



ALLI PATTERSON

“AM I
MISSING OUT
ON THE LIFE
God Has
for Me?”

A WORKBOOK TO
CLARIFY YOUR PURPOSE



Hi, I'm Alli.

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You were made on purpose by a God who has plans for your life. Our world has caused confusion and anxiety with the idea of "finding your purpose." You don't have to quit your job or climb a mountain or travel to far off places to make a difference every day. You are much closer than you think. I hope this workbook brings clarity and energy to your real life, today. My prayer is that you will no longer worry you're missing the life God has for you and trust that He knows exactly what He's doing. Enjoy!

XO, Alli



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"AM I MISSING OUT ON THE LIFE GOD HAS FOR ME?"

Clarify your purpose with 4 exercises

1 It's about GOD.

Your purpose is about GOD - not you. What does the Bible say about purpose? And let's use a better word.

2 People & Places

Notice patterns in the people and places of your life. They're clues about how you can join God in what He's doing around you right now.

3 History & Gifts

God made you for Kingdom impact. He put some things in you for the good of others. Let's consider where those arrows point!

4 10 Little words

I'm going to help you write some 10 word phrases to experiment with daily direction. A life of impact and meaning doesn't have to be fancy or complicated.





1 PURPOSE IS ABOUT GOD. NOT YOU.

Most of the time when people talk about purpose, the word "MY" is in front of it: we are in search of "*my purpose*." This mindset leaves you obsessing over yourself: trying to maximize your talents and your abilities for your happiness and success. But God's purpose is not necessarily to maximize you: it's to maximize HIM -- and not because he has a big ego. When God's glory, image, character and mission expand it's what's best for EVERYTHING **he** made. Including you! If you want *God's purpose* for your life, at its core

it will be about making *him* famous - not about making *you* famous. Many people have great anxiety because they are under the impression that it is their job to figure out their own purpose, make a plan, perform it well and produce satisfaction in their own life.

Followers of Jesus, however, can look at purpose differently. In a way that is freeing - not filled with pressure; real - not requiring you to abandon your daily life. If you're in Christ you are part of God's mission through time. You have a role right where you are.

God has a mission, and you have a role in it.

The deep satisfying purpose you're looking for is with him - inside his. In Christ you are part of the body of Jesus executing God's mission to expand the Kingdom, offering salvation in the name of Jesus and making disciples.

..."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." - Matthew 28:19-20

There are so many ways to be a part of this commission!

You were made uniquely and can uncover paths of great personal satisfaction as you work in his name. In the New Testament you see normal people who did all kinds of things within this mission. Some were preaching, planning travel, planting churches, establishing structure of organizations, training leaders, writing encouraging letters, giving money, serving food, hosting gatherings in their home, earning money in business to support new ministry, teaching the scriptures, helping hurting people, listening to the Spirit and prophesying, playing instruments, leading worship, planning meals, handling money, mothering and fathering, sharing personal property or gathering for prayer.

So what could YOU do? I'm excited to help you see it and take a step in that direction! You are already empowered and included. Let's go.

Let's use the word '**DIRECTION**'

You are going to look at how to tweak your daily life to head in God's direction.

Orienting your time, days, resources or relationships towards God is a powerful way to experience his plans unfolding through you. You can have that feeling of purpose in little ways all the time. Slight changes in direction can produce meaningful fruit you never expected!

Sidenote: pain doesn't thwart purpose!

One note before we keep going: I know some of you are in times of trouble. I know pain can make you believe that the Lord is absent - or worse yet...that He's not good or kind or doesn't have your best at heart. When pain lasts a long time, it can make you doubt whether God can still use your life at all for his mission or plans. Keep heading in God's direction!...even in times of darkness. Even if all that means today is that you keep believing He is good. Scripture is full of promises for this time: God will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). He will never mislead you (Psalm 32:8), even in the darkest times (Psalm 23). He is working for your good in all things because you have been called according to *his purpose*. (Romans 8:28). That means, with Jesus, that even your pain and trouble is empowered to produce new life and growth and serve purpose. God's plans are never stopped in the midst of pain. But it can be hard to remember. Keep going friend. Memorize David's words below if that's you right now!

*He's with you
even in the
darkness.
Keep moving his
direction!*

*He guides me along the right
paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
Psalm 23:3-4*



2 YOUR PEOPLE & PLACES

Living your daily life with purpose - moving in God's *direction* - means opening your eyes to see people around you and places you go as who/where God is at work. And he is! You are going in search of patterns for wisdom to see how his mission is taking place right around you! First, pray that the Spirit would show you where and with whom so you can focus on that and move in that direction as you live out each day. When you get a glimpse of God at work, this is your invitation to join in.

One thing that scripture says God is doing in the life of a follower (or potential follower) of Christ is found in Romans 8:29: "*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son...***" Part of God's mission is to use everyday circumstances to produce growth that makes his people look more and more like Jesus in character and actions. He is *always* doing this. Reflect on the next page and ask the Spirit where He is moving in the people & places you already are.

Get a journal and pen (or your phone) and answer these questions about your PEOPLE:

List up to 10 people you see most frequently in a normal week.

Do these people have anything in common? Reflect on any similarities.

List any new people that have come into your life in the past 6-12 months.

Do these people have anything in common? Reflect on any similarities.

Do you commonly feel drawn to -- or have an easier time connecting with -- a certain *type* of person?

Which of these 3 statements represent the highest number on your lists above:

- People with a desire to grow closer to God.
- People who need connected to friends or other followers of Christ
- People who don't know Jesus.

God tries to get our attention in patterns. What is God showing you? How has he made you to connect with the people around you?

Now, answer these questions about your PLACES:

List up to 5 places you go regularly throughout a normal week.

Do those places have anything in common? Reflect on any similarities.

List new places you've gone in the past 6-12 months?

Do those places have anything in common? Reflect on similarities.

Has God planted an interest or a love for a certain place/type of place in your heart?

Of the places you go, have any created new/deeper relationships?

Of the places you go, where do you spend the most time?

Of the places you go, where do you most enjoy being? Least enjoy? Why?

Are there any patterns in your places? Anything that sticks out as important or interesting?

Pray and ask that the Lord would show you this week where He is moving in your people & places.

*You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying
down; you are familiar with all my
ways.*

Psalm 139:1-3



For your people and places, fill in these blanks:

- Right now, God may be drawing my attention to these people:

- Right now, God may be drawing my attention to this place:



3 YOUR HISTORY & GIFTS

We seem to have an incessant need to gather information about ourselves: Myers-Briggs, DISC, Enneagram, even “What Disney princess are you?” quiz. (I’m Pocahontas). All the pieces only come together in power when the mission of God is in the center of your life. All these tidbits of personal insight are good: they’re just incomplete until you realize that you were made to use them *for him*. Even your quirks and eccentricities find purpose when you point yourself in God’s direction

as you use them. You know yourself better than you might think: you have inborn personality traits and natural talents. You’ve discovered skills and capacities inside you as you’ve worked and grown. And there is a whole new set of gifts given at the time you came to faith in Jesus: “spiritual gifts” from the Spirit of God within you. All of these are the ways and means from God by which you go to work with him every day. You were literally MADE to be pointed in his direction. Let’s assess what you know!

Think about these 3 areas of what God has given you to work with:

OPPORTUNITY + PASSION + SKILL

Ask yourself:

- What are key insights about your skills, gifts, passions that have stuck out about you from past assessments of any kind?
- What do you consider your key areas of talent/skill/gift?
- What do you love to do/ brings out your energy and passion? (Even if it seems small or silly!)
- What issues, opportunities do you see around you right now?

Ask yourself: When lately, in work or school, have I felt a sense of being alive or making a difference or being very "me?"

Ask a friend: What do I consistently do that relieves, frees, blesses you?

Ask God: Will you open my eyes to opportunities to join your work?

Want a quick experiment?

What opportunity is right in front of you to *give grace* to someone else today? Go do it, and see what happens.

The role(s) you assume in groups of people can help you see patterns that could bring you wisdom on how you operate.

What do you typically lean towards in a group?

Overall leader: Keeper of vision, define reality, set pace and tone for group, see/hold all the pieces

Coach/Encourager: Call others up, get training team needs, fill with courage, energy

Communicator- Can articulate vision well and talk up front persuasively

Creative: brainstormer, dreamer, possibility creator, beautifier

Facilitator: keeping others on track- focus, time, money

Finisher- Rally for a strong finish and make sure all boxes are checked

Fun/celebration: show up with smiles, food, ice breakers, party

Helper: show up & work reliably, pick up slack when needed

Hospitality: setting the right environment for meeting

Researcher: dig for wisdom to help; historian, reminder of what's been learned

Scribe: write down work carefully and correctly

Standard bearer: keeping group up to excellence

Technical expert: Possess unique knowledge critical in a phase

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

Sometimes the reason that a sense of "purpose" isn't emerging in your life is because you are literally going the wrong direction with your skills and gifts. You may have wonderful things within you but you are using them for your own gain or you have refused to obey God with them in the past or you do not want to give of them generously to others. *Obedience with your gifts* is a key part of moving in God's direction every day. You won't feel a sense of "purpose" unless you are using what you've got **on behalf of others**. Scripture says that *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* 1 Peter 4:10. You get to pass out the grace of God to others using in his name. This is what he wants from what he's given you. Getting in alignment with God's will means accepting that what's in you is for the good of others. If you aren't using it that way, you can repent and start now. God promises refreshment as you do (Acts 3). If you're looking for a fresh sense of 'purpose' in your life, this could be the key. Don't be afraid to be obedient even if it looks like a loss is involved. God is good. And he wants your life to be fruitful and thrive even more than you do! *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."* Proverbs 3:5-7



4

10 LITTLE WORDS

My calendar is driven by 10 (ish) words that I wrote in 10 (ish) minutes. You are going to do that right now, so you can point your time towards God and avoid distractions that are sucking purpose out of your life. Paul, the writer of much of the NT, had 10 (ish) words. Ok it was 11. ...*"my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of **testifying to the good news of God's grace.**"* Acts 20:24. Paul was here on earth to do those 8 words **to the Gentiles** (I add those 3 extra because of Acts 9:15.)

We don't have Paul's calendar but we do have his letters and a record of his life in book of Acts. Sure enough: that is exactly what Paul did. His time was spent on activities that either executed that or supported that. He told his story, taught scripture, gave speeches, share in town squares - not only to Jews but to Gentiles who accepted Jesus as Savior. Articulating *direction* is the step before making plans or doing anything. Good direction always helps/informs how you spend your time. Use your new insights and write 10 (ish) words!

Draft your 10 words

- **Start with a verb.**
- **Make sure it's about something that's important to God.**
- **Make sure it reflects something you like/love - not a "should"**
- **Define a person or group**
- **Consider whether it is specific to a place**

Remember Paul's "10 words:"

Testifying to the good news of God's grace to the Gentiles

Here's some examples of other's 10 words:

1. Mentoring couples that are engaged so they can start marriage strong.
2. Praying for my principal every time I park at school.
3. Blending two families into one who follows God together
4. Staying sober and faithful to my job for one year
5. Bringing help and hope to people coping with a natural disaster.
6. Raising money to free girls from sex slavery in India.
7. Equipping others to connect with God in His Word.
8. Creating running groups to build community in my township.
9. Feeding the hungry downtown Detroit.
10. Nursing people back to health with the compassion of Christ.

Read Matthew 9:10-13 for Jesus' 10 words:

Offering forgiveness and mercy to the sinner and the sick.

Perfection kills momentum.


After you have written some different possible 10 word directions, try to gain some momentum right now. Do not worry about getting it perfect -- or even right! As you look at what you wrote, what are a couple of obvious things you need to do right now? Set a reminder on your phone for something? Invite someone? Buy a thing? Set up a meeting?

Go do that! Move in God's direction, and trust him to steer you as you go.

Who cares if you're off? It's always easier for God to direct and guide you as you move and experiment in your real, daily life. You don't have to start a non-profit: this can be very simple! Just a slight shift of heart or intention can matter greatly. You don't have to even leave your house: God can provide fruitful lives no matter the circumstances you currently find yourself in.

You will NOT miss his purpose for you if you're moving in His direction. All along He will be making you into the image of Christ, renewing your mind and heart and helping you discern his will for your life. He wants you to experience fruit, fulfillment and live a life you love with him.

I'm praying for you with this prayer!



And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11



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See you soon!



Thank you!

I hope this has helped you connect with God.

I know there are not perfect or easy answers for living out calling or purpose in your life. But I know there's a God who wants to lead you in his direction - towards his image and a fruitful life.

I hope this has helped you get one step closer.

Alli