

Preface

Have you ever had a moment when you looked around and wondered "What am I here for?" or felt, even for an instant, that your life was insignificant? Believe it or not, that's not uncommon. Everyone on this Earth has asked or will ask at some point, "What is my purpose?" Sadly, not everyone will consult the right sources.

I remember when I first started to inquire about my significance on this planet. I fumbled around in high school and college, trying to grab hold of anything to give my life meaning. I often looked to friendships or guys I "dated" casually (I put the quotation marks because I believe everyone I met before Geordan was a simple interaction on my way to a relationship with true meaning). I thought that other people could provide my validity, that in them I would discover some deeper meaning for everything. In the end, because they are human like me, seeking the approval of other individuals just led to an empty feeling.

I do not want that to be your story. I want you to be able to consult the Source who provides everything you need. His name is God, in the form of The Father, Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. I promise that once you get linked up with Him and allow Him to be the One from Whom you seek direction, the life you have will start to make a lot more sense and you will become more intentional with it. As you make new discoveries, you will find yourself greeting each day with the expectation of huge opportunities. God will allow demonstrate them through your ministry. He will

reveal your talents and gifts and He will give you strength and direction as you dedicate yourself daily to purposeful living. This is a critical principle to me, as I have seen the way finding purpose helps fight feelings of inferiority, combat thoughts that you don't matter and avoid confusion about why you were created.

In this book, I plan to share some changes I made that helped me in my search for purpose. We will talk about where you should start when trying to find your purpose. Spoiler alert: it's with God. We will, among other things, spend some time discovering your spiritual gifts and passions, discussing the importance of establishing the kinds of friendships that will keep you on your path to purpose and what to do once you have found it.

Each chapter combines my experiences with biblical teaching. I was intentional in doing this because without sound doctrine, this book would just be a collection of personal stories. I want to set you up for things that will follow you to eternity. One person's circumstances can vary from day to day, but God's Word is unchanging. You will notice that I use a lot of shorthand like NLT, HCSB, NASB after scripture readings. These letters outline the Bible version I am citing. You will see the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), New Living Translation (NLT), the Message Bible (The Message), the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB) translations. I've chosen this variety based on what I felt would be helpful and easy to comprehend during Bible study. At the end of each chapter, you'll find a list of action steps to help you apply everything we discuss. I challenge you to read one chapter a day so you can really allow the

principles I am sharing to dig deep. If you are like me and love going the extra mile, consider keeping a journal to write out your thoughts as you undergo this purpose-seeking process. The time for purposeful living is now. Let's get started.

Part 1: Prepared for Your Purpose

"For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"

Luke 14:28 (HCSB)

My family took a lot of road trips when my sister and I were younger. We drove to Orlando, San Antonio, Galveston, Atlanta, Columbia and it's because of all these trips, that I love being on the road so much today. There is something really special about wide open space with and few distractions but I digress.

Before each trip my dad would get the car serviced: get an oil change, have the tires rotated and fill up the gas tank. He wanted to make sure the car was prepared to go the distance and never wanted us to get stuck on the side of the road because he had not properly prepared, he had not gotten a proper assessment.

Your life deserves the same if not more attention. If you're going to finish the race of life (Philippians 3:14) then you have to go through a preparation process.

You have to take time to observe what you are good at, to see how your personality ties into the personalities of those around you, to discover what void God placed you on this Earth to fill. Through these different assessments, you gain clarity of your purpose. You can know which areas in life to focus on and which ones to leave to someone else.

I believe, especially in the early stages of our Christian walk, God gives us little glimpses into what He plans to do with our lives as a whole. When we use this knowledge to His benefit, I believe He expands it and gives us even more room to grow in.

Scripture says in Matthew 25:23 that when we are faithful over a few things, God will make us ruler over many. It's one of my favorite biblical promises. If you don't know what you are starting out with and how to make the most of it, it gets a little hard for God to multiply and expand upon it. So let's step back and assess what things you've already got working