



“Purpose in Your Heart” (Daniel 1:8)

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Message for Christians. – “*Not a Fan*,” book by Kyle Idleman. Too many fans (enthusiastic admirers) and not enough followers. What we get out of the relationship, not for Jesus himself. We see heaven as what we get out it, not for love for Jesus (“me”-ology).

But Jesus was looking for disciples or followers. Peter is confronted. You too? Where shall I go? You have the words of life. Purposeful words, even though all the answers aren’t there.

In order to do what I am asking you to do today...

1. We must believe that Jesus has:
 - a. the words of life.
 - b. the best plan for our lives. Even if unclear or feelings seem to contradict. John Piper- Christian hedonism.
 - c. made his plan knowable through his unchanging, unfailing word.
2. We must believe Jesus is who he says he is and did what he said he did (not an evangelism message).
3. And we must understand that feelings aren’t faith till expressed. Meaning, you may feel you are a believer in Jesus, but your actions betray you.

In the book, “*unChristian*” by David Kinnaman, a Barna Group research study found that 65 percent of 18-42 year olds in America have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still important. Cool. But... 67% of those that profess a commitment to Christ thought sex outside marriage was acceptable. 77% said drunkenness was okay. There is a disconnect here. Other Barna research shows *that only 18% of adults who say that they are born again believe that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches and salvation is by faith alone and not good works.*

One of the enemy’s great strategies is to do what he did in the book of Judges: Small phrase: *Everyone did as they saw fit in their own eyes.* Moral Relativism.

Background to Daniel: Slave, brought to Babylon. Training: System of indoctrination into the world's system. **Daniel 1:8** – *Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the kings food.*

1. Resolved/purposed – HB Suwm- to fix, to set one's mind on an action. Very specific action word. You do it, or don't do it. 19x KJV uses word, all but two times it is used of God or Paul. **Psa 17:3** I am **purposed** that my mouth shall not transgress.

Acts 19 Paul **purposed** in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, Romans 1- *Paul Purposed to go to Rome.*

2. Usually used in the sense of being obedient. Prov. 23: *When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you,² and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive.* Daniel also recognizes that much of the food would have been sacrificed to idols.

Daniel 6- King Darius decrees that no one can petition any god but the king for 30 days. His buddies too! Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego: Even if He doesn't rescue us. Purposeful.

Who else?

King David: as a youth. Stands firm against an army and giant. Doesn't happen by accident.

Psalms 2-7/56/46 *"Faith is a conscious choice to act on what God says is true, not some passive response of the Christian his circumstances. Faith requires practice to grow and become strong. Released through obedience. Faith requires a singleness of commitment that draws us from doubt and wavering."*

Biblical Counseling

- Biblical Understanding (problem from God's perspective instead of man's perspective)
- Biblical Hope (you have hope because Bible says you can change)
- Biblical Change (how to change)
- Biblical practice (things I do to put it in practice)

The problem (Why Purpose):

1. As illustrated by Alice in Wonderland: In a conversation between her and the Cheshire Cat, Alice asked, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the cat. "I don't much care where," said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the cat.

If you don't purpose; you will get somewhere by default.

Joshua 24:15- *But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose **for yourselves this day** whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"*

2. ***If you don't purpose, your emotions will rule you.*** Prov 28:26- *He who trusts in his heart (in himself) is a fool.*

Who else?) Hezekiah 2 Kings 18: 3-7; 19:1, 8-16 by faith put trust in God; **Josiah**- Finds book of law. Responds purposefully to hearing the Word. 2 Kings 23:25 *no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his might.*

Purpose- making up mind beforehand not to compromise, to commit, to turn over to the Lord. To be devoted. *Many times it is less of a case of **cannot** and more of a case of **will not**.*

Isaiah 1: to what is the purpose of the multitude of your sacrifices, bring no more futile sacrifices. Wash yourselves (repent); cease to do evil, learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor. Come let us reason together. Clear examples. Set your mind!

Disclaimer: Clear: HS does work. *Illustration of us participating with the work of the Holy Spirit. Pathways of Grace.*

How to Purpose:

Ephesians 6- Armor of God is one of the best illustrations. Eph. 6:11-14 Cloth yourselves- Having done all: Stand. Antihistamine- After all has been done, stand firm Eph 6:13. Antihistamine- vigorous opposition, resistance. Antihistamine puts a block on histamine: Hockey illustration. Low center of gravity. Isa.7:9- *He who does not stand firm, will not stand at all.*

Steps of faith. Even one step today. Respond in obedience: Just do it. OR Just stop it.

example: Jonathan Edwards the great 18th c. revivalist understood this. At 17, he sat down and penned 21 resolutions that would increase to 70 by his death. Resolutions by which he would govern his life of godly example #1 *Resolved*, To study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find myself to grow in its knowledge. #7 *Resolved*, Never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

What prevents me from Purposing?

1. Unbelief
2. Self
 - i. ISM's; I can't, I was born that way; it's a disease (not my fault). God's word says you can.
 - ii. Lack of discipline. A case of "will not" versus "cannot."
 - iii. Fear- Peer Pressure. Conformity to the world's box.
 - iv. Emotions/feelings

3. No Holy Spirit
4. Not knowing what to purpose

What do I purpose in?

Seek First the Kingdom and righteousness

1. Know God (he who draws near to me, I will draw near to him).
2. Learn his word. (Ps 119)
3. Obedience