

- **Sunday 12th February 2023.**
- **FLOURISH SERIES**
- **PART 1**
- **FIND YOUR PURPOSE IN GOD.**
- **Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV.**

- But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
- 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
- It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jer. 17:7-8 NIV)

In his book '**Purpose Driven life**' Rick Warren says, "The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions."

- He continues to say, “If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. you were born by his purpose and for His purpose.” (*Warren, Rick. Purpose Driven Life*).

- From Genesis 37, Joseph gives us a good example of someone who finds his/ her purpose in God. Joseph was resilient through good times and bad times, When the heat was on or even when storms came.

•Genesis 37:3-11 NIV

- 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a decorative robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

- 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

- 8 His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. 9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

- 10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

The Bible clearly tells us that Joseph was the favorite of his father Jacob. His robe of many colors designated his heir-apparent status, even though he was not the oldest. Joseph worsened the situation with his family by reporting dreams indicating that his brothers and his father will all bow down to him.

- Like Joseph, we all have dreams and many times we share these dreams with people we trust like family. Some of our family members are among those who betray us, because some feel jealousy.

**1) When you find your purpose in God,
seasons of life cannot define you.**

a)14 Then we will no longer be infants,
tossed back and forth by the waves, and
blown here and there by every wind of
teaching and by the cunning and craftiness
of people in their deceitful scheming.

•(*Ephesians 4:14 NIV*).

b) The Bible does not say that Joseph was bitter with God because he was thrown in the cistern.

Genesis 37:23-24

- 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the decorative robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

**2) When you find your purpose in God,
temporary and earthly gains cannot
distract your focus.**

a) Many of us have stopped at Potiphar's house.

b) After you've been pulled from the cistern and now, you're in Potiphar's house, this is heaven.

- Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.
- 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. (*Genesis 39:1-2*)

3) When you find your purpose in God, challenges become opportunities.

- a) From palace to prison, for many of us this would have been a chance to curse God and move on.
- b) Joseph used his prison time to magnify and glorify God.
- C) We should use our tough times to pray more.

19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. 20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. (39:19-31 NLT)

**4) When you find your purpose in God,
His presence becomes our motivation.**

**a) 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be
afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You
intended to harm me, but God intended it
for good to accomplish what is now being
done, the saving of many lives.**

(Genesis 50:19-20)

Conclusion

- There are many things that can give us purpose in life, but they are temporary. However, true religion is central to all Christian ethics, in other words a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and with His enablement living out the will of God in the world.

- Maybe you came today but you still feel stuck, you feel like your life has no purpose.