

Why Were You Born?

Did you know you were born for a purpose? God created each of us for a reason—and we are happiest when we are living in harmony with the purpose he has given us.

MANY people have no idea what life is all about. They live, and they die, wondering whether or not their lives have purpose—where they fit, whether they really matter in the grand scheme of things. All too soon, youthful plans and dreams evaporate into anxiety and frustration over missed opportunities, failed relationships or countless other if-onlys and might-have-beens.

Made in God's Image

Many lead empty, unfulfilled lives, but life could be much more than this, because God offers each of us true significance and purpose—the joy of being what he created us to be. **What is that purpose? God created humans** “in his own image” (Genesis 1:27, NIV throughout). We are not in God's image in terms of height or weight or skin color. God is spirit, uncreated, and we are created of matter. Still, in essential ways he has made us to be like him. We are self-aware, we can communicate, plan, think creatively, design and build, solve problems, and be a force for good in our world. And like God we can love.

Yet, often in those very ways, people are not much like God at all. We can often be rather ungodly. But, in spite of our ungodliness, we can be sure of one thing, God will always be faithful in his love toward us, because he has a purpose for us.

A Perfect Example

The apostle Paul tells us **God is remaking us into something perfect and good**—the likeness of



Jesus Christ. “He also predestined [us] to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29). In other words,

God intended from the beginning for us to be like Jesus Christ, the Son of God in the flesh.

Maybe you aren't very Jesus-like right now. That's OK. God already knows about your faults, and that's why he is working with you. **If you let him, he will change you**—transform you—to be more and more like Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). It takes patience, but the process fills life with meaning and purpose.

We Will Be Transformed

God's purpose for you is not only to be like Jesus was then, but also to be like Jesus is now—resurrected, immortal, filled with glory and power. He “will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:21).

We will be given a glory like Jesus has—bodies that are immortal, bodies that never deteriorate, bodies that are spiritual. We will be raised in glory,

and raised in power (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). “Just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven”—we will be like Christ! (verse 49).

Would you like to have glory and immortality? God has made you for this very reason. It’s a wonderful gift he wants you to have. It’s an exciting and wonderful future—and it gives life meaning and purpose. The troubles, trials and pains of life, as well as the joys, make more sense when we know what life is all about.

But I’m Not Good Enough

Maybe you’re thinking you’ll never be good enough for that kind of glory and power. You’ve made mistakes. Your life is messed up. That’s OK—God already knows that, but he isn’t going to let it stop him. **God knows how to save sinners**—and no matter how many times we mess up, he knows how to rescue us. God’s plan centers on Jesus Christ who was sinless in our place and who suffered for our sins in our place. He represents us before God and offers us the gift of eternal life, if we will accept it from him.

We all fall short, Paul says, but we have been justified, or set right, through the grace of God. **It’s a gift! We can’t earn it or deserve it** — God gives it to us out of his mercy and righteousness. People who are doing fine on their own don’t need to be saved. It’s people in trouble who need to be saved. Lifeguards don’t save people swimming on their own, they save people who are drowning. And spiritually speaking, we are all drowning.

We Are Not Saved by Works

Even if our works are very good, they are not the reason God saves us, because no matter how good our works are, they’re not good enough to save us. **We need mercy and grace**, and God gives us exactly that in Jesus. If it were possible for us to earn eternal life through good behavior, then God would have told us how. “If a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law” (Galatians 3:21). But the law cannot give us life—even if we could keep it.

“If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” (Galatians 2:21). If people could earn their way into salvation, then we wouldn’t need a Savior to rescue us. There would be no need for Jesus to come to earth, or to die and be raised again. **But Jesus came to earth for this very reason—to die for us.**

Without Christ, life is pointless. But Jesus tells us he has purchased our freedom, he can make us clean, he offers us a free ticket to his party and full rights in the family fortune. You are invited!

An Invitation From God

Yes, **Jesus is inviting us to share in his happiness**, to share in the eternal joys God has for us (Psalm 16:11). He is calling us to be like him, to be immortal, incorruptible, glorious and sinless. We will have supernatural power. We will have a vitality, intelligence, creativity, power and love far beyond what we know now. We can’t do this on our own—we have to let God do it in us.

Have you thought about accepting his invitation? **If you do, your life will take on new significance and meaning.** You’ll gain purpose, you’ll understand where you’re going and why, and you’ll be given new strength, new courage and great peace.

Jesus is inviting you to a celebration that lasts forever. Will you accept the invitation?

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