

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION IN LIFE?

A Written Guide to Developing a
Personal Mission Statement

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*“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work
you gave me to do.” (John 17:4)*

Name:

What is Your Mission?

“For David . . . served the purposes of God in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36)

Your Life Purpose

Jeremiah 29:11-12: “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.”

God has a purpose for our lives. Best selling author, Pastor Rick Warren (*The Purpose-Driven Life*), states that we were planned for His pleasure, formed for His family, created to become like Christ, shaped for serving Him and destined to achieve His purposes. Everything about our lives fits His big picture for us. We are not accidents and there is a *life purpose* for each of us.

Your *life purpose* is what God has created you to be and do. It is what brings purpose, direction and significance to your life. It is the source and focal point of your vitality, your commitment, your passion and therefore your destiny in God. Knowing and doing what God wants you to do is what will bring blessing to your life.

Understanding your *life purpose* clarifies the essential and significant things you are to focus upon. It helps you gain perspective of where you are and where you want to go – in personal conduct and action. Knowing your *life purpose* can assist you in setting personal and ministry priorities. It can also give you the ability to live your life more intentionally for God.

Your Personal Mission Statement

John 17:18: “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

A very helpful tool for discovering your *life purpose* is the development of a Personal Mission Statement. As author Steven Covey shares in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*:

“A mission statement is a powerful document that expresses your personal sense of purpose and meaning in life. It acts as a governing constitution by which you evaluate decisions and choose behaviors.”

Your Personal Mission Statement helps keep you from getting distracted and drifting away from what matters most. *The Purpose-Driven Life* offers five things your mission statement will do for you:

It's a statement that summarizes God's purpose for your life.

It's a statement that points the direction of your life because it makes you think specifically about the path of your life.

It's a statement that defines "success" for you . . . it is about what you, not others or the world, think is important.

It's a statement that helps clarify your roles since they change in life but your purposes may not.

It's a statement that expresses the unique way God made you to serve him.

Developing Your Personal Mission Statement

This exercise will help you develop your Personal Mission Statement.

There is more than one type of *mission statement* a person can develop. Typically, an individual creates a mission that embraces God's life purpose for them. It includes their entire life – marriage, work, family, friends, etc. However, a couple may develop a *mission statement* for their marriage or even one for their role as parents. And organizations create *mission statements* that detail the role of the organization in accomplishing the vision for which it is created.

It can even be helpful for a department of an organization to develop a *mission statement* that describes the department's role in accomplishing the overall organization's *mission*. And it is even more powerful when individuals within departments develop Personal Mission Statements that describe the individual's sense of purpose for working at the Ministry and the ways in which he/she desires to conduct him/herself.

The following process is created to help you, as a leader develop your Personal Mission Statement so that you know God's purpose for you.

The Process

“Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21)

A good way to discover or clarify your *personal mission* is to follow a multi-step process of writing out a Personal Mission Statement. The process of writing out your statement is done primarily through prayer, reflection and discovery. Much of your *mission* is already within you. It has been placed in your heart through your knowledge of God and His Word, through the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, and through your life experiences.

It is important to understand that the discovery of your *personal mission* and creation of a Personal Mission Statement is not a “one time event”. I have written out four different statements over the past fifteen years. The first one I did was in 1990 in a group setting at a Ministry. Each subsequent one has been clearer and more focused.

Developing your Personal Mission Statement can be an easy process, other times it may be challenging. Either way, it is highly rewarding. Remember, be rigorously honest with yourself. This is all about you and the inner desires God has placed in your heart to serve others through the unique way he has formed and shaped you.

A thought to keep in mind: The more intentional and committed we are about seeking only His will for our lives, the clearer our *life purpose* becomes.

The Steps

Proverbs 16:9: “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.”

To discover or clarify your *personal mission*, prayerfully ask God for His direction and revelation (or plan to spend time in meditation and reflection) as you answer the following questions.

1. Do you have lingering desires or dreams about serving God or others - - especially those that seem to have come from God or are very deep within you? Psalm 107:9: “For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”

Write them down – even the ones you may have given up on.

2. List 3-5 key Bible verses, Biblical principles/commandments, proverbs, or other sayings that mean a lot to you. Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

- 3. Make a list of 3-5 men or women that you admire from your life and/or the Bible. 1 Corinthians 11:1: “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” After each name list the characteristics(s) you admire.**

- 4. Think of individuals you have worked with over the years and answer the following questions:**

What three people have you admired the most and what did you admire about them? _____

What three people did you admire the least? Why?

Reflect back on your life. Try to remember those important lessons of life that you have learned. Many of these may have come through others or even through difficult times or failure.

James 1:2-4: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Write down 2 or 3 of the most important ones.

What have you learned through difficult work situations? About yourself? Others? Teamwork? Leadership?

**6. Now list what you don't want in your personal and professional/business life.
Romans 13:12: "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."
When finished, circle the top two or three that elicit the most negative emotional response.**

7. List what you do want in your personal and professional or business life.

2 Peter 1:5-8: “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When finished circle the top two or three items that you want the most.

8. Imagine being dead after your 80th birthday.

Psalm 144:4: “Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow.”

What “epitaph” would you want written on your tombstone?

9. What would you want others (especially family, friends, ministry/business partners) to say about you at your eulogy?

Psalm 1:1-3: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

What would you want God to say to you upon encountering Him in person?

Matthew 25:21: "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

The Next Step in Fulfilling Your Mission

Living one's life so that your *life purpose* may be accomplished requires thought, prayer/meditation, planning and action. This is often described as "being intentional".

You have taken the major step of writing out a *Personal Mission Statement*. Now focus your effort on its fulfillment through establishing a simple plan that will help you live by what you desire.

Prayerfully examine your life today.

Psalm 26:2: "Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind."

What one thing can you do over the next thirty (30) days that will better help you fulfill your personal mission?

What second thing can you do over the next ninety (90) days that will further help you fulfill your mission?

What third thing can you do over the next year that will help you fulfill your mission?

Summarize your three goals in order of priority:

Do you need or desire anyone's assistance to help you in carrying out any of these three goals you want to accomplish in the next year?

Proverbs 18:15: "The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out."

If so, who and how?

When and how will you review how well your plan is working?

Congratulations! You have discovered and/or clarified your *life purpose* by writing

out a Personal Mission Statement. You have also chosen three goals to focus upon that will bring your organizational life more in conformity with your *life purpose*.

“The Lord bless you, The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26)