Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 4 "You were made to last forever."

No human mind can grasp eternity, other than as a mathematical abstraction. It is futile to try. How then are we to use, in a practical way, the fact that we "were made to last forever"? It is worth considering that no one can form an accurate mental picture of R10,000,000,000 – but that doesn't prevent anyone from understanding that it is much, much more than R1. Insofar as money is useful for a great many things, it is also much more valuable. We are also, in the same way, able to grasp that a life of joy and peace that lasts "forever" is much, much more valuable than a few years of fun, or pleasure, or excitement, or glory, or whatever. Just so, a purpose that spans eternity is vastly to be preferred to one that has an expiration date.

> *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* (2 Cor 4:17-18 [NIV])

This forms the basis of a very valuable test for our plans and actions – do they conform to our eternal purpose, or are they, at best, just a vapor that will be soon gone and never remembered? If we are to change, to stop doing some things and start doing others, how are we to decide what to do and what to cease doing? There are a great many people who will be eager to give you advice, or even make demands. But what truly leads our lives into conformity with our eternal purpose? The source of such wisdom is the Scriptures.

- The human spirit lasts forever, whether our purposes do or not
- God has an eternal purpose for everyone who accepts it:

  "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God". (John 1:12-13 [NIV])

Read Colossians 3:1-4:2, asking the Holy Spirit to show those actions you should cease and those you should start. Write down and commit yourself to make these changes, and ask someone you know well to hold you accountable.