

Do You Know Your Purpose?

THE PLAN...

God created us in his own image to enjoy a relationship with him and planned our life to be filled with meaning and purpose.

THE PURSUIT...

Why then do things like inner peace, abundant joy, and confident hope evade most people?

THE PROBLEM...

Our relationship with God has been badly broken, and we are unable to experience the promises and plans of God apart from him. This separation from God is the end result of our living outside his plans, what the Bible calls sin.

THE PROMISE...

But God in his great love has provided for us a way to reunite with him and live the life he planned for us from the beginning.



1. BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST:

♣ BECAME A MAN - SO I CAN RELATE TO HIM

"It is the Good News about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself." Romans 1:3-4 (LB)

♣ DIED FOR MY SINS – SO I DON'T HAVE TO

It is this Good News that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said."

1 Corinthians 15: 2-4 (NLT)

"For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others."

2 Corinthians 5:19 (LB)

2. ACCEPT GOD'S SALVATION:

♣ AS A FREE GIFT- BECAUSE I CAN'T EARN IT

"People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith."

Romans 3:24-25 (ICB)

"God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

3. SWITCH TO GOD'S PLAN:

♣ BASED ON FAITH – SO I MUST REPENT AND BELIEVE

Jesus said, *"Repent and believe the good news!"* Mark 1:15 (NIV)

"The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, 'Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him.'" Romans 1:17 (NCV)

Switching to God's plan involves turning the controls of your life over to God (repentance) and trusting Christ to accept and forgive you of your sins and begin to change you into who he has created you to be.

The two circles below represent two kinds of lives:



THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE

SELF is on the throne

Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord, frustration.

Christ is outside the life.



THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE

CHRIST is on the throne

Self is yielding to Christ.

Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan.

Which circle best represents your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

4. ESTABLISH JESUS CHRIST:

♣ AS MY LIFE'S DIRECTOR—
SO I CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

“Jesus destroyed death, and through the Good News he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed.” 2 Timothy 1:10 (NCV)

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:12-13

God sincerely desires for you to take these four steps to begin a relationship with you. God knows what is in your heart and wants to speak with you personally. Here is a simple prayer suggestion to help you:

Dear God, I believe you sent your son, Jesus, to die for my sins so I can be forgiven. I'm sorry for my sins and want to live the rest of my life the way you want me to. Please put your spirit in my life to guide and help me. Amen.

If you have entrusted yourself to God through Jesus Christ, you may be sure of the following:

1. Jesus took up residence in my life
2. My sins were forgiven
3. God adopted me into His eternal family
4. I now have eternal life with God
5. I am now able to experience life the way God planned for me

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

Now that you have decided to follow Christ and live a life pleasing to Him, you may be wondering, “What do I do? Where do I go from here?”

First, an essential step for your spiritual growth is to get connected with other healthy, growing Christians. The church is God's plan for gathering his family together into a community. The Bible says, *...you should meet together and encourage each other...* Hebrews 10:25 (NCV) Christ established the church to provide you with:

- ✓ Truthful and sound instruction for life
- ✓ Friendship and community for worship
- ✓ A place to use your God-given gifts and abilities
- ✓ Encouragement and spiritual leadership

Second, your new relationship with God means everything has changed. *If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!* 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NCV) The best way to grow in your relationship is to keep God at the center of every aspect of your life—your thoughts, family, relationships, business, school, etc. Each day you will want to take time to read the Bible. You will discover how God speaks to you through the Holy Spirit as you read God's inspired words.

It also means you will want to take time talking and listening to God. Prayer is as essential to knowing God and growing spiritually as breathing is to living and staying healthy.

You will find the Christian walk with God is challenging and exciting, and will fill you with a sense of purpose and direction. Following in Jesus' steps means that every day is a new opportunity to experience God's life, forgiveness, and purpose.