

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
Or, The Forty Weeks of Purpose
A Sermon Series Based on the Book by Rick Warren
Days Twenty-Nine through Thirty-One
“Get in Shape!”
Pastor Love Saquing, BBC, AM, January 23, 2005

Introduction

“You were put on earth to make a contribution . . . You were created to add life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back.” (PDL, 227)

MP: We must SERVE God by using our God-given gifts and abilities.

1. Serve God with your life.

- a. You were created to serve God. (Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:23-24; Matt. 25:34-40)
 - God placed you on earth for a special assignment. (Jer. 1:5)
- b. You were saved to serve God.
 - You are not saved by service, but you are saved for service. (2 Tim. 1:9)
 - You serve God out of joy and gratitude not guilt or fear. (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 12:1)
 - The words “servant” and “minister” are synonymous.
- c. You are called to serve God.
 - All Christians are called to full-time Christian service. (2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 2:9)
- d. You are commanded to serve God.
 - For Christians, service is not optional. (Matt. 20:28)
 - Serving and giving is one of God’s main purposes for our lives.
 - Study without service leads to spiritual stagnation.

2. Serve God with who you are. (SHAPE acronym)

- a. Spiritual gifts
 - You can’t earn or deserve your spiritual gifts. (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - You can’t choose which gifts you get. (1 Cor. 12:11)
 - Your spiritual gifts were given for the benefit of others. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)
- b. Heart
 - Your heart reveals the real you. (Prov. 27:19)
 - Your emotional heartbeat reveals your passions. (Prov. 4:23)
 - Your heartfelt passion drives perfection.
- c. Abilities
 - All our abilities come from God. (Rom. 12:6)
 - All our abilities can be used for God’s glory. (1 Cor. 10:31)
 - What I’m able to do, God wants me to do. (1 Pet. 4:10)
- d. Personality
 - God loves variety. (1 Cor. 12:6)
 - God uses all types of personalities.
 - Your personality affects how and where you use your gifts.
- e. Experience (Rom. 8:28-29)
 - Family experiences
 - Educational experiences
 - Vocational experiences
 - Spiritual experiences
 - Ministry experiences
 - Painful experiences (2 Cor. 1:3-4; 8-10)

Application Questions

- 1) "What is holding me back from accepting God's call to serve him?"
- 2) "In what ways can I see myself passionately serving others and loving it?"
- 3) "What are my spiritual gifts that I can use to help others?"
- 4) "What God-given ability or personal experience can I offer to my church?"
- 5) "Whose needs can I meet?"