

ON PURPOSE

Oct 3 PM

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel had a choice to make. This could not be an “accidental” choice. He had to make the choice “on purpose” ... with purpose. I don’t believe he had to pray about it, or have a meeting with his three friends. This was not an “emotional” decision. It was a “purposed” decision. He WAS NOT going to defile himself by eating the king’s meat.

How many times in a day/week/month do we face the same kinds of decisions?

- Do I watch that movie that I know has the wrong language or images?
- Do I laugh at that joke with the “colorful metaphors”?
- Do I allow that temptation to take control of my life?
- Do I decide to stay at home instead of being in my place at church?
- Do I skip my devotions because I “don’t have time” or I “just don’t feel like it”?

Or do we “purpose” in our heart to make decisions that please God? Do we decide to live a “righteous” life ... on purpose?

1. Do we love Jesus? On purpose ... with purpose? Or is it just a matter of duty and convenience?
 - a. **John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha. (let him be accursed, the Lord is coming)**
2. Do we serve the Lord on purpose? With purpose?
 - a. **Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**
 - b. **Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by**

the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3. Do we give of our time/talents and resources on purpose?
 - a. Matthew 25:14-15 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
 - b. Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
4. Do we share the Gospel on purpose, with purpose?
 - a. Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
 - b. Romans 1:15-16 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
5. Do we love one another on purpose, with purpose?
 - a. John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
 - b. Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
 - c. 1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: (enthusiastically, passionately, zealously, fanatically)
 - d. 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
6. Do we forgive one another .. on purpose?
 - a. Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
7. Do we maintain our Christian testimony.. on purpose .. with purpose?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
 - c. 2 Timothy 1:8-9 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not

according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

8. Do we avoid sinning .. on purpose?

- a. Psalms 17:3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

Our Lord, Jesus went to the cross .. on purpose .. with purpose: Isaiah 50:4-6 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. Isaiah 50:7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

We must receive Jesus as our Saviour .. on purpose.

Are we helping God build His house .. on purpose? 1 Kings 5:5 And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.

Jesus said he would rather have us red hot, or blue cold when it comes to these things. But when Christians try to play the middle, he calls that being “lukewarm” and it makes him physically sick. These are all “yes or no” questions. God won’t allow fence-sitters.

Let’s serve God, on purpose, with purpose. The Bible calls this serving with our “whole heart”. Psalms 119:69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.