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RECOGNIZE YOUR PURPOSE

By Richard Curren

Yesterday, I had the privilege of speaking to the leadership and staff of a church in Dallas Georgia. The pastor has founded this church with the heart of not only impacting the lives of those in his church, but also impacting the community around his new church. His belief is that the church should enrich the community and bless even those who will never cross the threshold of their building. I was invited to speak because of a discussion he and I had earlier in which I shared my heart and mind with him about the role of the Church (note the capital C) in these times. I want to share this message with you also, as I believe every Christian needs to hear what amazing things God is doing in our times through ordinary people like you and I.

HEARING THE CALL

One of the hardest things in life is the feeling of not knowing your purpose, or calling. I struggled with this for years. Even harder is when others tell you what they think your purpose is; only you don't feel the same passion for the suggestion as they do. Just because you can cook doesn't mean you are called to establish an inner-city soup kitchen. Similarly, just because you feel God calling you to serve Him in some capacity does not mean you should sell everything and head off to seminary and an eventual pulpit somewhere. Don't let this bother you. I can assure you of this, God calls EVERYONE of us to service in His kingdom, not just those who go on to clergy roles. He will reveal His purpose for you if you will be still, ask Him, and then.....wait and listen.

When I first felt Gods calling on my life, I shared these feelings with my wife, Tanya. I said, "I feel God has placed a calling on my life!" She replied, "Wow, doing what?" "I don't know." was all I could reply. I had some ideas, but they were vague and I could not be certain if they were God or me trying to help God out with some suggestions. What I have since learned is that "I don't know" is a perfectly acceptable answer to start with. Don't doubt your call simply because you don't have an answer. That is not your problem, it's God's, and He will solve it in time. Just be patientand pray.

THE PAIN IN YOUR HEART IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CALL

No person on Earth is without purpose or value in the eyes of God. He created us all in His image, yet uniquely different. We all have things that make us special. Some of us are organizers, some mechanical, some compassionate, some are builders, some are artistic. The neat thing is that you were given at least one skill that the world needs. You were created to solve a problem. It is in this that God accomplishes two important tasks. First, he makes us dependent upon others to some level thus forcing us to interact with the world. No man is an island. Second, He gives you your purpose in life, a passionate calling.

God often reveals our passion to us through the things that we are most troubled by in our daily life. The homeless, the sick, the children, divorce, hunger, shut-ins, profanity, racism, sexism, the lost, the list is endless. The point is we are all affected differently by these issues. Some are very troubling to us, others we scantily notice. This is because God focuses us on one or two things to keep us from being overwhelmed and ineffective at everything. Meditating upon the things that trouble us is the first step on the path of heeding His call. Remember this; each of us has within us the unique God given characteristics and skills necessary to solve a problem in this world. The question is, will you?

SMALL BEGINNINGS

The bible tells us not to despise the small beginnings. This is as true today as it was at the time it was written. God is not looking for people to do great things. He is looking for people to do ANYTHING. You don't have to preach to 1000 to make a difference for God. Begin with just being an influence in your neighborhood. Model the ways of Jesus. He looked for ways that He could increase the faith of others not through evangelism first. He sought to win hearts with kindness and mercy. He used His powers of miraculous signs to first alleviate suffering and pain. Interestingly, Jesus did not perform one miracle for His own benefit. Instead, He performed His great works for the glory of the Father in heaven. In your pursuit of service to God, start small. A McDonald's Gift Card in the hands of a homeless man or woman is a great step forward. Reading to an elderly shut in or a disabled child is serving God. Simply mowing the yard of a neighbor is an act of evangelism. There are shelters all across America looking for someone to come in and speak to these men and women and lead devotions. Don't be discouraged if this seems a far cry from the vision you have from God for your ministry. This is how you grow and develop. This is where you learn. Most importantly, this is where you show God you are serious about serving him. In your service at the small beginnings you too will grow and prosper. You will begin to blossom and soon God will push you on to greater challenges. Remember, there are no small roles in God's kingdom. Every job is assigned by the King of Kings Himself. Serve Him well.



Richard Curren is the co-founder and President of Boundless Limits International and Live Guilt Free. Rick's passion is to speak and motivate others to live to their maximum potential physically, mentally, and spiritually. Through their events and publications, Rick and his wife Tanya are able to inspire others and show that each one has boundless potential to change our world. He is a former United States Army Officer. Rick serves on the Board of Directors for the So Help Me God Project as an Advisor and is a founding Board Member. With a passion for health and fitness, he is a Black Belt in Korean Olympic Tae Kwon Do, and serves as an Associate Instructor for Palmetto Martial Arts School.