

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002),

Prov. 11:28: Those who trust in their riches will wither,* but the righteous will flourish like green leaves. (NRSV)
=A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is flourishing tree.

Jer. 17: 7-8: Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (NRSV)

Col. 1:16: ¹⁶for in* him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in* him all things hold together.

It's not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born *by* his purpose and *for* his purpose. ¹

The search for the purpose of life has puzzled for thousands of years. That's because we typically begin at the wrong starting point - ourselves. We ask self-centered questions like What do *I* want to be? What should *I* do with my life? What are *my* goals, *my* ambition, *my* dreams for my future? But focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose. The Bible says, " In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being" (Job 12:10). ²

You must begin with God, your creator. You exists only because God wills that you exist. You were made by God and for God - and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads us to a dead end. ³

[Because we are the product made in God, not made in USA or made in China. God is the original country that created the product. God is the owner of God's creatures, not USA owns us, nor Korea owns us. God alone owns our lives because we are the creatures made in God, by God and for God].

We are made for God, not vise versa, and life is about letting God use you for *his* purpose, not your using him for your own purpose. The Bible says, ⁶ *To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace* (Rom. 8: 6). ⁴

You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ. God was thinking of us long before we ever thought about God. God's purpose for our life predates our conception. God planned it before we existed, *without our input*. We may choose our career, our spouse, our hobbies, and many other parts of our life, but we don't get to choose our purposes. The purpose our life fits into much larger, cosmic purpose that God has designed for eternity. ⁵

¹ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 17.

² Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 17.

³ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 18.

⁴ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 18.

⁵ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 21.

You are not an accident:

Is. 44: 2a says, *"Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you."*

Long before, you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the minds of God. He thought of you first. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you. The Bible says, ⁸ *"The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me."* ⁶

God prescribed every single detail of your body. He deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. He custom-made your body just the way he wanted it. He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality. The Bible says, *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth* (Ps. 139:15). ⁷

Because God made you for a reason, he also decided *when* you would be born and *how long* you would live. The Bible says, ¹⁶ *Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. (Ps. 139:16).* = "You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book." ⁸

⁶ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 22.

⁷ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 22.

⁸ Rick Warren, *PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 23.