

## Checkin' Out My Walk Lesson #1 > Apprehending God's Purpose For Me

Jesus Christ invites us to "come to Him" with a teachable spirit and eagerness to be changed. As we step into a new year, let us resolve to seek His face and His will with an open mind.

This life-long journey involves being transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Jer. 29:11 I know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a HOPE and a FUTURE.

Resolve: Give myself fully to this journey > Conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. That I may truly apprehend (grasping or seizing with the mind; understand; capture the meaning) God's purpose for me. Partaker? Overcomer? Joint-Heir?

### The Ultimate Significance of Human Life

Question: Why am I here? Why did God save me? What is God's purpose in calling me?

God's Original Purpose: Man's Intended & Original Royal Position

Gen. 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Man was originally created in the image of God and called to reign over the whole earth.

(Presented to 1<sup>st</sup> Adam + His Bride)

Problem: Lucifer was determined to thwart God's plan.

He devised a scheme to deceive Eve which also led Adam to disobedience.

The sin and fall of man resulted in man's loss of 4 things.

1. Ps. 115:16 But the earth He has given to the children of men.

Satan stole the property God had given to man; Adam sold our birthright.

They forfeited their right to rule and reign. Satan is now the prince of this world.

2. John 8:34 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. Everyone who sins is a SLAVE to sin.

We lost our liberty. They sold themselves into slavery to sin and Satan. As a child of a slave, we are born into slavery. Lucifer became their mortal enemy. (Gen. 3:23-24)

3. Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." They lost their life as a consequence of sin and disobedience. They died spiritually > became dead to God (separated from) who is the Source of all Life. He would die physically because God expelled him from the Garden of Eden thus denying him access to the Tree of Life. Immediate spiritual death > Ultimate physical death

4. Gen. 1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; Man lost his legacy. He lost his ability to reproduce seed in God's likeness and image.  
Gen. 5:3 Adam...begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image,

Impact: 1. Adam immediately became self-centered instead of God-centered.

2. He became dead in trespasses and sins.

3. He will now bring forth a sinful, ungodly, self-centered race, born "dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:2)

4. The original Edenic commission, "rule and have dominion," has yet to be fulfilled.

Due to their sin, every generation of mankind has inherited the same consequences.

1. We ALL born naturally separated from God and will experience physical death.

2. God's future plans for us to rule and reign alongside of Him have been forfeited.

3. We have the same mortal enemy as they had > Satan.

Romans tells us every person is born with a sin nature and automatically has "fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) Without Christ's intervention, all of us are born guilty of sin and the penalty is DEATH or eternal separation from God (Rom. 6:23).

Consequently, we have forfeited our future rulership in His coming kingdom.

God chose a way of deliverance from our death and to reclaim the kingdom for us.

Ps. 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

<sup>5</sup> For You have made him a little lower than the angels, You have crowned him with glory and honor.<sup>6</sup> You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;

You have put all *things* under his feet,

<sup>7</sup> All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.

Christ's mission: Col. 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin on our behalf, voluntarily gave His life as a ransom so:

1. We could be reconciled back to the Father.

2. We could be trained as companions of Christ to rule and reign with Him in the future.

3. We could be given the authority and power to overcome the enemy.

Heb. 1:1-3 "God...hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son...who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person..."

Note: The image of God is back on earth in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ > Last Adam

I Cor. 15:45, 47 The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.

1. Our natural birth made us members of the fallen, sinful 1<sup>st</sup> Adam race.
2. Our transition from the old sinful race to the new godly race is the "new birth" through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ > 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam.

When I accept Christ (justification), these five things occur:

1. I am set free from my bonds of sin and reconciled to Him.
2. I am delivered from the penalty of death.
3. I am guaranteed an entrance to His kingdom and heaven.
4. I am given the gift of a brand-new spirit.
5. I am given His eternal Life (His Love, wisdom and power) in my heart.

All of this is true of my position in Christ.

However, experientially my character, my disposition and my temperament haven't changed. I am still the same mentally, emotionally and in my will.

Truth: Christ has imputed (accredited) His righteousness to me by means of a new spirit.

Romans 8:29 reveals one of God's purposes for calling us: "to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God the Father is still carrying out His purpose of making man in His image. However, he is not using the original man to fulfill the purpose. ALL is now centered in the Last Adam, Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:4 tells us we became "partakers of the divine nature." When we allow Jesus to express His life through us, this world will see "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

Man's purpose is to allow the Holy Spirit to transform him into the image of Christ whose Life will enable us to be an "overcomer." As an overcomer, we will inherit the high honor of ruling with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom.

This is the future reward the writers of Scripture everywhere exhort man to pursue:  
Col. 3:24 *Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

NOW, I must begin the long road toward sanctification and being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

However, Satan will do ALL He can to thwart the plan and purpose of God in my life.

I John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Rom. 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Remember: Nation of Israel

1. After the blood was applied, the purpose for their entire existence lay ahead of them.
2. Told to "get the leaven (represents sin) out of the house" for a specified period.
3. NOW > Israel can realize the purpose for her removal from Egypt (sin, slavery).
4. NOW > Israel can realize the Purpose for Her Calling. (Witness to pagan nations)
5. Israel kept the leaven out for 7 days. Feast of Unleavened Bread

Question: Did Israel continue to keep the leaven out during the Pilgrim journey in the Wilderness?

6. No - They committed trespass after trespass.
7. When they came to Kadesh-Barnea, they stood in fear, unbelief and rebellion even though God had promised them the victory and the land.
8. IF Israel had obeyed God's leadership and command to put the leaven OUT, she would have realized the purpose of her calling.
9. She would have exhibited faithfulness and entered the Promised Land.

Consider the Outcome of Obedience:

10. Israel would have overthrown the inhabitants = enemy.
11. Israel would have ruled over ALL Gentile nations as God's firstborn within a theocracy.
12. Gentile nations would have been blessed through Israel.

Consider the Outcome of Disobedience:

13. Because of Israel's disobedience, rebellion and unfaithfulness, the ENTIRE accountable generation (included 600,000 fighting men) > EXCEPT 2 > were overthrown and died in the wilderness.
14. Results: They were cut off from the House of Israel but NOT from God.
15. They fell SHORT of the GOAL of their CALLING.

My Spiritual Warfare: The Battle for my soul > Revealed > Bema Seat

1. Justification - My spirit is saved. Eternity is in view. Guarantee of Eternal Life; Partaker IN Christ - Unchanging Status - Entrance into His Millennial Kingdom and Heaven
2. Sanctification - My soul (mind, will, emotions) is in the process of being saved. Positions & privileges in the Millennial Kingdom are in view. Not Guaranteed > Power of the Holy Spirit will do the work in me as I humble myself and yield to His control. His power will transform me into a faithful and obedient overcomer as I Partake OF Christ. I Cor. 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. II Cor. 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved.
3. Glorification - My body will be "saved" or glorified at the resurrection.

Truth: Complete salvation is a lifelong process.

I Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Point to Ponder:

1. I receive the salvation of my soul at the end of my faith, not the beginning.

I Pet. 1:9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Concept: Complete salvation doesn't consist of one simple choice at the beginning (accepting Christ), but thousands of choices to stay faithful, obedient and persevering until the very end. The actual "saving of my soul" is dependent upon my constant choice to "put off" my sin and self and "put on" the new.

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.

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Sanctification: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I am becoming a PARTAKER of Christ's life; His Love, wisdom, power, etc. - NOT JUST A RECEIVER OF HIS LIFE.

A seed embodies in full the reproduction of the life from which it came. That much is complete and can never be added to. It is to be "NOT I, BUT CHRIST," - the Seed has been implanted. NOW the entire question is: One of growth and maturity. This alone will bring forth fruit that abides. The development of the Divine Life in the Christian is like the natural growth in the vegetable world. We don't need to make ANY special effort. Just place yourself under the conditions favorable to growth.

God's Desire & Purpose: Make me righteous, holy and set apart in character and action so the life of Jesus Christ shines forth in me.

II Thess. 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Truth: The sanctification of my soul is God's will, but I must allow Him to accomplish this.

Consider: If I am not sanctified, I will not be able to partake of Christ's life.

This prevents me from being an overcomer which in turn I forfeit my rewards and inheritance to co-reign with Him.

Without being sanctified, nothing else happens. The cycle stops.

Conclusion: The measure of my usefulness to the Lord in His future kingdom will be found in the measure of my sanctification here and now.

Bear in mind: God has saved me with a view toward being a co-heir with Him in His kingdom at a future date.

Truth: God has a purpose to place me back in the position for which I was originally created > Be a joint-heir with Christ ruling and reigning with Him over the earth in His image.

Belief: I believe the faithful, obedient and sanctified believers (overcomers) who depend upon the Holy Spirit for everything will be qualified to INHERIT the kingdom.

I believe the unfaithful, disobedient and unsanctified believers (overtaken) will enter the kingdom, but forfeit the privilege of having levels of responsibility there.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Question: What is missing? 1. Sanctification is not even mentioned.

Sanctification is God's will but it requires our obedience and choices.

II Thess. 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2. Our redemption is guaranteed if we are justified regardless of our sanctification.

Every circumstance in my life is designed to make me more like Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The "good" for which God is working all things > Making us in His image which is centered in Jesus. Listen to Paul's determination for each of his converts.

Gal. 4:19 I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

John Newman "Fear not that your life will come to an end, but rather that it shall never have a beginning."

Holy Spirit's Role: He will provide the POWER that will enable me to become conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. He makes me a partaker, overcomer and inheritor.

Norman Douty: If I am to be like Him, then God in His grace must do it. The sooner I come to recognize it, the sooner I will be delivered from another form of bondage. Throw down every endeavor and say, I cannot do it; the more I try the farther I get from His likeness. What shall I do? Ah, the Holy Spirit says: You cannot do it. You have been in the arena, you have been endeavoring and you are a failure. Come and sit down. Behold Jesus and be occupied with Him.

Truth: ALL spiritual experience and growth begins from my resting or abiding in Him.

Paul has much to say regarding our Christian walk and growth.

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Gal. 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

He uses the word "walk" 8x in Ephesians. Means> "to order one's behavior" - Christian conduct  
- In the light of your heavenly calling...

1. Eph. 4:1-2 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to WALK WORTHY of the CALLING with which you were called, with all lowliness and meekness with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
2. Eph. 4:17, 20, 23 This is to say...that you NO LONGER WALK as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind... BUT...that you BE RENEWED in the Spirit of your mind.
3. Eph. 5:2 WALK IN LOVE, even as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for you.
4. Eph. 5:8-10 WALK as CHILDREN OF LIGHT...proving what is WELL-PLEASING to the Lord.
5. Eph. 5:19-20 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul continues his admonitions in:

1. Col. 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
2. Col. 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
3. Col. 3:5-10 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
4. Col. 3:12-14 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
5. Col. 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.
6. I Thess. 2:12 You would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Commands to believers:

1. Walk with longsuffering, forbearing one another
2. Put away falsehood and speak truth with your neighbor.
3. Be angry and sin not.
4. Steal no more.
5. Let all bitterness... be put away from you.
6. Be kind...forgiving one another.
7. Subject yourselves one to another.
8. Provoke not.
9. Be obedient.
10. Read Matt. 5:38-48

Reaction: I cannot do it! These are impossible demands.

Paul, what is the secret?

Eph. 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Col. 1:29 To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Truth: My power to live Christ's life is derived from my abiding in Him. IF I continually abide and rest in Him, it ensures the power to walk worthy and fulfill the commands. If I forsake this position, I am immediately "tripped up." My conduct and behavior depend upon my abiding in Jesus Christ.

It is the "flow of His life in and through me" that reveals if I am abiding in Him.

Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

My part is NOT Production! My part is RECEPTION. I am to study the Word and yield to the Holy Spirit in patient trust while He takes me through the necessary processing involved to fulfill His purpose in me.

Consider: NO believer EVER fell into maturity! - Even though he is COMPLETE in Christ!

Truth: My spiritual growth NECESSITATES a heart hunger for my Lord Jesus Christ and a determination based on assurance to have that which is mine in Christ.

Ponder This: I will NEVER come into the knowledge and experience of my spiritual possessions through a superficial understanding of God's Word.

Final Thought: How can I ever expect to have intimate fellowship with One I know little of?

God is calling you to be conformed to the image of His Son. Will you heed the call?