

# The Next Step

Various Passages

## Introduction

In the past year we've really focused on identifying how God has equipped us and His call on our lives so that we can have direction for our ministry. Specifically, we spent a number of weeks studying spiritual gifts and used an inventory to identify the gifts God has given us. Of course, knowing our spiritual gifts is a great start toward knowing the types of ministry God wants us to be involved in.

Later in the year we studied how to discover God's purpose for our lives. Knowing why God put us on the planet is the next big step toward clarifying our ministry direction.

As I mentioned last week, though, I have realized that those two things alone are the entire pathway toward a life that makes a difference for the Kingdom. The third and critically important step is to have a life vision, an ultimate goal that would be your answer to the sentence, "Before I die, I want to \_\_\_\_\_."

Today we're going to look at some great, great servants of God in the Bible, and see how they were gifted by God, knew their life's purpose, but also had a life goal to make a major impact for God.

## Background Passage:

Phil. 3:7-14 - <sup>7</sup>But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup>and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup>that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained *it*, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup>Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup>**I press on toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

What a fantastic passage stating that Paul had a goal as a minister, and that he was dedicating all of his efforts to accomplishing it!

Gifts. Purpose. Goal. So many of the greats in Scripture had all three. Let's look at Paul.

## Paul as the example:

Gifts. Purpose. Goal.

Gifts: What were Paul's spiritual gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 1:8-11 - <sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, <sup>10</sup>but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>**for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.**

Purpose. Why did God put Paul on the planet? \_\_\_\_\_

Rom 15:15-16 - <sup>15</sup>But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, <sup>16</sup>**to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles**, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that *my* offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said to him, "Go, for **he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;**

Acts 22:21 - "And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Gal. 2:7-9 - <sup>7</sup>But on the contrary, seeing that **I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised**, just as Peter *had been* to the circumcised <sup>8</sup>(for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), <sup>9</sup>and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *might go* to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

Eph 3:8 - <sup>8</sup>To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, **to preach to the Gentiles** the unfathomable riches of Christ,

1 Tim. 2:7 - And for this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) **as a teacher of the Gentiles** in faith and truth.

Life goal. What was Paul's life goal? \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 15:22-28 - <sup>22</sup>For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; <sup>23</sup>but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since **I have had for many years a longing to come to you** <sup>24</sup>**whenever I go to Spain**--for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while--<sup>25</sup>but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. <sup>26</sup>For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup>Yes,

they were pleased to *do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

<sup>28</sup>Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, **I will go on by way of you to Spain.**

### **Other Bible Greats:**

Moses:

What were Moses' gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Moses' purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Moses' life goal? \_\_\_\_\_

Hannah:

What were Hannah's gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Hannah's purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Hannah's life goal? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus:

What were Jesus' gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus' purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus' life goal? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Conclusion:**

It is clear that the great servants of God in the Bible not only knew their gifts and purpose, but also had a life goal or purpose that drove all of their activities.

What is your life goal?

Before I die, I want to \_\_\_\_\_