer, men sought to get that which they needed and desired; in the new prayer, men seek to give of themselves, to commune with God that His perfect will may be known to them, and to give of themselves to their fellow men according to this Purpose; in other words they seek to cooperate with God, the Giver of all good gifts*. (Nona L. Brooks, in Mysteries)*

Prayer is the prelude to peace, the prologue to power, the preface to purpose, and the pathway to perfection*. (William Arthur Ward)*

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Depression raises heart risks: Stress and depression can take a combined toll on the heart, creating a "psycho-social perfect storm" that dramatically increases the risk of death from heart disease, new research has found. A study involving nearly 4,500 adults with coronary artery disease found those who also suffered from significant stress and depression were nearly 50 percent more likely to die or have a heart attack during a six-year study period, regardless of other risk factors. A separate study, meanwhile, found that having a strong sense of purpose in life actually lowers the risk of heart disease and stroke. "Developing and refining your sense of purpose could protect your heart health and potentially save your life," cardiologist Randy Cohen, the study's lead author, tells ScienceDaily.com. People with goals that are important to them, his analysis of 10 studies involving 137,000 people found, are 23 percent less likely to die over a given period than those without such goals. *(The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)*

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. *(George Bernard Shaw)*

More than 80,000 cans of Silly String are headed for Iraq, but their purpose is serious business. After months of frustration, a mother of a soldier in Iraq has found someone to ship the Silly String to the troops, who use the foamy substance to detect trip wires on bombs. Soldiers can shoot the substance, which travels about 10 to 12 feet, across a room before entering. If it hangs in the air, that indicates a possible trip wire. (Rebecca Santana, in Rocky Mountain News, October 16, 2007)

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others. (Rocky Mountain News)

Nothing contributes so much to tranquilizing the mind as a steady purpose -- a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye. *(Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley)*

Johannes Fritz, an Austrian biologist, is teaching birds to fly south for the winter over the Alps. Fritz started working with the endangered northern bald ibis in 1997 and realized that birds bred in captivity were clueless about how to migrate when let out in the wild. Since 2004, he has led them on a journey from Austria to Italy, in a slow-moving ultralight aircraft. Climate change, however, has made the birds migrate later, when the icy Alps peaks are a death trap. So this summer, Fritz mapped out a new route that will take the birds on a 2,500-mile journey to Cadiz on Spain's southern coast by October. "It's not so much a job" he said, "but my life's purpose." *(The Week magazine, September 1, 2023)*

Sometimes it seems the selfishness is just getting worse and worse. But a few individuals continue to show a better way. William Higgins, the U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel executed last year by terrorists, sacrificed his life to the cause of peace. Robin Higgins says her husband accepted his assignment to the U.N.’s Mideast peace-keeping force even though he was well aware of the danger “because he believed he could be useful – that he could help and that he was needed. “He wrote in his high-school year book,” she went on to say, “that his goal was ‘to always make my family proud of me.’ He succeeded.” All the people out there who are trapped in meaningless, money-rich careers should ask: “What would my wife or husband be able to say if I died today?” *(Charles Peters, in Washington Monthly)*

As a security officer for a defense contractor, I have to make sure all visitors sign in. One day I was in the lobby and noticed an employee’s college-age daughter writing in the visitors’ log. When I checked the log at the end of the day, I noticed her signature. Next to “Purpose of visit” she had written, “To get money from Dad!” (Joseph Hoffler, in Reader’s Digest)

An executive hirer, a "head-hunter" who goes out and hires corporation executives for other firms, once told me, "When I get an executive that I'm trying to hire for someone else, I like to disarm him. I offer him a drink, take my coat off, then my vest, undo my tie, throw up my feet and talk about baseball, football, family, whatever, until he's all relaxed. Then, when I think I've got him relaxed, I lean over, look him square in the eye and say, "What's your purpose in life?" It's amazing how top executives fall apart at that question. "Well, I was interviewing this fellow the other day, had him all disarmed, with my feet up on his desk, talking about football. Then I leaned up and said, "What's your purpose in life, Bob?" And he said, without blinking an eye, 'To go to heaven and take as many people with me as I can.' For the first time in my career I was speechless." (Josh McDowell)

It’s possible that my whole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)

The only words that don't offend a single human being are words delivered without purpose. (Lena Dunham)

General statements in the gospel should not be taken literally. Extravagant expressions are very frequent in Aramaic and Hebrew speech but never cause misunderstanding because the people know the speaker does not mean exactly what he says. Emphasis is on the power of faith and that power cannot be measured. Neither Jesus nor his disciples removed or attempted to remove mountains and Jesus did not actually mean mountains could be removed. Jesus emphasized trust in self and the power of trust. Trust in God's power and worthiness of purpose can accomplish the seemingly impossible. Without the determination to succeed, the courage to surmount obstacles, hard work and absolute faith in God and man, the vision of the Panama Canal could not have become an accomplished reality*. (George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light , p. 121)*

Swiss yodeled to start small avalanches on purpose, thus to prevent big avalanches without warning*. (L. M. Boyd)*

You have a purpose. There is something you believe in, a vision that stimulates you, a way of being that lets life flow through you naturally. Make the choice to follow your heart. *(Alan Cohen, in Joy Is My Compass)*

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