

Discovering God's Purpose for Your Life



*"19 Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

- Do you ever question what God's purpose is for your life?
- Do you ever worry that you are wasting your life?

Most Christ-followers want to know what God's purpose is for their life. Often people say, "I know God has a reason for my life, but I don't know what it is."

There are at least two Biblical ways to know God's purpose for your life—the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20) and **spiritual gifts** (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12).

- **The Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20). The ultimate purpose for our lives is—*Go and make disciples*. Once you are aware of that, it will influence every decision and plan that follows in your life. It helps you to narrow down your options when there are roads in life that accommodate that purpose or is inconsistent to that purpose.
- **Spiritual gifts** (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12). You were given a spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. When you know what your spiritual gift is, you have a glimpse to what God's purpose is for your life. For example, if you have the gift of **teaching** (Rom. 12:7), God intends you to be **teaching** His Word in some capacity. If you have the gift of **servicing** (Rom. 12:7), God intends you to be **servicing** and helping in some way. If you have the gift of **leadership** (Rom. 12:8), God intends you to be **leading** in some way. Every Christian needs to discover his or her spiritual gift(s) and serve accordingly.

Central Lesson:
God's ultimate purpose for our lives is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

What is a "Disciple"?

The first century followers of Christ were originally referred to as "disciples." The name "Christian" was not used until later. It was first mentioned in Acts 11:26 NLT *"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians"*

The 1st century Greek word "*mathetes*" (math-ay-tes) which is translated "disciple" literally meant "a student, a learner, an apprentice." It included the idea that the student would become **like** the teacher. In biblical discipleship - a disciple is a person who is growing to become like Jesus.

There are many ways to define a disciple, but our **definition** is:

A **GROWING** (2 Pet. 3:18), fully **DEVOTED** (Luke 9:23), spiritually **REPRODUCING** (2 Tim. 2:2) follower of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship is the **process** by which we help people become growing, fully devoted, spiritually reproducing followers of Jesus Christ.

Why the Great Commission is Important

1. **OBEDIENCE**—It is the last command Jesus gave to his followers and is a matter of obedience.
2. **IMPACT**—It keeps us motivated to do what is most important - making an eternal difference in people's lives.
3. **UNITY**—It unifies believers - people with diversity are unified around the single focus and purpose of making disciples of Jesus.
4. **PURPOSE**—It gives our lives meaning and purpose.

Understanding the Great Commission

1. There is only one *verb* in Matthew 28:19-20—"make disciples"
2. The verb "*make disciples*" is supported by three *participles*—**go** (going), **baptizing**, and **teaching**.
 - a. "*As you are going...*" (Literal Greek). **EVANGELIZING** the lost as we go about the normal routine of life.
 - b. "*baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...*" Publicly **IDENTIFYING** with Christ.
 - c. "*Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.*" **TEACHING** complete **OBEDIENCE** to Christ.
3. Our **MISSION FIELD** for making disciples is "**all nations**," that is, the whole world—our neighborhoods, city, county, state, all North America, South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, etc.
4. Christ will always be **WITH US** in accomplishing this mission no matter how difficult circumstances may become. *"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Ways We Seek to Fulfill the Great Commission

Some basic ways we seek to fulfill the Great Commission:

- **Our four Steps of Growth**—devotions, D-Life small groups, Sunday messages synchronized with the devotional reading, and Discipleship 101.
- Training and sharing **The Three Circles** Gospel presentation.
- "**Conversations**" Bible discussions.
- Support of **missions** through our prayers and giving financially.
- **InsideOUT** Youth Outreach, plus much more.

Are you willing to spend the rest of your life fulfilling God's purpose for your life? That is, in some way, will you be a part of making disciples—helping people to *come* to Christ, *grow* in Christ, and *serve* Christ?

Central Lesson:

God's ultimate purpose for our lives is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.