

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

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I believe that God is all-powerful and all-knowing. I believe that He created me and He knows me better than I know myself. I believe that God knows what is best for me and He has a purpose and plan for me. So to me it makes better sense for me to want God's will to be done in my life than for my will to be done. I want my will to be what God wants for me. I want Him to guide me and help me with every decision I make.

Do you believe that God is all-powerful and all-knowing? Do you believe that God created you and has a purpose and plan for you? Do you want God to guide you according to His will? Unless you pursue God's will, you may never know what His purpose and plan are for you. I believe that many people live and die without ever knowing that God had a purpose for them or they never discover what that purpose was. They fail to discover the life God intended for them.

When people reject God and His potential guidance, they live a life contrary to God's plan for them. Many people choose to live sinful lifestyles without concern for God and His will for their lives. They may feel that they are better off without God in their life, thinking they can take care of themselves and solve their problems on their own. Wanting to be in control of their own lives, many people refuse or fail to turn their life and their problems over to God. Instead of asking God to be in control, they often say something like "I'll check into God once I get my life in control." God has the power to cure any problem as He sees fit. He will cure you if it is His will.

Change starts from within yourself and God is the expert of changing people from within. But how do you find this change? First, **confess** to God - tell Him the bad things you have done and are doing and admit that they are wrong. God already knows these things, but when you admit to them, you are letting God know that you realize you are wrong. Tell Him that you are truly sorry. Be sincere since God knows what is on your heart and what you truly believe. Next, **repent** (turn away from or resist doing wrong) - do your best to not do wrongful things or think wrongful thoughts. Change is usually difficult and usually takes awhile to accomplish, so pray to God often, repeatedly asking Him for guidance. You need His power. You need a relationship with God. How do you get this relationship? Pray often with sincerity and belief that God can help you. Ask Him to come into your life and take over. Pray for wisdom to understand His will and the purpose and plans He has for you. Also, since God often speaks to us through His Word in the Bible, get into the habit of reading the Bible and meditating on His words.

Now, do you believe that God has a purpose and plan for others (just some people or everyone)? The Bible says that God desires that all would come to Him (even though He knows that everyone won't). Even though we may see some people as useless or worthless and wonder why some people exist, God knows the plans He has for each person. If God has a purpose and plan for you and others, then you and they must have value to Him. You and they are not worthless to God. So we must be careful when we judge others (see Matt. 7:1-6 on judging others). None of us meet God's standard of perfection. (Only Jesus Christ was perfect, making Him the only qualified being to adequately pay the price for our sin by dying on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sin) We all make mistakes and often we have to suffer the consequences of our own mistakes and the mistakes of others, whether it be physical pain or emotional distress or even imprisonment, but we must learn to see others as God sees them. We do not have to approve of what people do (especially evil deeds toward others), but we must learn to forgive others (see Matt. 18:21-35 on forgiveness) and accept and love them for who they are - God's created beings. We are commanded to love God and to love others - our neighbors (see Matt. 22:34-40 on the Greatest Commandment) and God will take care of the judgment and consequences that evil-doers will have to endure.