

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 36 "I was made for a mission."

There are times when life becomes very simple – simple, but not “easy”. Often the times of simplicity are, in fact, the hard times. On September 11th, 2001 life for citizens of the United States was drastically simplified – at least for a while. On September 10th many of the people living in New York City were filled with negative thoughts and feelings about others, especially people living in New York. By noon of the next day ALL that was gone, and everyone was focusing on just one thing – ‘what can I do to help’? They were transformed by death, suffering and danger into people with a mission. Christians who understand what life on earth is about are in *exactly* the same situation. Mankind has been attacked by Satan without and sin within, and the destruction and suffering has been MASSIVE! On September 11th the US Air Force went on a war footing, particularly in the skies over New York and Washington, to save people from further attacks. There was *passion* to save people, because the destruction was so obvious and so terrible. Is the destruction brought about by Satan and sin less obvious and terrible? How could it be, since what happened on September 11th is part of it – as was the Holocaust, all the wars and all the crime in history, and everything else that has resulted in human suffering. The Apostle Paul understood the situation, and dedicated himself totally to this mission:

“I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”
(1 Cor 9:22 [NIV])

The fighter pilots of the US Air Force were both equipped and trained to save people. With what are Christians equipped? Paul said the Gospel *“is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”* (Rom 1:16 [NIV]) and that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit. How are we trained?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17 [NIV])

- People are at risk of ETERNAL death, and are lost and dying every day in great numbers.
- We can not MAKE anyone believe the Gospel, but we can offer it to them.
- Sin and Satan are viscious, hideously evil enemies with a passion to destroy everything you love – and you. God has an army to fight against them, and you are in it. When you are equipped and trained you will be sent out on missions.

When the Bible says the Church is Christ's body it means all the time and for every purpose for which Jesus needs us. We must remember that Jesus HATES sin and will someday return to crush those who are committed to rebellion. While the Church must leave judgment of people in His hands, we are free to join in His hatred of sin: *“To fear the LORD is to hate evil”* (Prov 8:13). The reason to hate evil is the destruction in causes to human lives, including our own. Your weapon is the Truth. Ask yourself how well you know it (Him)? Commit to a training program and to go on any mission God chooses for you.
