

**FRIENDS  
FOR THE  
JOURNEY  
OF DISCOVERING  
TOGETHER THE  
PURPOSE FOR  
OUR LIVES**

**THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE  
BY RICK WARREN**

# **WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?**

## **PURPOSE #1:**

**I was planned for God's pleasure  
magnifier**

## **PURPOSE #2:**

**I was formed for God's Family  
member**

## **PURPOSE #3:**

**I was created to become like Christ  
model**

## **PURPOSE #4:**

**I was shaped for Serving God  
minister**

## **PURPOSE #5:**

**I was made for a Mission  
messenger**

# 1

# IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

Life is about being what God created me to be. God is the source of my life. He planned my creation before I was even born and my purpose fits into God's larger plan for all of creation. I discover my identity & purpose through a relationship with Jesus. Life without God makes no sense.

Everything got started in Him & finds its purpose in Him. Col 1:16

How can I remind myself that life is really about living for God not me?

# 2

# I am not an accident.

**I was custom-made. God creates everything intentionally & planned every detail of me, and the details of my life.**

**I am your creator. You were in my care before you were born.**  
Isaiah 44:2

**What areas of my personality, background,  
and physical appearance am I struggling to accept?**

# 3

# Living on purpose is the path to peace.

What drives me? Guilt?, Anger?, Fear?, Materialism?, Need for Approval?

Knowing my purpose:

- \* gives meaning to my life
- \* simplifies my life
- \* focuses my life
- \* motivates my life
- \* prepares me for heaven

You Lord give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you. Isaiah 26:3

What would my family and friends say is the driving force of my life?  
What do I want it to be?

# 4

# There is more to life than just here & now.

**This life is not all there is. Death is not the end. I will spend far more time in eternity & this life is a preparation for that.**

**This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God you will live forever.**      1John 2:17

**Since I was made to last forever, what is the one thing I should stop doing and the one thing I should start doing today?**

# 5

## Life is a test and a trust.

The way I see my life shapes my life. How do I see it?  
Life is a test which shows & shapes my character.  
Life on earth is a gift God trusts me with. The more God gives me the more responsible He expects me to be.

Unless you are faithful in small matters you won't be faithful in large ones.

Luke 16:10

What has happened to me recently that I now realize was a test from God?  
What are the greatest matters God has entrusted to me?

# 6

# This world is not my home.

Life on earth is a temporary assignment.  
Who I am & where I belong is in eternity.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For  
what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

How should the fact that life on earth is just a temporary assignment  
change the way I am living right now?

# 7



# It's all for Him.

The whole universe shows the glory of God. Living for God's glory is the greatest thing I can accomplish with my life.  
I decide who am I going to live for me or God?

I bring glory to God by:

- \* Worshiping Him
- \* Loving others as He Loves
- \* Becoming Like Jesus
- \* Serving others with our gifts
- \* Spreading the Good News

For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory. Romans 11:36

Where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God's glory?

# 8

**I was  
planned for  
God's  
pleasure.**

**I can make God smile, this is my greatest accomplishment. My whole life is an act of worshipping God- bringing Him joy.**

**The Lord takes pleasure in his people. Ps 149:4**

**What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?**

# 9

# God smiles when I trust him.

The smile of God is the goal of my life. All I need to do in this life is to figure out what will please God & then do it.

God smiles when:

- \*I love Him more than anything else
- \*I trust Him completely
- \*I obey Him wholeheartedly
- \*I praise & thank Him continually
- \*I use my abilities

The Lord is pleased with those who worship him and trust his love.  
Psalm 147:11

Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust him most?

# 10

# The heart of worship is surrender.

To give my whole self to God I have to trust Him.

3 things keep me from doing this:

-fear- The more I realize His love for me, the more I will be able to trust Him.

-pride- I need to be completely honest about my limitations-I can give God everything- my problems, weakness, bad habits, fears, dreams, hurts

-confusion- God works through those who have surrendered to Him- I am willing to do something I do not feel like doing

Surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes. Romans 6:13

What area of my life am I holding back from God?

# 11

# God wants to be my best friend.

I was made to live in the presence of God.  
I become best friends with Jesus by constant conversation- sharing  
all my life with Him. Everything I do is spending time with God

Friendship with God is reserved I for those who reverence him. Psalm  
25:14

What can I do to remind myself to think about God and remember to  
talk with him more often throughout the day?

# 12

# I'm as close to God as I choose to be.

There is nothing more important than my friendship with God.

Growing in this friendship takes:

\*honesty- God does not require me to be perfect, but he does want complete honesty

\*desire- I have to want my friendship with God more than anything else. I have to value what is important to God. Pain energizes us with intensity to change.

\*time & energy- Every time I obey God & act in faith our friendship deepens

Draw close to God and God will draw close to you. James 4:8

What practical choices will I make today in order to grow closer to God?

# 13

# God wants all of me.

God does not want to be part of my life. He asks for all my heart, soul, mind & strength.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

Which is more pleasing to God right now-my public worship or my private worship? What will I do about this?

# 14

**God is real,  
no matter  
how I feel.**

Friendships are often tested by separation & silence & with God it is no different. He is close to me even when I do not feel close to Him. When i feel separated from God I can remember to trust Him & that He keeps His promises:

\*He is good & loving

\*He is all powerful

\*He notices every detail of my life

\*He is in control

\*He has a plan for my life

\*He will save me

"For God has said, 'I will never leave you. I will never abandon you.

Hebrews 13:5

How can I stay focused on God's presence, especially when he feels distant?



# 15

# I was formed for God's family.

God doesn't need, but wants a family & I was created to be part of it. Because God is love, He treasures relationships. The Holy Trinity is God's relationship with Himself- Father, Son & Holy Spirit. My spiritual family is more important than anything, because it will last forever. Being included in God's family is the greatest honor & privilege I will ever receive.

"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5

How can I start treating other believers like members of my own family?

# 16

## Life is all about love.

Because God is love, the most important lesson He wants me to learn on earth is how to love and so the best use of life is love. Life without love is really worthless because only love lasts forever. How I treat people is the only thing I will do on earth that endures. It's not what I do, but how much love I put into the doing that matters. Love is the only thing God will care about when I enter eternity. My character is the only thing I take with me.

Faith expressing itself in love.

Learning to love unselfishly is not easy. The best expression of love is time. T-I-M-E is the best way to spell love & is always a measure of how important something is to me. Focused attention is the most desired gift of love- being present to someone, "I sacrifice myself now for you."

The best use of life is love, the best expression of love is time & the best time to love is now.

The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14

Honestly, are relationships my first priority?  
How can I make sure that they are?

# 17

# I am called to belong, not just believe.

I discover my role in life through my relationships with others.

Why i need my spiritual family:

- \*church identifies me as a true believer
- \*church moves me out of self-centered isolation
- \*church helps me grow spiritual muscles
- \*church keeps me from backsliding
- \*church gives me the chance to share in Christ's mission in the  
world

and: \*The Body of Christ needs me

In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5

Does my level of involvement in my local church demonstrate that I love and am committed to God's family?

# 18

# I need others in my life.

**We came here together. Life is meant to be shared. God intends for us to experience life together.**

**Real friendship happens when:**

- \*we are real with each other**
- \*we give & receive love freely**
- \*we have sympathy- entering in & experiencing the pain of others**
- \*we have mercy- don't rub mistakes in each others faces- no grudges,  
because bitterness & resentment always destroy friendship  
when others hurt me I have to decide: retaliation or resolution? I can't  
do both. Forgiveness must be immediate, trust must be rebuilt over  
time.**

**Share each other's troubles and problems and in this way obey the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2**

**What one step can I take today to connect with another believer at a more genuine, heart-to-heart level?**

# 19

# Community requires commitment

Only the Holy Spirit can create real friendship between believers, but He works through the choices & commitments we make. Christian community takes both God's power & our effort.

Community requires:

- \*Honesty- an honest answer is the sign of true friendship
- \*Humility- nothing destroys it more than pride & ego- which build walls instead of the bridges that humility builds. Humility is not thinking less of myself; it is thinking of myself less.
- \*Courtesy- respect
- \*Confidentiality- no gossip
- \*Time- regular contact needed to bond

We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave his life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers.

1 John 3: 16

How can I help cultivate today the characteristics of real community in my group and my church?

# 20

# Relationships are always worth restoring.

Peacemaking is not avoiding conflict or saying anything goes.

How I can restore relationships:

- \*Talk to God before talking with the person
- \*Sympathize with their feelings
- \*Attack the problem, not the person - don't be obsessed with blaming, remember how I say it is as important as what I say
- \*Cooperate as much as possible
- \*Reconciliation of the relationship is more important than resolution of the problem
- \*Make the first move
- \*Admit my part in the conflict

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

Romans 12:18

Who do I need to restore a broken relationship with today?

# 21

## It is my responsibility to protect the unity of my church.

Nothing on earth is more important to God than His family.

I can help protect His Church by:

- \*Focusing on what we have in common more than differences
- \*Being realistic in what I expect
- \*Choosing to encourage more than criticize. Passionately loving the Church in spite of its imperfections
- \*Refusing to gossip & listen to it
- \*practicing Gods plan for resolving conflicts:
  - 1- someone hurts me- work it out between us
  - 2-if they won't listen take along several others as witnesses
  - 3- if they still won't listen- tell the church
- \*Support my pastor & leaders

Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together. Romans 14:19

What am I personally doing to protect unity in my church family right now?

# 22

# I was created to become like Christ.

I am a spiritual being that will outlast my physical body. God's plan for my life on earth is not comfort, but the growth of my character. My character is the sum of my habits. I am not entitled to heaven on earth, but God's Holy Spirit is with me. All I have to do is cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work. God uses His Word, people & circumstances to mold me. Becoming like Christ is a slow lifelong process of growing. God is way more interested in what I am, than what I do. Jesus did not die just for me to have a comfortable, well-adjusted life.

**As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more. 2 Corinthians 3:18**

**In what area of my life do I need to ask for the Spirit's power to be like Christ today?**



# 23

# It is never too late to start growing.

God wants me to grow up, and to do this takes commitment. To change my life I have to change the way I think, because that determines the way I feel which influences the way I act. I need to develop the mind of Jesus.

Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God-what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. *Romans 12:2*

What is one area where I need to stop thinking my way and start thinking God's way?

# 24

# The truth transforms me.

The spirit of God uses the Word of God to make us like the Son of God.

Living in God's Word:

\*accept it as God's Word

\*make it's truth part of my everyday life

"If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:31-32

What has God already told me in his Word that I haven't started doing yet?

# 25

# There is a purpose behind every problem.

Everything that happens to me has a spiritual meaning. What happens on the outside is not as important as what happens inside me. Jesus taught me to pray “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. I trust that God’s plan is good. I can remember to see the big picture & not give in to short-term thinking. I can give thanks & refuse to give up.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

What problem in my life has caused the greatest growth in me?

# 26

## Every temptation is an opportunity to do good.

God uses temptation to help you grow. The fruits of the Holy Spirit grow through the experience of circumstances where I am tempted to express the opposite quality

All temptations follow the same pattern:

1- desire within                      2- doubt that it's really that wrong  
3-deception                      4- disobedience

It's not a sin to be tempted, only when I give in to it. I can't block out all temptations, but I can choose not to dwell on or act on them.

How I can overcome temptation:

- \*Refuse to be intimidated- I am not alone
- \*Recognize my pattern of temptation & be prepared for it
- \*Ask for God's help

God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

What Christlike character quality can I develop by defeating the most common temptation I face?

# 27

# There is always a way through

God never allows more to be put on me than He has put in me to handle it.

Keys to Defeating Temptation:

\*Refocusing my attention on something else, because whatever gets my attention gets me

\*Share my struggle with a friend or group I trust, because whatever I can't talk about is already out of control in my life

\*Resist the devil- don't argue with him; just accept God's salvation. Say yes to Jesus. Make a good confession.

\*Recognize my vulnerability- I need God's help

God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Who could I ask to be a spiritual partner to help me defeat a persistent temptation by praying for me?

# 28

# There are no shortcuts to maturity.

God is not interested in how fast I grow- but in how strong I grow.

Growing can take a long time:

- I'm a slow learner
- I have a lot to unlearn
- I'm afraid to face the truth about myself
- Growing is often painful & scary
- Habits take time to grow

What I can do:

- \*Believe God is working in my life even when I don't feel it
- \*Keep a journal of lessons learned
- \*Be patient with God & myself
- \*Don't get discouraged

God began doing a good work in you and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again. Philii 1:6

In what area of my spiritual growth do I need to be more patient and persistent?

# 29

# Service is not optional.

I was put on earth to make a difference. I was created to serve God by making a contribution. I was saved by Jesus to serve God. To grow spiritually is not for its own sake.  
I grow up so I can give out.

"For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10

What is holding me back from accepting God's call to serve him?

# 30

# I was shaped for serving God.

God shapes me for my mission & I need to unwrap my spiritual gifts. These can't be earned, chosen or deserved- they are gifts- expressions of God's love for me, that He chose for the benefit of others, just as other people are gifts for my benefit.

2 problems to avoid:

1- gift envy- jealous of how God works through others

2-gift projections- expected others to have same gifts as us

God works through different men in different ways but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all. 1Cor12:6

In what way can I see myself passionately serving others and loving it?



# 31

# Nobody else can be me.

I make a contribution to the body of Christ that no one else can make. All my abilities come from God. The church's responsibility is to identify & release my abilities for serving God. What I am able to do, God wants me to do. He matches my calling & my abilities. I need to discover what I am good at & what I am not good at.

God has been shaping me through experience out of my control:

\*Family \*Education

\*Work \*Spiritual

\*Serving \*Pain

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings. 1 Peter 4:10

What God-given ability or personal experience can I offer to my church?

# 32

# God deserves my best.

God wants me to focus on talents He gave me to use. When I don't it wastes my time, talent & energy. So I need to:

- \*Look at my gifts & abilities
- \*Look at my heart & my personality
- \*Look at my experiences & the lessons I have gained from them

God has given me a job to do, my goal is to stay within the boundaries of His plan for me.

The devil will try to steal the joy of service away by tempting me to:

- compare my mission with others
- conform my mission with others

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

How can I make the best use of what God has given me?

# 33

# I serve God by serving others.

## As a real servant of God:

- \*I make myself available to serve others
- \*I pay attention to the needs of others
- \*I do the best with what I have
- \*I do everything with the same dedication- with all my heart, the size is irrelevant
- \*I remember that the little things determine the big things. Great opportunities disguise themselves in little tasks. I don't look to do great things for God. I am willing to do the not so great stuff; remembering that nothing was beneath Jesus because He came to serve. The Son of God washed feet, helped children, served lepers, helped with meals.
- \*I remain faithful to my ministry
- \*I keep a low profile- i don't call attention to myself

If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded. Matthew 10:42

Which of the six characteristics of real servants offers the greatest challenge to me?

# 34

To be a  
servant I  
must think  
like a servant.

Service starts in the mind:

- \*Thinking more about others than myself
- \*Remembering I am not the owner of anything in this reality- God is
- \*Focusing on my work- not on what others are doing
- \*Basing my identity in Jesus
- \*Seeing my work as an opportunity, not an obligation

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Phil2: 5

Am I usually more concerned about being served or finding ways to serve others?

# 35

# God works best when I admit my weakness.

God is never limited by my limitations. He loves to use weak people. If he only used perfect people, nothing would ever get done.

I need to:

\*Admit my weaknesses & not pretend to have it all together.

\*Be content with my weaknesses- knowing God will use all for His glory

\*Share my weaknesses- feelings, failures, frustrations, fears

My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Am I limiting God's power in my life by trying to hide my weaknesses?  
What do I need to be honest about in order to help others?

# 36

# I was made for a mission.

**My mission is a privilege- it is a continuation of Jesus' saving mission on earth. My mission gives my life its meaning & has an eternal meaning**

**Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt 28:19-20**

**What fears have kept me from fulfilling the mission God made me to accomplish? What keeps me from telling others the Good News?**

# 37

# God wants to say something to the world through me.

I am God's messenger through:

\*My Story- how I was before Jesus, how I needed Him, committed to Him & the difference He has made in my life

\*My Life lessons- what God has taught me through:

failure                      pain, sorrow or depression

waiting                      lack

disappointment      illness/ injury

family, friends, enemies

\*My Passions- God gives us of us different passions so that everything he wants done in the world will get done. I should not expect everyone else to be as passionate about my passion.

\*The Good News message of salvation- I teach through my life

**Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness & respect.**

1 Peter 3:15-16

**As I reflect on my personal story, who does God want me to share it with?**

# 38

# The Great Commission is my Commission

My joy, confidence & enthusiasm are contagious because I know I am making a difference. Each day I expect God will work through me in fresh ways.

Shifting:

- \* from thinking of myself to thinking about others. People may reject my love or my message, but they are defenseless against my prayers
- \* from thinking local to global
- \* from limited thinking to eternal thinking
- \* from excuses to creative ways to fulfill my mission

Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind. Psalm 67:2

What steps can I take to prepare to go on a short-term missions experience in the next year?



# 39

# Blessed are the balanced.

Balance helps me to last. I need to give myself a regular spiritual check up & keep focused on Jesus' Great Commandment & Great Commission:

- 1- Love God with all my heartWorship
- 2-Love my neighbor as myself Ministry
- 3-Go & make disciples Evangelization
- 4-Baptize them Fellowship
- 5-Teach them to do all things Discipleship

"Live life with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do." Ephesians 5:15

Which of the 5 activities will I begin in order to stay on track and balance God's five purposes for my life?

# 40

# Living with purpose is the only way to really live.

## The 3 biggest questions:

\*Who am I?                      \*Do I matter?   \*What is my place in life  
can all be answered in God's 5 purposes for me

## Create a life purpose statement (& review regularly):

-summarizes God's purposes for my life      -points the direction of my life  
-defines success for me                              -clarifies my roles  
-reflects the unique ways God made me to serve Him

## Life's 5 biggest questions

\*What will be the center of my life?      \*What will be the character of my life?  
\*What will be the contribution of my life?  
\*What will be the communication of my life?  
\*What will be the community of my life?

David served the purpose of God in his own generation. Acts 13:36

When will I take the time to write down my answers to life's five great questions? When will I put my purpose on paper?