

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 40 “Living with purpose is the only way to *really* live.”

If we want to know what life really is, the person to ask is God. He designed and created it, so He should know. According to Jesus, “real” life, i.e. eternal life, is to: “. . . *know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*” (John 17:3). Jesus came so that we could have this life:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10:10)

What else do we know about this “eternal” kind of life?

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14:27) *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”* (John 15:11)

Jesus summarized this life with the image of “fruit bearing”:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8)

- Real life, the life that we will have for eternity, is defined as intimacy with God.
- This relationship is for those who become like Jesus, bearing lasting fruit.
- Jesus has given and continues to give us “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Pet 1:3). Our job is to receive and live the life He gives us.

If you have trouble remembering the five purposes discussed in “The Purpose Driven Life” then remember just this one: *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last”* (John 15:15-16). Paul describes this fruit with the following terms: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If you bear fruit for God, for each other, for the Church and for those outside the Church, you will “walk as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6). This is abundant living.
