

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 6 "Life is a temporary assignment."

There are many words in the Bible that have two quite contrasting meanings, depending upon the frame of reference in which they are used. For example, "wisdom" is wonderful, as long as it is God's wisdom, but not good at all if it is "the wisdom of the world". "Life" is a word of this kind, which is clear from such sayings as:

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
(Matt 10:39 [NIV])

What this really means is that whoever devotes himself to his fleeting, mortal life will lose his eternal life, whereas anyone who spends his mortal life (and remember, when you spend your money you lose it) for Christ's sake "finds" (i.e., gains) his eternal life. So, to say that "life is a temporary assignment" should be understood as follows: a person's mortal life is an opportunity, available for a limited time only, to cooperate with God in His work and thereby gain eternal rewards. It is logical at this point to ask what else one might choose to do with a fleeting, mortal life. One choice, which is actually being actively pursued in today's world of unlimited faith in science and technology, is to dispute the premise that life in this body is necessarily mortal. There is an increasingly widespread programme to defeat death through science, currently made visible in companies that market "anti-aging" products. But no matter how long mortal life may be extended, it is still mortal, and the eternity that comes after death is just as long for one who lives a very long life as for one who lives but briefly. To accept our temporary assignments in this mortal life in order to find eternal life not only pleases God, but also is the only life that makes any sense. Jim Elliot, an American missionary who was martyred in South America, perhaps said it best: "He is no fool who loses what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

- Eternity is inevitable.
- Only eternal life and only eternal values have any real value at all.
- We have only two choices available for our mortal lives – invest them for eternity, or waste them.

Today, thank God for the "investment opportunities" He has given you that you have taken advantage of. Ask God to show you areas where you are wasting opportunities, and ask for His forgiveness – knowing that He will! Ask God to show you things that are actually of little value that you are holding too dear, and for clarity on any specific changes in your life you need to make TODAY. Write them down and commit yourself to make those changes.
