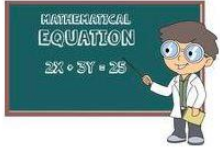


## Show Your Work on Life's Spiritual Journey

### *God's Purpose is to Help You Find Your Purpose*

I remember high school math class. As we worked through math problems we were asked to "show our work," not just the answer. The teacher wanted to see our thought process in seeking the answer to the problem. It was as much about process as the final answer.



Too often in our daily life we are consumed with achieving the end result. Our human goal often focuses on the destination and not the process of getting there. God wants to be a part of your journey. He hopes you will rely on Him during the journey. His guidance can make the journey entirely different than if you took it without Him. You can rely on Him for strength and direction. You can shed some of the worries that might bring you stress, indecision and inaction.

The process of working hand-in-hand with God reveals His purpose for your life. He can take the experiences of your life and turn bad into good. With God's help, overcoming the issues you face can be an inspiration for others. And, you will learn valuable truths about how God can work through your life. An excellent example is a familiar Bible story. Jesus asked the disciples to get in a boat and go to the other side of Lake Galilee. The disciple's goal was merely to reach the other side -- that is all it says in the Bible passage. God's plan was more than that. He was sending them across the lake to do mission work in a very difficult, rebellious area. But, there is more. God had a purpose that could only be achieved in the journey. As we read in the Gospel of Mark (4:35-41) Jesus was sleeping in the stern of the boat when a furious storm suddenly came up. In fear for their lives the disciples woke Jesus up. Jesus calmed the storm by just telling the waves to "be still." Immediately the seas were calm. Then Jesus asked the disciples why they were afraid. Did they have little faith? This episode was an important life lesson for the disciples. It encouraged the disciples to remain strong in the faith and confirmed that God would protect them, in spite of the circumstances. It showed Jesus' power as He calmed the storm. God had a much greater purpose than merely crossing the lake that day.

The question for you and me is "whose purpose do we seek to accomplish?" Are we doing our own thing or seeking what God wants us to do? Are we overlooking how God is preparing and using us for greater purposes throughout our life walk? Are we allowing Him to help us through the difficult times?

20<sup>th</sup> century evangelist and Bible teacher, Oswald Chambers, said, "What is my vision of God's purpose for me? Whatever it may be, His purpose for me is to depend on Him and on His power now." Chambers continued, "God is not working towards a particular finish – His purpose is in the process itself."

Life's journey is very difficult with many storms to navigate, yet God is beside you every step of the way. Consider this analogy: As you endure the storms of your life, imagine that God is sleeping in the stern of your boat. He is waiting for you to ask Him for help. He is ready to calm the storms you will inevitably face. However, if you try to fight the storms yourself He will allow you to do this and you will miss out on His power and influence. Invite Him into your life. Yes, "show your work" so God can be an integral part of it. Chambers said, "God's purpose is to enable me to see that He can walk on the storms of my life right now." God's purpose is to help you find your purpose. What a comfort! ... *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).*

**Question:** How can you best seek God's guidance for finding purpose in your life journey?

**The Bible Says:** *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (Mark 4:35-41)*

**Prayer:** Gracious heavenly Father. We pray we will resist the temptation to try and do things ourselves. Instead, may we call on You to lead, guide and direct us on life's journey. Help us to find our purpose in life. Amen.