

# What Is Your Purpose?



A devotional  
from the HEART  
Of Lara Love

## The Reason for Living

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Tim. 2:15

Long before I became a committed follower of Jesus Christ, I heard someone say that purpose can be defined as our “reason for living.” How ironic. For nearly 20 years, I thought regularly about committing suicide. My life was too broken from abuse, addictions, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, abandonment, endless sin, and tons more for me to believe I had a reason to live. I couldn't fathom there was a purpose for my life.

But even when I developed a relationship with God by repenting and believing in Jesus Christ as Lord who died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins, I still lacked a sense of purpose. Why? Because I needed to study the Bible and get to know God. How could I know His purpose for my life without knowing Him? And I needed to apply the Bible to my life so I could become the woman He created me to be and ultimately fulfill His purpose for me.

*Do you study the Bible daily? Are you getting to know God? Are you becoming the person God created you to be? Do you know His purpose for your life?*

## God's Purpose, Not Yours

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,” 2 Tim. 1:9

One of the biggest traps I see people fall into when it comes to one's purpose is trying to figure it out without taking God into account. We run into all sorts of trouble when we do this. We humans can come up with all kinds of plans on our own, and we can come up with what we believe to be our life's purpose based on our own human flesh rather than according to God's plans for us. When we do this, we can end up with the wrong sense of purpose based on what is comfortable, what seems obvious, what others tell us, and what the world teaches us. Some people live their whole lives pursuing a purpose other than God's. Some never find a sense of purpose at all. This is what happens when God is left out of the equation.

God has an overall purpose for all of us, and an individual purpose for each of us.

*When was the last time you prayed to God to show you your purpose? Are you listening to His answer?*

## Lies, Lies, and More Lies

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, ...” 1 Peter 5:8-9

You're just a dumb drunk. You're just a useless housewife. You'll never amount to anything. You're a failure. You'll always live on the streets. God would never have a purpose for someone like you. You'll never pay off your debt so you can get started on God's purpose for you. It's too late for you. You're past your prime. You've made too many mistakes. You have a learning disability.

No matter how hard the devil has come at you to try to convince you not to pursue God's purpose for your life, rest assured he will continue so long as you let him. He is the greatest liar in the universe, and he works hard to make his lies seem like they're true. If you're not living your purpose, he'll try to stop you before you start. If you've already started, don't be surprised if he tries to make you quit. He doesn't want you to use the gifts God has given you. He will do anything to stop you.

*Make the decision to not be stopped. Stop believing the devil's lies. Put your faith in God and follow Him. Believe His Truth.*

## Don't Forget the Preparation

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2 [charity is love]

Years ago, I came bounding into my pastor's office to excitedly announce God had told me His purpose for my individual life. He had called me into ministry, and I was ecstatic and ready to dive right in.

My pastor burst my bubble on the spot. “And now begins the preparation,” he said.

Oh how wrong he was. Wasn't he? I figured when God tells one of His kids His purpose for his or her life, it's time to jump right in. I had lived for decades without a sense of purpose. The last thing I needed was to delay my now purpose-filled life with a time of preparation.

The greatest preparation I needed was to learn how to love. Without love, my ministry would be fruitless. Even worse, I would hurt some of the very people I wanted to help. I did just that because I didn't wait, and I had to repent for the mess I made and start anew.

*When you seek God's purpose for you, don't forget He has a timetable also. And don't miss the preparation! Let Him lead the way.*

## His Purpose for Us All

“But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Joshua 22:5

If you think God has a unique purpose for you, you're right. But God has a greater purpose common to all of us. Our individual purpose needs to be placed in the context of our common purpose, and our common purpose must always take priority. God created us to love and serve Him with all our hearts; to praise, honor, worship, and adore Him; and to bring Him glory. We must love and serve Him as our number one purpose in life.

I was told for decades that I was gifted as a writer. But I saw it as a means to pay bills, to try to prove my worth, to feel good, and to do what came naturally. I had to repent and surrender the gift to Him so He could show me how I could use the gift to glorify Him. Today, I write to show God my love and to tell the world about Him. My individual purpose is now in the context of the purpose we all share.

*Love and serve the Lord above all else.*

## Love, Love, Love, and More Love

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

I feel incredibly comfortable around the homeless. I have never been physically homeless, but I spent decades of my life feeling like I didn't belong anywhere. I felt homeless in my soul until I became a sold out follower of Jesus Christ by learning to live what the Bible teaches. To this very day, I am learning to abide—or to be at home—in Christ. I have never felt more loved and accepted in my life—by God. Through faith in Christ, I have a forever home with the Lord.

My purpose, and your purpose, the purpose we all share, is to love the Lord with all our hearts AND to love others with His love. These commandments sum up our primary purpose on earth. God doesn't love us so we can keep His love to ourselves. He calls us to give to others the love He gives us. Finding and living our purpose can seem daunting, unattainable, impossible. It is not. It all begins with loving God and loving others. *Living your purpose? Begin with love.*

## Commissioned with a Purpose

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Mt.28:19-20

Maybe you've heard of the Great Commission. Maybe not. Maybe you are striving to live it out. Or not. Maybe you're too caught up in your daily life to look at the big picture. Maybe when you think of purpose, you aren't looking at the context in which your purpose is designed to be. Your individual purpose is not meant to be bigger than the purpose God has for us all.

Our first purpose is to love God and our neighbors. Our second purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. We don't need to wait for years to figure out what God set us on this earth to do. We are all called to love the Lord, love others, and share the Gospel. Whether or not we know and are pursuing our individual purpose, we all need to begin with the one that belongs to us all.

*Love God. Love others. Share the Gospel. This we all must do. Have you begun?*

## God is Greater than Your Purpose

“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience,...Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent...” Rev. 2:2-5

A friend who has been called into ministry had what to some may seem like an odd prayer request, but I understood. She asked me to pray she would never let her ministry work pull her away from her relationship with God. Even before she got underway with her life's purpose, she wanted to ensure she never loses God as her highest priority. What a wise woman! Sadly, at times, I have gotten my priorities out of order and become more focused on serving God than loving Him. The ultimate service, I believe, is to show God our love in our service but to never lose sight of loving Him first. Our relationship with Him must come first.

We live in a society that can be hyper focused on works and accomplishment, successes and failures. To some, purpose can become an idol. The one we are called to worship is God, not our service to Him. When we get our priorities out of order, as I have done at times, we need to repent and return to Him.

*Is loving God your highest priority?*

## Why Did God Create You?

“I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.” Psalm 118:17

God created us all collectively to love and serve Him, to love others and to share the Gospel, but He also created each of us with a specific purpose in mind. I heard a man once share about his relative who on his very deathbed declared that he had never known and lived the purpose God had for him. It was too late. His time on earth had come to an end.

When I lost my beloved dog Red, the co-founder of my ministry who had helped save a homeless man’s life and touched countless lives with his amazing story and incredible personality, I wanted to climb a ladder to heaven to be with Jesus and my dog Red and all the others I had lost. I wanted to die. I had experienced countless losses and challenges, and I felt I couldn’t handle any more. But God pointed me to the Bible verse above and used a woman I barely knew to remind me that though Red’s purpose was over, mine was not. Instead of quitting, I decided to give God the 100% I had never given Him and to make sure I fulfilled my purpose on this earth.

*Have you dedicated your life entirely to the Lord? Are you giving Him 100%?*

## Is Your Resume Good Enough for God?

“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

God didn't call me into full-time ministry because of my background or my resume. I grew up in a Jewish family that didn't believe in God. I had a great education and a few good jobs along the way, but I had more experience in childhood sex abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, addictions, horrible relationships, hospitals, psychiatrists, medications, welfare, food stamps, etc., and in endless unrepented sin, than I did climbing a corporate ladder. I was too busy crawling down the highway to hell. Even when I came to believe in Him, my continued struggle with sin made it seem impossible He could ever seriously use me. I repented when I sinned and tried hard to get it right, but what could I possibly offer Him?

God didn't use King David mightily because of David's resume. David had made a mess of his life before he repented. God chose him because He saw David's heart.

*Do you have a heart after God? Does your life show your heart for Him?*

## Are You Fancy Enough for God?

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Psalm 20:7

God used Nehemiah the cupbearer to help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He used Rahab the harlot to protect the spies sent by Joshua. He used Joseph the slave to deliver his family and people. He used Jonah the rebel to save a nation. He used Moses with a speech problem to deliver the children of Israel. He used John who ate locusts and honey to prepare the way for the Lord. He used a baby born in a manger to go to the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of humanity so we could repent and believe the Gospel and be promised eternal life rather than forever in hell. And the very one born in a manger is His only begotten Son.

What did they have in common? None were fancy. They didn't live fancy lives. They didn't do fancy stuff. They didn't have fancy appearances or fancy resumes. What they had in common was this. They were called by God, and they were equipped by God to do what He called them to do. And they answered the call.

*Do not put your trust in yourself or in the world to live His purpose for you. Put your trust in Him to call and equip you. Answer His call.*

## Care What Others Think of You?

“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” Gal. 1:10

I have a dear, humble friend with a quiet spirit whom I judged for not doing what I thought she should do for God. He humbled me. My sweet friend is a prayer warrior. She prays for family, friends, strangers, nations, the sick, the lost, the dying, people in the news, people near and those she will never meet far away. How wicked was my heart to judge her. Instead of doing what the world might think she should do, she lives the purpose God gave her. She lives a simple life with a meek heart. Many will pass her by and never notice she is there. She does not live the world's ways. She seeks to live God's ways. Though many may never take notice of her, I believe she has the Lord's full attention with her never ceasing prayers for the salvation of humanity.

I was wrong to judge my friend. I have repented, and thank God now for my beautiful friend with the ever praying heart.

*Don't let what others may think hold you back from doing whatever it is God has called you to do. Do not live for the world. Seek to live your life for Him.*

## From Beaten Down to Believing

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph. 4:29

I remember speaking several years back to some homeless friends. I wanted them to realize what a phenomenal opportunity they had to tell the world about Jesus Christ while they lived on the streets. They could see and interact with people many may never notice. Instead of being too busy like so many to take the time to stop and minister the Lord’s love to someone in need, many of my homeless friends have extra time. With a heart for the Lord and for people in need, their opportunities to love and serve the Lord could be endless.

I don’t think many to whom I spoke really got the message. Why? So many people have been so beaten down by rejection, abandonment, hatred, judgment, and abuse, by nasty and discouraging words, by lack of love, that for many of us it can be hard to believe God really loves us and has a purpose for us.

*In case nobody has told you before, or you need a reminder, God does love you and does have a purpose for you. It’s time to believe it. And if you already believe, encourage others.*

## Do You BELIEVE God Loves You?

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:16

“I know you love me, God, but I want to know if you’re proud of me,” I prayed to the Lord as I stood watching the ocean. I am utterly sold out to the Lord, and it’s not enough to know He loves me. I want to know I please Him in all I do, especially my ministry work. But it wasn’t so long ago I didn’t truly believe He loves me. I had based how He feels about me on how others had abused and rejected me. I felt if God even dared to love me, it was only because He was obligated. But I was wrong. He loves us all because He is God, He is love, He created us, and He chooses to love us. Our love for Him begins with His love for us, and we must really believe He loves us.

I have learned in the Bible and seen in my life how much God really loves me, and my love for Him in return makes me want to live the purpose He has for me.

*If you truly believe God loves you, and you genuinely love Him in return, I believe you will want to know and passionately pursue your purpose for Him. If you already do, carry on!*

## Little Girl Once Forgotten, Now Found

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:” 1 Peter 5:6

The little girl doesn't communicate like girls her age. She can't. She lives in this world, but her mind seems to be in another one. She reacts to life in extremes. One moment she screams. The next, she uses creative hand signals to say she needs to be held in a fortress of protection. She may never walk down an aisle in a pearly wedding gown to marry. But the one who loves her looks down from above with more love than any human could ever give her, and He ensures she is not forgotten in a world that forsakes little girls like this one. But what human would take on the purpose of finding this girl so easily forgotten?

The woman doesn't worry about her purpose in life. She doesn't seek a high-paying job or anything glamorous. She doesn't worry about her career path. She wants to serve the Lord. She could get just about any job. She took the one He gave her. She holds out her arms, and her heart, and stretches out of her comfort zone to climb into this little girl's world. And she loves the one once forgotten.

*Will you humbly take the job He gives you?*

## Right Purpose, Wrong Heart

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” Col. 3:23-24

Once I had repented for years of using the gift of writing God gave me for myself, the world, and the devil instead of for God, I figured I was done doing wrong with the gift. But I found myself in the awful, sinful rut of wanting people to read my writing. I had so much self-hatred, I thought I needed to prove that I had a value by being validated through my writing. No matter how much I poured my heart into writing for the Lord, I was horribly frustrated and discouraged by how few readers I had. Slowly, unconsciously, until God showed me, I stopped pouring my heart into it. If few people would read it, why should I care?

Why? Because when God gives us a purpose and a job to do, it's not about getting the praises of people. It's about bringing glory to God. I repented and have a whole new attitude. I pour my whole heart into my writing now regardless of whether I ever have another reader. Why? Because I write for the Lord!

*Let your purpose be for Him.*

## The Gift of a Smile

“For the body is not one member, but many...If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?...If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing?...But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him...Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour...” 1 Cor. 12:14-24

Back in my television watching days, I heard someone speak of the importance of something as small as a smile. That message has stuck with me for years, and now I understand it in the context of Christ. I believe one reason people struggle with not feeling they have a purpose is they don't feel they have anything to offer. But God has given us all gifts to be used in conjunction with others' gifts. No matter how big or small those gifts are, He gave them to us to use for Him. Even the seemingly smallest gift can make all the difference when placed in the hands of the Lord.

*Are you using the gifts God has given you? Are you using them for Him?*

## Just How Big Is Your Purpose?

“And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.” Jonah 3:4-5

I never thought I'd write an entire book on Jonah, nor did I think God would lead me to take it out of print at least for a season while He led me to repentance for the wrong heart in which I had written it. But if nothing else stuck with me in writing the book, this did. When Jonah repented for rebelling against God and did what God had called him to do, God used Jonah's obedience in preaching ONE SENTENCE to save an untold number of people. Jonah's preaching was the catalyst to bring the people to repentance to spare them from God's wrath and destruction. Jonah's purpose boiled down to preaching ONE SENTENCE.

So many of us think our purpose needs to be gigantically big and long-lasting, or it's utterly meaningless. What makes our purpose significant is not its size, but that God has called us to it—and that it's for His glory.

*Fulfill your purpose no matter its size.*

## From Season to Season

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted...” Eccl. 3:1-2

Only God in His perfect sovereignty, creativity, and His majesty could have created the seasons of the outdoors—and the seasons in our hearts and lives. They transition so seamlessly at times. Other times, they are choppy, blotchy, murky. Sometimes ice cold like winter. Other times warm and comforting. Some seasons seem to overlap. Some seasons make a grand entrance while a past season tries to reassert itself. But God watches over it all.

I used to think we all have one purpose to last for all our adult years. Now I believe God has seasons of purpose. He may have a purpose for us for a season, and switch gears in the next one. He may give us a season of rest. Then a season of preparation for a new season on its way with a renewed sense of purpose. Maybe a season of seeking Him, then a change in tracks with a new purpose for the next phase in our lives. He watches over it all.

*Your job is not to figure out the seasons, but to simply, humbly, let Him lead the way.*

## My Job Tending Sheep

“And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities .” Luke 19:17

I have not had the easiest time caring for up to 19 dogs at a time without help, not especially given how many have special needs and how many other responsibilities I have. But the biggest challenge has been my heart. Tired, stressed, worn out, struggling with various issues unrelated to them, I have failed miserably at times in how I have treated them. I have always repented, and worked hard to be free from my sin and give them the love they deserve. I have despised my sin, and rejoice that over time I increasingly show these precious dogs the love they deserve. The falls are fewer as God transforms my heart and life.

“Your dogs are your sheep,” my pastor told me long ago. God wanted me to be faithful with caring for the dogs as He has been training me to be loving with the people to whom I minister. Moses and King David began with sheep. They ended up being used mightily by God with the people.

*Be faithful with the little things. Trust God to prepare you and lead you where He desires!*

## Are You Headed for a Fall?

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” Prov. 16:18

I don't know about anyone else, but I believe pride can be incredibly subtle and deceptive. I have often found it masked in all sorts of pretty disguises, and for many years did not see how much of it I had. With so much self-hatred and such a severe lack of confidence, it never dawned on me how much I struggled with pride. I had always heard that pride leads to a fall, but I didn't know it ultimately leads to outright destruction. Needless to say, the more I studied the Bible, the more the Lord convicted me of the pride I had until I not only repented. One of my greatest prayers for myself became, “God, help me to be humble.”

Striving to fulfill God's purpose for us can be exhilarating and incredibly rewarding, but we can find ourselves filled with pride if we do not watch out for it and repent of it when we find ourselves struggling with it. God doesn't give us a purpose so we can become puffed up with pride at how well we are doing with it. We are not meant to get the glory at all. He is.

*Struggling with pride? Repent and humble yourself. Then guard yourself against it. And if you find it again, repent once more.*

## The Most Remarkable People I Have Met

“...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5

I came from a background of wealth. I went to school with politicians' kids. I had the best in education. I lived a life of luxury. Until I felt led to let go of riches and live a simple, humble life for the Lord. I am so grateful for parents who raised me with such physical blessings, and yet some of the most remarkable people I have met were not found in my privileged life.

The man with AIDS picking through the trash who stopped picking to talk to me. The homeless man who told me he was praying for me. The patient on the psych ward where I landed who took the time to encourage me. The hospital social worker on the eating disorders unit where I spent 5 weeks who brought me a Bible before I knew the Lord. The pastor and his wife who brought me groceries because they wanted me to gain weight. All the hugs strangers have given me.

Little, humble acts of love. They touched me in ways the rest of the world would likely never know. But they gave of themselves anyway. And God does. God knows.

*Are you touching others' lives with little, humble acts of God's love?*

## Don't Miss Your Purpose

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts 8:35-37

When an angel of the Lord called Philip the evangelist to go to a eunuch in a chariot who studied the scripture without understanding, Philip went to the man and explained the scripture with the result of the man being saved. Philip was open to the Lord's call and obeyed.

God has used me countless times when my intention was merely to food shop, run an errand, walk to my car, call a company for help, help someone with a dog, etc. I have had incredible opportunities to share the Gospel and minister to people at some of the most unexpected times and in the most ordinary places. God can use us mightily if we are open to His higher purpose and obey His call when it comes. I try to keep my spiritual ears ever open to His higher purpose in all that I do.

*Are your spiritual ears open to the Lord?*

## The Wrong Purpose

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:” Mt. 7:7

I used to belong to a self-help program in which I became convinced my primary purpose was what the program taught. Over time, I became so indoctrinated with this belief that I couldn't see past this purpose. I threw everything into this purpose and could have lost my life if I had not discovered the deception and repented from believing the false teaching to which I was exposed. I was so deceived I didn't know I was dying inside and headed for hell. And I was leading others to hell by teaching them to have the same wrong purpose.

I couldn't find my true purpose in life because I was so caught up in seeking to fulfill the wrong one. A beloved friend once told me I needed to let go of what I held in my hands so I could receive what God had for me. This is what I had to do with my wrong purpose. False teaching is rampant in our world today. The only Truth is the Lord and His Word, the Bible. I have a right sense of purpose today because it comes from the only true God, the Lord, and is grounded in Truth, the Bible.

*Seek the Lord and obey His answer.*

## Just How Crazy Are You Willing to Be?

“And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:” Ruth 1:16

If there's one thing I've learned about following Christ, it's that I may look crazy to the world because the Lord's ways are so vastly different than the world's. When Naomi in the Bible lost her husband and sons, she told her daughters-in-law to go back to their people in order to survive. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, did something that must have appeared crazy to the world. She went with Naomi and trusted in Naomi's God, the one true God, but with no tangible promise of provision. Not only did God provide in the most phenomenal way, but He ultimately used Ruth in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Ruth's purpose was fulfilled not by doing what was easy, comfortable, and familiar, and what most others would likely have done, but by trusting in God and letting Him lead.

*Instead of going the way of the easy, comfortable and familiar, and the way most others would likely go, are you willing to forsake all and to go the way of the Lord? Will you trust the Lord to lead you and to provide for you?*

## Are You Delirious?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17

People who are severely malnourished can become delirious, and delirious people can wander around totally lost and out of sorts. I believe those who do not study the Bible regularly and learn to live by it become malnourished and ultimately delirious. For decades, I was lost and out of sorts. Even when I came to believe in Christ, I did not study the Bible for a long time. I was a delirious believer, constantly wandering and dreadfully messed up.

How can we expect to know our purpose in life, and to have the focus and ability to live it, when we are delirious for lack of our spiritual sustenance? How can we have the faith to follow the Lord without hearing God’s Word to build and sustain our faith?

The only way back from malnourishment is to become nourished properly and to stay nourished. Countless people I meet, even believers in Christ, don’t take the time daily to study and learn to live God’s Word.

*If you’re wondering what your purpose is or are already pursuing it, and you are not solidly in God’s Word, your priorities are out of order. God, and His Word, must come first—always.*

## Don't Miss Your Opportunity

“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” Deut. 4:29

Ever looked so hard for something only to find you missed it because you were looking in the wrong direction? Ever missed finding something because you refused to humble yourself and ask for directions? I believe God has a purpose for all of us AND that He wants us to know what that purpose is. But I believe we can tragically miss the opportunity to live our purpose by looking in the wrong direction or by being too prideful to ask for directions.

Sure, we can lead busy, even successful, lives as far as the world's standards and expectations are concerned. We can make oodles of money, climb corporate ladders, own houses galore. But this may not be the direction God wants us to go. We can also live on the streets, spend our time figuring out which soup kitchen is serving the best meal, spiral down into a debilitating depression, and refuse to humble ourselves and seek the Lord for directions. Our missed opportunities are not because of God. They are because of us.

*Don't miss your opportunity. Seek the Lord!*

## It's Not Too Late

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Gal. 2:20

It should have been too late for me. I should have been dead given the stuff I did. I was on permanent disability. I was too incapacitated to function. At times, I was so debilitated by PTSD I had trouble figuring out how old I was or what time of year it was. How could I be of any use to anyone, let alone God? But God resuscitated me when I believed Jesus went to the cross to pay for all I had done. Jesus came to live inside me and gave me new life, and God is teaching me to live in a new way—His way. I didn't die in my worst of times, but I die now on a daily basis. I die to self so Christ can live in me. And with Christ's life in me, the more I deny myself, the greater God moves in and through me. Now the Lord can use me because of what He did for me on the cross, and because of the mercy He extends to me every day.

*I don't care where you come from, or what you have done. If you are alive, it's not too late for you. Not with Jesus as Lord of your life.*

## A Vessel of the Lord

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Tim. 2:20-21

My loved one lay in a hospital bed. It was a miracle he was still alive. Whether he would survive, only God knew. Miss Mary, a stranger, lay in the bed next to his. He didn't want to hear all her talking, not especially in the short reprieves he got from the pain. So when she called out to him, he pretended not to hear. But she wouldn't let up. He relented. “You're going to be okay,” she told him.

An alarm rang. There was a flurry of activity. My loved one couldn't see behind the curtain around Miss Mary's bed. With a tube in his neck, he couldn't ask the nurses what happened. He used his body to motion to Miss Mary's bed to ask. The nurse replied. Miss Mary has passed away. She sacrificed her final words on earth to give a stranger a message of hope from God. In a single sentence, she helped resuscitate a man near death who is still alive decades later.

*Don't miss your purpose this very day. Purge anything ungodly from your life through repentance, and be a vessel for the Lord.*

## Are You Willing to Change Course?

“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10

Moses was tending his flock when God told him from the burning bush to go deliver the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Paul was persecuting believers in Christ when God called him to become one of the greatest preachers of the Gospel of all time. David was tending sheep when he was chosen to become King of Israel. Gideon was threshing wheat when he was called to save Israel from the Mideanites. They could have stuck with the comfortable and familiar and what seemed safe. Sheep and wheat. And in Paul’s case, persecuting believers. But they heard the call of God and followed. They took risks beyond what we can fathom. They faced challenges beyond description. But they did not refuse to change the course of their lives. They followed God’s call. They were used in such mighty ways we still hear their stories today.

*Don’t assume where you are is where God wants you to stay for always. Keep your heart open to the Lord and be willing to follow His call—even if a change in course may come.*

## Are You Listening?

“Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” 1 Sam. 3:9-10

The first few times God called the prophet Samuel, Samuel went to Eli the priest thinking Eli had called him. Finally, Eli helped Samuel realize it was the Lord who had been calling him. The next time the Lord spoke, Samuel was ready to hear Him. His purpose was about to be set in motion. But first, Samuel’s heart and ear needed to be ready to listen for and recognize the Lord’s voice.

I spent many years listening to the voice of the world, and I can still fall prey to turning up the volume on what people say and drowning out the voice of the Lord if I’m not careful. I believe my strong sense of purpose comes from studying God’s Word daily and being in constant wait for the Lord to speak to me. He never speaks against His own Word, so daily study helps me recognize His voice.

*Are you studying His Word? And listening?*



## The Best Message in the Universe

Ever since the first man and woman Adam and Eve sinned against God and were kicked out of their perfect lives in the Garden of Eden and lost most importantly their relationship with God, all humans have been born into sin which results in the curse leading to death and eternal separation from God in hell and the lake of fire. Why? Because we as sinners cannot be in the presence of a perfect and holy God. We all fall short of God's glory, and nothing we can do can earn His love, forgiveness, and everlasting life.

But God loves us so much He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to the earth as a man, to die a heinous death on the cross to pay the death and hell penalty for our sins by taking God's wrath at us for our sins upon Himself, and to be raised from the dead and to now sit on the right hand of God in heaven until He returns again as the final steps unfold leading to His forever Kingdom of heaven that will be filled with Christ's followers. If we are genuinely sorry we have sinned against God and repent of our sins,

believe Jesus is the Son of God and died for us and was raised from the dead and is Lord, turning from our sins to a life devoted to God and His ways, we are forgiven and enter into a relationship with God and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven with Him! We are born again spiritually with a clean slate and saved from God's wrath, death, and hell and the lake of fire.

Belief in Christ as Lord is NOT an intellectual faith. Even the demons believe. True faith in Christ is an ongoing belief in Him, all that He is, did, is doing, says in the Bible, and a true trust in Him as Lord whereby we turn from our wicked ways and live according to the ways God teaches us in the Bible. We are not called to just believe in Christ in our minds. We are called to follow Him by yielding to God our very lives and demonstrating in our hearts, words, and actions that we have turned away from the ways of the world and turned to the Lord. We are to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him whereby we die to ourselves and live for Him. Countless people who believe they are going to heaven based on an intellectual belief, an emotional

experience, church attendance, good works, etc., will be turned away by Christ and end up in hell and the lake of fire forever apart from God because they neglected to understand and put into practice that believing in, and following, Christ is a WAY OF LIFE of living for God!

God commands us above all else to love Him with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves (Mt 22:37-40). Once born again, we must go through a life-long sanctification process in which our minds are renewed by studying the Bible, our lives are transformed by God's Spirit, and we are conformed to Christ's image. Good works cannot earn our salvation, but good works should be the fruit of true repentance demonstrating we are truly living for the Lord. Our purpose is to love God, to love others, to proclaim the Gospel message to others and to help lead people into God's Kingdom as we follow Christ, using the gifts God has given each of us to bring Him glory while rejoicing in and enjoying forever fellowship with Him!

Spend time with the Lord daily, studying the Bible and learning to live by it, praising and worshiping

Him, pouring out your heart to Him, praying and seeking His face, listening for His voice which will always line up with His Word, and loving and obeying and revering and fearing and honoring God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Assemble in fellowship with fellow followers of Christ as God commands us whether in a church, Bible study, and/or house church.

As the world draws to an end, and God's judgment nears, evil and false teaching abound. Check everything you hear and read against the Bible because God only and always speaks in line with His Word. Anything not in line with His Word is not from Him.

Live day by day, breath by breath, to love and serve the Lord with all your heart forever! Rejoice in Him! Grow in Him! Live to bring Him glory forevermore!



## Scriptures

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one:” Romans 3:10

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” Eph. 5:6

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Mt. 13:41-43

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the

kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3:3-6

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Rom. 10:9

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,

that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”  
Romans 8:29

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,  
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear  
Son.” Colossians 1:13

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the  
light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk  
in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by  
the word of God.” Romans 10:17

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and  
they follow me.” John 10:27

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall  
enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth  
the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Mt. 7:21



If you would like a free copy or copies to distribute of  
my *Finding the Light* Gospel tract, which includes my  
personal story along with the life-changing Gospel  
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## About Lara Love

I am a 100% Jewish follower of Christ, evangelist & author & special needs & senior rescued dogs mom devoted 24-7 to loving & serving the Lord and helping people to become and remain forever followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For loads of love, encouragement, inspiration, & help, and to read my story & see my books, Gospel tracts & devotionals, & Daily Inspiration online, and to meet the ministry's very special dogs, please visit me and my little ministry online & feel free to get in touch if you are led!



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