

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
Or, The Forty Weeks of Purpose
A Sermon Series Based on the Book by Rick Warren
Weeks Twenty-Three Through Twenty-Five: Grow Up!
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, January 2, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

God wants you to grow up!

You must...

1. Want to grow
2. Decide to grow
3. Make an effort to grow, and
4. Persist in growing

Matt. 9:9:

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me."

Eph. 4:14, 15:

¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

I. WE ARE TRANSFORMED BY THINKING.

A. Consider the Twofold **Participation** of Growth. Phil. 2:12, 13.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1. Work **Out**- Our Part.
2. Work **In**- God's Part

B. Consider the Thinking **Process** of Growth. Prov. 4:23.

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

1. Change the way you **think**. Rom. 12:2.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. Think **maturely**. 1 Cor. 13:11.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

II. WE ARE TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH.

To “abide in God’s Word” (John 8:31)...

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

A. I Must Accept the **Power** of the Bible (Its Authority).

2 Tim. 3:16, 17

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Acts 24:14.

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

B. I Must Assimilate the **Perfect**-Teachings of the Bible (Its Authenticity).

1. **Receive** God’s Word.

Luke 8:18

Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.

James 1:21.

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

2. **Read** God's Word. Deut. 17:19.

And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes...

3. **Research** God's Word. James 1:25.

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

4. **Remember** God's Word.

Ps. 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!

Col. 3:16.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

5. **Reflect** on God's Word.

2 Cor. 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Ps. 119:57.

You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.

C. I Must Apply the **Principles** of the Bible (Its Application).

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Matt. 7:24.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock...

Your action plan must be...

1. **Personal** (involving you)
2. **Practical** (something you can do).
3. **Provable** (with a deadline to it).

III. WE ARE TRANSFORMED BY TROUBLE. Rom. 8:28, 29.

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Responding to problems as Jesus would...

A. **Remember** that God's Plan is Good.

Jer. 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Gen 50:20

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Isa. 38:17

Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

B. **Rejoice** and Give Thanks.

1 Thess. 5:18

...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Phil. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Luke 6:23

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

C. **Refuse** to Give Up.

James 1:3, 4

³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Heb. 10:36

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

APPLICATION:

Points to Ponder:

1. It is never too late to start growing.
2. The truth transforms me.
3. There is a purpose behind every problem.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is one area where I need to stop thinking *my* way and start thinking *God's* way?

2. What has God already told me in His Word that I haven't started doing yet?
3. What problem in my life has caused the greatest growth for me?