

## CHAPTER TWO

(From the Book  
*I Wrote This Book in Purpose, So You Can Know Yours.*)

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**“Productivity Requires Purpose.”**

*“One purpose of life is to discover who we are. Finding out who we are, though, is not as easy as it would seem. We are so much a part of the group that we have to listen very closely to discover our inner self . . . what our uniqueness is. It is when we finally hear the truth of ourselves that we discover our own creativity. This process of self-discovery is as important as the possible products of that discovery.”*

--- Joyce Wycoff

When I start an all-day seminar to help people better define their purpose, I often ask the participants to make an attempt to define their purpose. Some will stare at me, not knowing what to write since no one has ever asked them that question. But others will write things like, “To do God’s will,” “to worship the Lord,” or “to help people” or “to serve mankind.”

### What Would You Write?

Perhaps we should stop here and ask you the same question?

What is your purpose in life?

The answers listed above aren’t really wrong. They simply lack the focus and definition needed to help you know what it is that constitutes “doing God’s will” or “worshiping Him.” I’ve found the words of Jesus helpful, for He said,

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you have granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ***I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do***” (John 17:1-4, emphasis added).

Jesus brought “glory to God” by completing the work God gave Him to do. You’ll

do the same as you find your purpose and make every effort to fulfill it.

This isn't always easy and many people shy away from the process, intuitively sensing that it can be a tough and painful journey of self-analysis and soul-searching. But Richard Bolles, who has authored the annually updated best-seller, *What Color is Your Parachute?*, writes these words that should encourage you in this search process.

But having to wait for the voice of God to reveal what our Mission is, is not the truest picture of our situation. St. Paul, in Romans, speaks of a law "written in our members,"—and this phrase has a telling application to the question of **how** God reveals to each of us our unique Mission in life. Read again the definition of our third Mission (above) and you will see: the clear implication of the definition is that God has **already** revealed His will to us concerning our vocation and Mission, by causing it to be "**written in our members.**" We are to begin deciphering our unique Mission by studying our talents and skills, and more particularly which ones (or One) we most rejoice to use.

God actually has written His will twice in our members: *first in the talents* which He lodged there, and secondly *in His guidance of our heart*, as to which talent gives us the greatest pleasure from its exercise (**it is usually the one which, when we use it, causes us to lose all sense of time**).

Even as the anthropologist can examine ancient inscriptions, and divine from them the daily life of a long lost people, so we by examining **our talents** and **our heart** can *more often than we dream* divine the Will of the Living God. For true it is, our Mission is not something He **will** reveal; it is something He **has already** revealed. It is not to be found written in the sky; it is to be found written in our members.

Recognizing what's already "written in your members" (Romans 7:23) will lead you to happiness and true effectiveness, which is defined by *Vine's Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* as "being full of power to achieve results." You don't want to play business, school, or church. You should want to get results and you'll get those results most often when you are functioning in your purpose.

You may already know that my purpose is to bring **order out of chaos**. (If you haven't listened to the audio tape that came with this book, now would be a good time to do so. I explain in detail how I came to that conclusion.) I continue to do that on a daily basis and, when I do, I feel most fulfilled. In keeping with my pattern, I still haven't

looked for a job in my entire adult life. My jobs, including my current position or positions, have come to me. I also have the privilege of traveling and helping others find their purpose, not because I'm a great teacher, but because helping you find your purpose is part of my purpose: bringing order out of chaos.

This purpose is consistent with who I am. I'm organized, focused, disciplined, and task-oriented. I look at the bottom line and I'm practical. The words "order out of chaos" were simply a concise way of describing the gift package and life philosophy that has always been with me.

That's the power of purpose: God wants you to fulfill it more than you do. That's why He created you. If you'll identify, verbalize, and take steps to strengthen your purpose, God will bring more than enough opportunities for you to express it. In fact, you've probably already been expressing it without even realizing it.

As you can tell, I enjoy reading and studying the Bible. It's a relevant book for modern man, even though some of it is 4,000 years old! Let me give you some other biblical and first-hand examples of people who found that they were doing things "on purpose." Perhaps they will "stir your pot" or "prime your pump" so that you can identify your own purpose.

### **Biblical Examples**

I think that, with a little work, you can identify the life's purpose of anyone in the Bible. I offer the following examples as proof of this statement:

- Jesus – to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)
- Adam – to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28)

- Eve – to be a helper suitable to Adam (Genesis 2:18)
- Abraham – to become a great nation (Genesis 12:2)
- Joseph – to rule over his father’s sons (Genesis 37:8)
- Joshua – to lead the people into the land (Joshua 1:6)
- David – to be king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:12-13)
- Isaiah – to “go and tell this people” (Isaiah 9:6)
- Jeremiah – to serve as a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5)
- Daniel – to be a source of wisdom, knowledge and discernment (Daniel 2:21)
- John the Baptist – to prepare the way of the Lord (Matthew 3:3)
- Mary, Jesus’ mother – to believe all that the Lord spoke to her (Luke 1:45)
- Andrew and Peter – to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)

See what I mean? Then why not do some research of your own? See if you can identify and write out the purpose of the person listed by looking up the reference I provided.

1. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_  
Genesis 37:8-11
2. Moses \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 7:25; Exodus 2:14
3. Deborah \_\_\_\_\_  
Judges 4:4-5, 15
4. Solomon \_\_\_\_\_  
Kings 4:29-34, 1:13
5. Esther \_\_\_\_\_  
Esther 4:14
6. Nehemiah \_\_\_\_\_  
Nehemiah 2:1-20
7. The Apostle Peter \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 4:18, 16:18-19, Galatians 2:7-8
8. The Apostle Paul \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 26:9-21

You may be thinking: What about me? Those were Bible people and it was somehow easier for them than it is for me. Let’s return to *What Color is Your*

*Parachute?* for some practical examples of purpose statements from modern day men and women.

Your unique and individual mission will most likely turn out to be a mission of Love, acted out in one or all of three arenas: either in the kingdom of the Mind, whose goal is to bring more Truth into the world; or in the Kingdom of the Heart, whose goal is to bring more Beauty into the world; or in the Kingdom of the Will, whose goal is to bring more Perfection into the world, through Service.

Here are some examples:

- “My mission is, out of the rich reservoir of love which God seems to have given me, to nurture and show love to others—most particularly to those who are suffering from incurable diseases.”
- “My mission is to draw maps for people to show them how to get to God.”
- “My mission is to create the purest foods I can, to help people’s bodies not get in the way of their spiritual growth.”
- “My mission is to make the finest harps I can so that people can hear the voice of God in the wind.”
- “My mission is to make people laugh, so that the travail of this earthly life doesn’t seem quite so hard to them.”
- “My mission is to help people know the truth, in love, about what is happening out in the world, so that there will be more honesty in the world.”
- “My mission is to weep with those who weep, so that in my arms they may feel themselves in the arms of that Eternal Love which sent me and which created them.”
- “My mission is to create beautiful gardens, so that in the lilies of the field people may behold the Beauty of God and be reminded of the Beauty of Holiness.”(pages 228-9)

These statements are beautiful expressions of the individuality given to each person by his or her Creator. In the examples above, each person had a clear, concise statement that summarized his or her existence. They were specific enough to give

direction, but general enough to give room for creative expression. You need that same clarity if you want to be effective and productive.

I also like the arenas that Bolles creates to categorize life purpose or mission.

They are:

1. Kingdom of the Mind—to bring Truth into the world.
2. Kingdom of the Heart—to bring more Beauty into the world.
3. Kingdom of the Will—to bring more Perfection into the world, through Service.

In which of those three arenas do you tend to function? As you move toward a clear statement and as we close this chapter, it's important that you place yourself in one of those three categories. In the next chapter, we'll continue the process of finding a statement that describes what's already "written in your members."

Therefore although it be good and profitable that we should ask, and learn and know what good and holy men have wrought and suffered, and how God hath dealt with them, and what he hath wrought in and through them, yet **it were a thousand times better that we should in ourselves learn and perceive and understand, who we are, how and what our own life is, what God is and what he is doing in us, what he will have from us, and to what ends he will or will not make use of us.** [For, of a truth, thoroughly to know oneself, is above all art, for it is the highest art. If thou knowest thyself well, thou art better and, more praiseworthy before God, than if thou didst not know thyself, but didst understand the course of the heavens and of all the planets and stars, also the virtue of all herbs, and the structure and dispositions of all mankind, also the nature of all beasts, and, in such matters, hadst all the skill of all who are in heaven and on earth. For it is said, there came a voice from heaven, saying, "Man, know thyself."—unknown author from the book *Theologia Germanica*, 14<sup>th</sup> century