

Our Purpose in this Life

I've done a number of intuitive readings and spiritual counseling for clients, classmates and friends. One of the most sought after answers people desire is to know their purpose in this life and how to bring that out into the world. Most have this belief that they have a mission or purpose that is perhaps tied to their vocation or it becomes a business for them in some fashion. I have found through study and reflection on life that the very act of our existence makes more difference than we realize and all other considerations as to "our purpose" are secondary.

My husband, Jonathan, was a quiet man with a gentle nature. He loved machines and electronics and worked most of his life fixing these items in an automotive industrial setting as a maintenance person. These machines "spoke" to him on an intuitive level and he was excellent at troubleshooting. In one sense, his purpose was to keep the world spinning with his skill. Being surrounded by other men, young and old, he also developed a keen understanding of the male population and their general needs. He helped the older more experienced to feel needed and relevant. The younger men sought him out for counsel on marital issues and health problems. As he kept the machines in his care running, he influenced and guided his various co-workers as they journeyed through life. He lived his purpose everyday on his job. At his memorial in 2022, there was a steady flow for two hours before and again after the service of folks letting me know what he meant to them.

In my early 20s, I attended a Bible Study where they explored the Gifts of the Spirit as it is laid out in 1st Corinthians 12. They gave examples of different Bible characters that exhibited each of the gifts and how these gifts may be found in our own lives. When Barnabas (Acts 4) was brought forth to examine his life and how God worked through him, I felt a kinship. His name meant, "Son of Encouragement." He was said to be an Encourager in the Early Church. He displayed joy and generosity as well as wisdom, counsel and consolation. People stop me in the grocery store and tell me their life story. Children are enamored with the items I take from my purse to entertain them. I have foretold events unfolding sometimes years in advance for myself and family members. I can see people and feel their life story before they share anything about themselves. Miracles in the form of opportunities, money, or inexplicable recoveries in body and machine are numerous in my life.

Though now I make this my life's vocation, in my early days, unbeknownst to co-workers and bosses, I bared these aspects of my personality in my various jobs- biscuit maker, electricians' helper, mother, wife, daughter, nurse and in the Navy Reserve. My purpose has not changed, but how I display it has grown as I have.

I believe we look too far afield for what we are to do in this life. Our personalities are made by the struggles and victories we experience. Our mission is to discover ourselves amongst the chaff and bring forth our best to give to the world, understanding our best changes from moment to moment. Whatever excites us and brings forth passion will resonate with those who need what we give out. In whatever capacity you work your job or career, look to what makes you feel alive and incorporate an aspect of that in your daily routine. Jon fixed machines, but he may have saved many marriages and lives while his hands were dirty and calloused. How are you influencing the lives around you for the better? What is the legacy you are leaving just by being you?

~ Catherine Denton, MDiv, PhD