

Created with Purpose

Before we talk about *what* we are called to do, we must first settle *why* we exist and *for whom* our lives are ultimately meant. Scripture makes it clear that our purpose begins and ends with Christ.

Colossians 1:16 “For in him all things were created... all things have been created through him and for him.” **What would change in your life if you were always conscious of the fact that you were created through Christ, in Christ and for Christ?**

God designs us with our purpose in mind

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart...”

That is very significant because it means that he wired you and built you based on how He knew you with regards to calling and purpose. He didn't design you and then think of your purpose as an afterthought.

God has prepared the details of your life in advance

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Some of you meditate more on the enemy’s strategy against you than on God’s plan for you.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

For example my DNA test showed very high resilience. The specialist said to me that its amazing how God knew what you would need. Usually when something has already been prepared in advance there is no striving. I like going places where the security clearance is easy because I have already been pre-registered. It's crucial that we discover what our purpose is—why we were created. Many people today are pouring themselves into things that they are merely average at. Sometimes we have to do this, but sadly, for many people, they become known for what they are average at rather than what they were born to do. With this comes a great deal of frustration, because they are doing many things outside the grace of God to do them. **If you pour yourself only into what you are average at, you become accustomed to mediocrity, and in the end, you internalise this mediocrity as your identity.** We always live out our self-concept.

We were created intentionally by God

Genesis 1:26–27 “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...’ So God created mankind in his own image...”

Revelation 4:11 “For you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Creation was an act of God’s will and design; it was not random. Random is a word we use a lot but technically speaking, no one is random. Be careful of labelling people as random, they might be a destiny helper God has assigned to you.

Psalm 139:13–16 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Isn't God amazing. He intentionally makes us in His image but then He is also very intentional about the details on top of that. He didn't just say "Let us make, Paul in our image." He went on to also say, "and let us make him like this and like that so that he can do this and that for our glory."

We were created for God's glory

*Isaiah 43:7 "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I **created** for my glory, whom I **formed** and **made**."*

1. "Created" – בָּרָא (bara)

This is the same word used in **Genesis 1:1**.

Meaning: To create out of nothing, something only God can do, emphasises origin and intention

Theological idea: Your existence itself is not accidental. God initiated you for His glory.

2. "Formed" – יָצַר (yatsar)

This word is often used of a **potter shaping clay**.

Meaning: To shape deliberately, to mould with care and intention, focuses on process and design

Picture: God didn't just create you and step back—He *shaped* you: personality, temperament, wiring, gifts, sensitivities. This speaks to **how** you were designed to function.

3. "Made" – עָשָׂה (asah)

Meaning: To make, build, accomplish, or bring into completion, emphasises execution and outcome

Idea: God not only shaped you internally, He **brought you into real-world existence**, history, family, culture, and assignment.

Purpose implication: This points to **deployment**—your life expressed in action.

- Your purpose is **not random** (created)
- Your gifts are **not accidental** (formed)
- Your context is **not a mistake** (made)

Isaiah 43:7 is saying:

- **Created** → your *origin* was intentional
- **Formed** → your *design* was intentional
- **Made** → your *placement and expression* were intentional

This verse dismantles the idea that purpose is something you must invent. It is something you discover and steward. If we go to the start of this chapter we see something interesting:

Isaiah 43:1 "But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you ;I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'"

👉 Purpose flows out of belonging. Before God assigns us anything, He claims us.

Your life purpose is not a mystery that you must spend many years searching for. **Very often, your life purpose is a subset of what you are already doing.** In many cases, you find that someone, for example, is a schoolteacher but is exceptionally good at helping slower children. This is what they really enjoy doing, yet they spend only a small portion of their time on it. Perhaps this person is actually called to start a remedial school. Their life purpose is a subset of something they are already doing.

Could it be that you are already dabbling in your life purpose, but the problem is that you only spend 5% of your time in it?

A key question to ask yourself is:

What percentage of my time is currently spent on what I was born to do? A lot of people we admire because of their talent and effectiveness are ordinary people fully dedicated to their purpose. They become very good and even great through practice and faithfulness. **Some of you have great natural talent but seem average because you are not devoted to it.**

Many people have figured out what they were born to do, but few people know the steps required to get there. It's important not only to know your destination but also to understand the various milestones along the way. Sadly, for many people, everyone else can see their calling—it's obvious to them—but unfortunately, it's not obvious to the person carrying the gift. There's no point in others seeing it if you can't see it yourself.

A leader said to me recently, “Paul, what do I do if I can see the potential in some of my people, but they can't see it themselves?” **One of our jobs as leaders is to help people see themselves from God's perspective. We act as mirrors.**

It's important to learn how to dream again. The Bible says in *Proverbs 13:12* “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*” **Many people have become survivors. We need to shift from surviving to thriving. Surviving is a coping mechanism.** Many people have unconsciously decided, “*Let me lower my standards so that I'm not disappointed. Let me stop dreaming so that I'm not disappointed.*”

It's crucial that we learn to dream again about who we are becoming. It's important that the vision you have for your life is a God-sized vision. You don't change the world by simply paying your bills. It might stop you from going to jail, but that mindset will hinder your impact. #SurvivalMode. This is the norm for many.

There are some important questions we all need to ask ourselves at certain points in our lives:

- **Why am I here?**
- **Why was I born?**
- **With whom am I called to build?**
Many people are doing what God has called them to do, but they keep getting derailed because they are doing it with the wrong crowd.
- **Whom does God want me to reach?**
- **For what did God make me?**
- **What do I find most fulfilling?**

- **What comes to me easily where others seem to struggle?**

Don't take it for granted just because you've done it all your life. There are many people who struggle with that very thing—it's a gift. This is a critically important question because it reveals what you are graced to do. The anointing makes things easier.

For what has God anointed me?

Where am I most fruitful?

In other words, where do I see results—the impact of my gift-mix? In what area am I asked to return again and again? E.g. "Why didn't you give Paul more time to speak at the conference. We want him back again next year."

What frustrates me and burdens me?

Think of Paul the apostle. There were certain things that burdened him. He was burdened by the fact that Christ was not fully formed in some of his disciples. This indicated that he was called to make disciples, and so he was frustrated when they were not fully formed. **If you are called to be a teacher of the Word, people's ignorance will often frustrate and burden you. You only feel fulfilled when the lights turn on in others.**

Many people make the mistake of confusing standard responsibilities with calling.

A key question to ask yourself is:

What standard responsibility have I confused with my calling?

For example, some people say, "My calling is to be a good husband and to love my wife." But isn't that true of anyone who is married? Loving your wife is a responsibility, not a calling. What happens when the kids grow up?

It's important for your passion and gifting to be aligned. Many people have grown to care deeply about a certain group of people, but the problem is that they are ineffective and unfruitful in helping that group because their gifting is not being used in that context.

What often happens is this: you can have two people with the same passion—for example, helping young entrepreneurs. One of them has the gift of teaching and goes out to equip these young entrepreneurs. The other, who is equally passionate, is not gifted as a teacher but as a weaver—someone who connects people. Sadly, this individual has never seen weaving modelled, but has seen many people trying to teach young entrepreneurs. As a result, he starts an organisation for the people he is passionate about. Unfortunately, it doesn't succeed because he doesn't use his gift of weaving to connect the entrepreneurs with funders. Instead, he tries to teach and equip them, and it fails because he is not graced in that area.

The converse is also true. **When people use their gift-mix brilliantly but with the wrong crowd, they are often less fruitful because the target audience is not their primary assignment.**

When you identify who you truly care deeply about and minister to them in the area God has graced you, that's where you will bear fruit.

Another powerful question is this:

For what am I the go-to person?

And finally, ask yourself:

Is there anything I'm good at that I've never used for the advancement of God's Kingdom?

Perhaps it's cooking, serving, organising, or even fundraising.

1 Peter 4:10–11 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

If you want to succeed in life, stick to God's purpose

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

By implication, my plans won't prevail. **We must know the difference between our plans and God's purpose. Don't assume all your cool ideas are God's purpose.**

Purpose matures through faithfulness and perseverance.

Philippians 1:6 “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...”

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest...”

Many people are in God's will and purpose but unfortunately, they have become weary of doing good. Sadly, this often happens just before harvest time.

God's will is discovered through surrender.

Romans 12:1–2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Here is a summary of some characteristics of God's Purpose

1. **Designed, not accidental** – Psalm 139
2. **Planned, not random** – Jeremiah 29:11
3. **Prepared for good works** – Ephesians 2:10
4. **Called, not coerced** – Romans 8:28
5. **Discovered through surrender** – Romans 12:1–2
6. **Fulfilled through perseverance** – Philippians 1:6
7. **Completed for God's glory** – Revelation 4:11

Conclusion: Living What You Were Created For

As we come to the end of this message, one truth should be unmistakably clear: **you were not created by accident, you were not shaped randomly, and you are not placed where you are by**

mistake. You were created intentionally by God, formed with precision, and made for impact—all for His glory. **Purpose is not something you invent; it is something you discover and steward. God has already done the hard work of creation, formation, and preparation. Our responsibility is not to strive for purpose, but to surrender to it.**

Many of us are busy, but not fruitful. Active, but not aligned. **Many are faithful in responsibility, but hesitant in calling.** And today, God is inviting us to move from simply surviving to truly thriving—to stop living beneath our grace and to stop shrinking our lives to fit disappointment.

Your gifts are not accidental. Your burdens are not random. Your frustrations are often signposts pointing toward your calling. And the areas where you are most fruitful are clues to where God wants you to invest more of your life.

So the question is not, “*Do I have a purpose?*”

The real question is, “*Am I living it?*”

What would change if you gave more time, more faith, and more courage to what God has already graced you to do? What would shift if you stopped conforming to the patterns of this world and allowed God to renew your mind so that your life aligned with His purpose?