

Discovering Your Purpose... Abiding in Christ

"The Time Is Now" Series- Part 01

Share/Connect time: *If you could job shadow anyone in the world, who would it be? Why?*

Let's put our heads together:

I read a secular article recently that addressed the issue of discovering one's purpose in life. The author suggested three steps to assist in that discovery:

1. Lead with your heart...not your head. What makes you passionate?
2. Don't settle for just the ONE! Your purpose may be multi-faceted!
3. Take action. Just DO It! The more we act, the more we become clear on things!

To sum it all up, the author suggested the following formula:

Passion + Daily Action = Purposeful Life

Discuss the three steps and share what is powerful about each step and also what is the danger or error that could be made in carrying out that step:

In the first lesson in our *"The Time Is Now"* series, God's word demonstrates that God has created us for His purpose and that life is an adventure when we seek out and live out God's plan for our life. In John 15, Jesus gives us another formula for discovering and living out our purpose (fruit = purpose):

Book: John 15:1-8

John 15:1 "I am the true grapevine, and My Father is the gardener.

John 15:2 He cuts off every branch of Mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

John 15:3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

John 15:4 Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.

John 15:5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:6 Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

John 15:7 But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

John 15:8 When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.

Let's get into the Word:

If God is the Farmer or Gardener **of your life**, what are the implications in this relationship?

When Jesus refers to Himself as the TRUE vine, what is He saying? (compare this vine to the vine described in Isaiah 5:1-7)

When it comes to God's purpose for each of us, why is ABIDING in Christ important?

What are action steps that we can take to ensure true abiding with Christ?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Is bearing fruit for Christ your purpose in life? What fruit has Christ produced in your life since you trusted in Him?

How can a Christian discover his spiritual gift? How important is it to determine what your gift is?

What may be healthy and what is unhealthy about comparing your "fruit" with that of other believers?

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A challenge to consider:

What ungodly activities, relationships, or priorities do you need to prune out of your life?

Prioritize them and work out a plan to get started