CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST – DISCIPLESHIP – PT III

The Purpose Driven Life - Part 4

Pastor Victor J. Coleman, Sr.

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We are taking 40 Days or about six weeks to explore what the Bible says about our purpose. Each of us has “Purpose”. We are looking at five purposes. In the first two weeks we discussed 1) “Created For Worship – planned for God’s pleasure” and 2) “Formed for God’s Family – Fellowship”. Your first purpose is to get to know and love God. God also wants you to learn to love other people and get along in His family. Therefore, we learned that God loves us, we love Him Back and we are to love our “Spiritual Family”. We need to know next that we are to be like Jesus. God uses trouble, temptations and trespasses to shape us to be like Christ.

“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.” Rom 8:29 (LB)

“God wants us to grow up ... like Christ in everything.” Eph. 4:15 (Msg)

**My 3rd Purpose In Life Is To Become Like Christ - “Discipleship”** – “In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28 (NIV)

God uses three (3) Unexpected Tools to teach us to be like Christ:

1. GOD USES **TROUBLE** TO TEACH US TO TRUST HIM.
   1. “...troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope.” Rom 5:3-4 (NCV)
   2. “They came to a garden called Gethsemane and Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ ... Distress and anguish came over Him, and He said, "The sorrow in My heart is so great that it almost crushes Me." Mark 14:32-34 (TEV)
   3. "Father," He said, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from Me. Yet I want your will, not mine!" Mark 14:36 (NLT)
      1. Keep a spiritual journal – “At the Lord's direction, Moses kept a written record of their

progress.” Num. 33:2 (NLT)

* + 1. Remember the reward - “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an

eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” 2 Cor. 4:17 (NIV)

1. GOD USES **TEMPTATION** TO TEACH US TO OBEY.

* 1. “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” Matt. 4:1 (NIV)
  2. "’Get out of here, Satan’ Jesus told him. ‘The Scriptures say, Worship only the Lord God. Obey only Him.'" Matt. 4:10 (LB)
     1. Keep focused on good thoughts “Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right.” Phil. 4:8a (LB)
     2. Get a spiritual partner – “You’re better off to have a friend than to be all alone... If you

fall, your friend can help you up.” Eccl. 4:9-10 (CEV)

1. **GOD USES TRESPASSES TO TEACH US TO FORGIVE.**
   1. “People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus ... and the elders made fun of Him... Even the bandits who had been crucified with Him insulted Him in the same way. Matt. 27:39-44 (TEV)
   2. “Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing.’" Luke 23:34 (NLT)
      1. Remember God has forgiven me - “Forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.” Eph. 4:32 (CEV)
      2. Remember God is in control - “You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to

save the lives of many people, which is being done.” Gen. 50:20 (NCV)

* + 1. “We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him.” Rom. 8:17 (Msg)
    2. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Phil. 2:5 (NIV)