

Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 4_Drop the Pressure



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Scriptures mentioned:

...and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 AMP

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
Psalm 92:12-13 NIV

Paul talks about diversity in the Body of Christ
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

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Summary

In this episode we continue to chat through our personal wrestles with figuring out how to live out our purpose – it can feel like so much pressure to get it right! Maureen talks about her transition from dance to full-time ministry; Othniel shares honestly about how he feels purposeful through serving at church but is uncertain whether or not his current job is related to his God-given purpose; and Steph and Sharon discuss how God has sometimes given them opportunities for jobs that seemed completely unrelated to what they thought they would be doing.

Let's Discuss...

- While some aspects of what we were designed to do may require discernment to uncover, other aspects are quite straightforward... such as playing our part in the Body of Christ – and it takes all kinds! Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. What strengths do you bring to the Body? (*PS – whatever they are, we need you!!*)
- Have you ever found yourself in a season such as Othniel describes, where he isn't sure the task he is currently doing for work is exactly relevant to his "purpose"? How would you encourage yourself, or perhaps a friend, walking through a season like this?
- Sharon encourages Othniel by reminding him that he is purposeful at work because of who he is and the way he carries himself there. Read (sidebar) Matthew 5:14-16. Does this mean that we could go anywhere and carry out God's purposes for us?
- Have you ever found yourself with an opportunity that felt random/not related to what you thought you were made to do? Looking back, what did you learn from those experiences, or how did they equip you for future opportunities?
- We often think of discovering our purpose as being related to what *more* we could do for God. Sharon uses the metaphor of cleaning out our wardrobe to make room for something new... or perhaps we need to declutter just to have more breathing room! Are there any areas of your life, schedule, or habits where you may need to *decrease* or eliminate?
- Do you feel pressure when it comes to figuring out your purpose in life? What aspects of these discussions/teachings help take some of that pressure off you?

Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Put My yoke upon your shoulders—it might appear heavy at first, but it is perfectly fitted to your curves. Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. When you are yoked to Me, your weary souls will find rest. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30 VOICE

Let's Pray...

You are like that illuminating light. Let your light shine everywhere you go, that you may illumine creation, so men and women everywhere may see your good actions, may see creation at its fullest, may see your devotion to Me, and may turn and praise your Father in heaven because of it.

Matthew 5:16 VOICE

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We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV

We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ Himself now: Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you.

2 Corinthians 5:20 MSG

And you, beloved, are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. Similarly it would be silly to light a lamp and then hide it under a bowl. When someone lights a lamp, she puts it on a table or a desk or a chair, and the light illumines the entire house. You are like that illuminating light. Let your light shine everywhere you go, that you may illumine creation, so men and women everywhere may see your good actions, may see creation at its fullest, may see your devotion to Me, and may turn and praise your Father in heaven because of it.

Matthew 5:14-16 VOICE

- When connected to its power source and turned on, a light does not strive to shine – it just does! Let's pray that as we focus on just being with God and becoming more like Him, we will not feel pressured or stressed about how or where to shine, but that we will naturally illuminate the world around us, wherever we find ourselves.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **Anonymous** by Alicia Britt Chole [book]
- **Lisa Harper: You Can't "Miss" God's Purpose for Your Life** by Better Together on TBN [video]

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