

Applying Truth to Fulfill God's Purpose | Application

ACTION:

1. Think about the various activities that are part of your life. These may include employment, appointments, responsibilities, recreation, etc.
2. List each activity under the category headings, *Get to Do* or *Have to Do*, according to your view of the activity.
3. Next to each activity, explain your reason for placing a specific item under its particular heading.

Get to Do

Have to Do

4. Now, re-examine your list and ask the Lord to show you His potential purpose in each activity. Let's look at a couple examples.

Example 1: Let's say under the heading, *Get to Do*, you wrote: "Watch a baseball game, because I enjoy the game and the ballpark atmosphere." While your reasoning is not wrong, your focus may be on the players, the score, the food, etc. However, if your focus is on fulfilling God's purpose, you will view the game as an opportunity to reflect Christ to those around you. With this perspective, as you enjoy the game, you will also be anticipating opportunities to demonstrate and communicate Jesus' love and truth with others.

Example 2: Suppose under the heading, *Have to Do*, you wrote: "Laundry, because my family needs clean clothes to wear." While this task is necessary, without looking for potential purpose, this weekly activity could become monotonous, wearisome, frustrating, etc. However, by changing your perspective, this mundane task could become very purposeful as each piece of laundry represents a specific member of your family. As you fold, you can thank the Lord for each person, recounting the blessings they bring to your life. Pray Scripture over them. Ask for their growth and protection. Pray for God to enable you to have purposeful interactions with them.

 **READ: Colossians 3:2**

In order to fulfill God's purpose for our lives, we must learn to set our minds on the eternal things of God, rather than merely temporal things.

 **WRITE:** Why is it essential for Christ-followers to be able to consistently distinguish the two?

 In what specific ways does examining daily life from God's viewpoint change your perspective?

 Ask the Lord to show you in what specific ways your actions need to change to reflect a godly mindset and write those below.

 Ask God to help you to begin implementing such changes this week while relying on His power to do so.

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** You may find this exercise helpful in training those you disciple to see life from God's perspective. Encourage them to focus their thoughts and energy on fulfilling God's purpose rather than on merely performing each task.

 **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

 Why is it important, especially during the challenging and perplexing seasons in life, to keep your focus on Christ and His kingdom's purpose?

 **Psalms 39:4-5, 90:12**

 What difference would it make if you focused, moment-by-moment, on your purpose for living rather than on what you desire to accomplish in the days or years ahead? (Be specific.)

 The following verses can be valuable in recognizing proactive choices, and their resulting benefits, for living purposefully for Christ.

1. Write out the practical choice(s) described in each verse.
2. Then, explain the benefit(s) of each proactive action. (The first one has been completed as an example.)

Psalm 119:36-37

(Choice) Ask God to turn my heart towards His truth and His will and help me to recognize things in my life that are a waste of time. I will consistently practice renewing my mind with God's Word.

(Benefit) Those things that are of greatest value to God's kingdom will rule in my heart and mind.

Psalm 1:1-3

(Choice)

(Benefit)

Psalm 16:7-11

(Choice)

(Benefit)

Proverbs 4:11-13, 26-27

(Choice)

(Benefit)

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (**Psalm 37:5-6**)