



Everyone Has A Next Step

August 17-23, 2025

MAIN POINT

We live our best lives when we give ourselves away for God's purposes.

INTRODUCTION

What is some advice the world would give on how to live one's best life?

How does living your best life according to the way of Jesus differ from that of the world?

The raw truth is that the best way to live is to give our lives away to a bigger cause. That cause is the purpose of God for our lives. Everyone of us was designed uniquely by God to fulfill His purpose. There is no greater way to live. Living with purpose relieves stress, increases emotional enjoyment in life, helps us grow, and makes others lives better. When we understand each one of us has a destiny from God that is tied together through our faith and church, it becomes eternally rewarding.

UNDERSTANDING

READ [ACTS 20:32-35](#).

What can we learn about living our best lives from these verses?

How might these verses contradict what we naturally think about living in the best way?

This passage begins with a surrender to God's grace which is able to build us up and sanctify us. We are born chasing what we believe is best for us. Protecting our stuff and seeking to get more stuff is something ingrained in us from birth. It is our nature to chase things that are not good for us. God's best is found in His grace and His sanctification. Sanctification is the process of God exchanging our direction for His direction. This is God's process of changing what we think and value to what He thinks and values. It is the process of spiritual growth. This is the antidote for our tricky desires that deceive and tell us if we just had them we would have true life.

How has living for your own purposes and desires led you to disappointment?

How does reorienting our lives around God's purposes lead us to greater joy?

READ [MATTHEW 6:19-24](#).

What are some ways a person might allow his or her past to impact the future?
How have you done this?

If you have historically sought the treasure of the earth, rather than that which is in heaven, what steps can you take to reprioritize your life?

Everyone of us is chasing the same thing. It may look different on the surface as to how this works out in our lives, but we all want just one thing. We want to be fulfilled. You might describe it with a sense of peace or life satisfaction. Or you might believe it to be held in material gain like reaching a certain place or stage in life. However, our common desire is true fulfillment. Just imagine it for a moment, 100% internal and eternal satisfaction! Here is God's opposite wisdom: your past doesn't have to define your future. Our lives are made to matter for something bigger. We need to find our purpose by taking our next step.

Even though changing our priorities takes time and much effort, why is this a goal worth pursuing? Why is the end of this pursuit worth the challenge?

READ [HEBREWS 13:16](#) AND [PSALM 41:1-3](#).

What do these verses teach us about the value of serving others?

When have you experienced value being added to your life through the act of serving others?

In [Acts 20](#), Paul gave us some pretty significant insight into how he organized his life. He actually had a career. Paul was a craftsmen that built tents that provided shelter for people and things. I suppose this was an easy career for him to take on the road. Because he also had a full time ministry. He went from town to town teaching those who were far from God about Christ and the way to salvation. His income not only provided for his personal needs, but he made sure he served the poor. Paul was so committed to the purpose of helping people that he actually organized a massive offering to be collected across the ancient world to support the believers in Jerusalem who were experiencing a natural disaster, a famine.

How might we seek to serve others even in our daily routines of work, school, etc.?

Our lives are not separated into our lives in the world Monday-Friday, our hobbies on Saturday, and our spiritual life on Sunday. This is all part of our lives. Our work has a purpose. The people we are surrounded with every day are an opportunity. Joy can be found every day by living our mission with purpose to serve Christ by serving others.

READ [MATTHEW 10:39-42](#).

Why is it worth losing our lives for the sake of being found by Jesus?

How is this really gain and not losing anything at all?

Why is this so difficult to believe on a daily basis?

This is hard to understand, but our lives can really matter for the purposes of Jesus. We can all be confident that our lives could easily be the example of what not to do. Somehow, by God's grace and wisdom, we are granted both forgiveness and purpose in Jesus. Our lives can make a difference in this world for good. We can join in on God's great mission to heal, restore, and help others.

APPLICATION

Where is God calling you to change your priorities in order to follow His purposes?

How can you lead others in giving of yourself for the benefit of others and the glory of God?

How does it show the world the love of Christ when we give sacrificially of ourselves in His name?

PRAYER

Ask God to help you rightly align your life with His purposes. Pray that He would help you see what is of true value and that He would give you the strength to make the necessary changes to follow Him faithfully and serve others in love.

NEXT STEPS AT TRUENORTH CHURCH

- Follow Jesus by faith.
- Be baptized.
- Pursue chair time with God.
- Worship weekly.
- Find a small group.
- Be a small group leader.
- Give Generously and joyfully.
- Attend Financial Peace or GriefShare.
- Serve Somewhere.
- Chase The Lion.

COMMENTARY

ACTS 20:32-35

20:32 Paul committed the Ephesian Christians to God's grace, which strengthens disciples in their earthly tasks and provides eternal inheritance to the sanctified—those made holy by God.

20:33-35 Paul was never motivated by money or renown, as proven by his labors that provided for his own needs and those who accompanied him. Jesus' saying, It is more blessed to give than to receive, is found only here. It resembles some of Jesus' sayings elsewhere (Luke 6:38). Jesus obviously said much more than is recorded in the Gospels (John 20:30-31; 21:25).

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HEBREWS 13:16

13:7-19 The author addressed seven specific ways in which Christians should revere church leaders. (1) Christians should observe the lives of their leaders and imitate their faith. (2) Christians should remember that Christ is always the same and judge every teaching according to the gospel. (3) Christians should recognize their church may not be appreciated by the world because the Christian community is gathered to worship their Lord, whom the world despises. (4) Christians should continually offer their own sacrifice of praise in appreciation for the sacrifice of Christ by confessing His name. (5) The church should be active in doing good works and sharing with one another. (6) Christians should obey their leaders and submit to them, because they are accountable to God for caring for Christian souls. (7) Christians should pray for their leaders to have clear consciences, conducting themselves with honor in everything.

PSALM 41:1-3

41:1 Poor (Hebrews dal) has the basic idea of "low" in the sense that they are humbled or brought low by their own circumstances or by others. It could be used to mean those faithful to Yahweh, as do the terms "humble," "afflicted," or "needy" (72:13). However, the verb cares for might indicate that the idea is economic hardship. Those who are close to Yahweh will be generous to those in need.

41:2 To be blessed in the land was the hope of all those in Israel who were loyal to Yahweh and to His covenant with them.

41:3 Sustain is not quite identical to heal. It refers to God's support (v. 12) of someone during a time of adversity, whether it is an illness or some danger (18:38; 20:2; 94:18). Even when there is a delay in God's intervention, there is still His sustaining power that strengthens the person who is suffering. This is in fact when God's strength is most evident in those who trust Him (2Co 12:10).

MATTHEW 10:39-42

10:40-42 The person who welcomes a persecuted disciple welcomes Jesus and the One who sent Him. He can expect to receive a heavenly reward, just as the person who welcomes a prophet or righteous person receives the reward that a prophet or righteous person deserves.