

Gathering

PURPOSE

Have you ever been told that you were created for a purpose? Yet, most likely at some point in your life you've wrestled with the thought of 'why am I here' or what is God's purpose for my life. We all do.

'Purpose' describes the reason why something is done or created. When God created us, we were neither a casual show of his power nor a successful experiment. Instead, each of us has been uniquely designed and carefully put together to fulfill the roles He wants us to play in His beautiful kingdom. If we hold fast to this truth about our existence, then we will know that God, who purposefully created us, will equip us with the gifts and abilities necessary to complete his kingdom work. The apostle Peter explains how our God given purpose operates in 1 Peter 4:10,

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

So rather than asking 'why am I here' we should identify what our gifts are so we can put them to good use for the benefit of others and for God's glory. Peter affirms that in doing so, we are stewards of God's grace. In other words, we serve others with what belongs to the Master. When Peter says "whatever gift you have received" indicates that each of us possess innate abilities given by God but are not for ourselves to keep. So, whether your gift is helping, leadership or hospitality, our duty as purpose bearers in God's kingdom, is to exercise these abilities with care, accountability and intentionality so that we might effectively minister God's grace to one another. Since each gift is part of God's perfect design, all are equally important for Kingdom work.

Therefore, be encouraged to use your gifts as instruments of Godly service. As you do so faithfully, you will discover a life that is meaningful and filled with purpose!

1 Peter 4:10

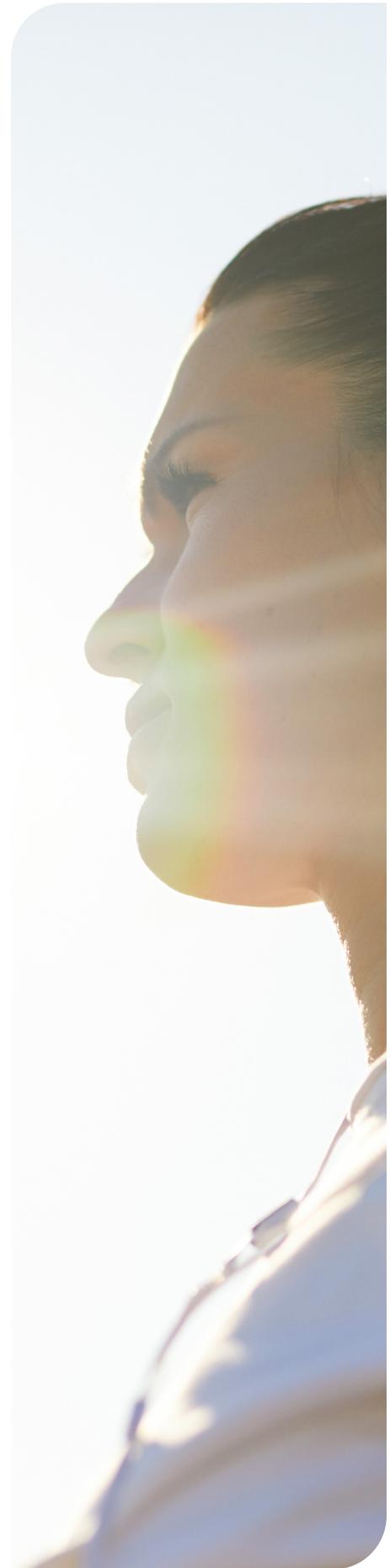
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PURPOSE continued

After reading scripture consider these questions:

- How would you define the term purpose?
- Based on today's topic and scripture, what is the reason behind our existence and gifts?
- Explain what 'stewards of God's grace' and 'purpose bearers' mean. What are some practical ways to ensure we are being stewards of God's grace when using our gifts?
- Can you identify the gifts God has given you? How have you been using them for Kingdom work as a steward of grace?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.





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In moments when we may question the reason for us being where we are or for doing what we are doing, we need to be reminded of God's omniscience and perfect design. It will help us to come confidently to Him for help when we are challenged and to trust that as valuable as each of us are, there is a specific purpose for us to do as part of God's family. Our duty is to obediently pursue His purpose and graciously put at the service of others. Spend some time studying the verses below to further explore the concept of our God given purpose.



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READ Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 1:6 and Psalm 138:8

- What insights do these scriptures provide regarding our God given purpose?
- What is then our part in the process?

READ 1 Corinthians 12:5-18

- What are common ground truths of our spiritual gifts?
- What is then the relationship between our God given purpose and the gifts we have been given?

ACTIVITY for personal development: Prepare a four-week purpose inventory card.

- Lists your gifts
- Make a note of all the ways you have utilized your gifts each-week
- Record the steps you have taken to be accountable with the gifts God has given you

*Written by Lt. Kendacy Barnes,
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