

# FIND YOUR PURPOSE

What are some ways you have heard people answer the question, what is the meaning of life? Do you have your own answer you are willing to throw into the mix?

A quick Google search reveals that this question is one of the most talked about things by people everywhere. What it really signifies is a search for significance or purpose. Something that makes this life on earth worthwhile or meaningful. In fact, it is discussed so often that there is an entire sub-culture of comedy about this seemingly endless search. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is the classic example of this and it tries to provide a mathematical answer to the question. It states that "The answer to life, the universe and everything" is 42. If you ask Siri what the meaning of life is, on the other hand, you will get all sorts of answers including - "All evidence to date suggests it's chocolate." As fun as it is to joke about these things, finding our purpose in life is something we all have wondered about. Maybe you're still trying to discover yours.

The extra question that gets added into this search for meaning for a Christian is: what is God's purpose for my life? The good news is that you living out your life with purpose and meaning and direction is actually something God is very interested in. As we talk about this today, we are going to unpack the following equation to help discover our purpose:

Your calling + your platform = your purpose.

But, before that, a story. Moses lived a few thousand years ago at a time when the Jewish nation had been enslaved by Egypt for 400 years. He was Jewish by birth, but had been raised in the king's house as an Egyptian. This left him with some serious questions around his purpose in life. While trying to work all this out, he ended up killing an Egyptian slave master while defending a fellow Jewish man who was being beaten. Unable to face the consequences of what he had done, he ran away into the desert where he lived for the next 40 years as a shepherd. We're going to pick the story up at a conversation he has with God, where he starts to finally discover his purpose in life after all this time.

Read [Exodus 3:1-12](#), [Exodus 4:1-8, 17, 20](#).

What do you relate to in this story? What stands out as significant?

God is starting to reveal to Moses his purpose in life. It is a huge thing that he is being called to do, and he is understandably hesitant to step into that role. However, it is, in many ways, what God has been preparing him for his whole life. The training he received growing up in the king's palace, combined with the maturity he gained as a shepherd in the desert, have all been leading up to this moment.

Then there is the matter of the staff that we made a point of highlighting. God says to Moses, "What is that in your hand?", to which Moses replies, "A staff." This was his shepherd's staff, which he used to care for the sheep. There was nothing special or significant about it, other than the fact that it symbolised what Moses' current profession and skill set were. Yet you see in this story how God takes whatever is in Moses' hand, whatever his skills and experiences are, and then uses them in ways Moses never could have imagined in order to achieve his purpose.

Let's sidestep from this story for a moment and talk about calling and platform. In the 'calling + platform = purpose' equation, calling and platform are both vital, but don't really deserve equal footing. Your calling makes up 90% of your purpose and your platform is really only the other 10%. So what is your calling and platform?

When we start to read the Bible and see what it is that God desires for us, every human's calling is exactly the same. First, our calling is to pursue the image of God in our lives. This means we actually put self aside and find ourselves in something that is bigger than who we are alone. It is to pursue God and be found in His story. Second, it is to restore the image of God in the world. This means that God wants us to go into the broken places of the world and bring about wholeness. For Moses, this meant he had to look past his own life as a shepherd and see that there was a bigger story at play in his life than he was currently living - God's story. It also meant making a decision to follow God's instruction into the dark and broken world of slavery that his people were in and set them free. Now, you may not be feeling called to release a whole nation from slavery, but your overall calling is still to pursue the image of God in your life and restore the image of God in the world.

Thinking about your own life, how might this calling look for you?

So what's the deal with platform? Your platform is wherever you find yourself right now that your calling can be carried out on. Your platform is your school or workplace, the suburb and street you live in, the people you do life with, your talents, hobbies, skills and passions. Platform all comes down to the question, what is in your hand?

One of the problems with all of this is we often spend 95% of our energy, time, and effort stressing either about our current platform or our next platform. We wonder about the future, our careers, university, relationships, trying not to lose good things in our lives, which church to attend and so much more. All of that energy and effort often ends up distracting us from our calling and causing us to miss out on living God's purpose for our lives today. The key to having hope and meaning and peace about your purpose is to learn to hold tight to your calling and loosely to your platform. When God is ready, He will shift the platform, even if you're not.

Moses' platform shifted many times throughout his life, but his calling remained the same. He didn't always carry it out perfectly, but even as a young man in Egypt we see that he had some sense of being a part of a bigger story and a desire to heal the brokenness around him. Then he became comfortable living as a quiet desert nomad for a time but God wasn't done with him yet. His final and largest platform was leading an entire nation out of slavery in the name of God.

What is your current platform? How can you live out God's calling where you find yourself right now?

Can you see why it's important to hold tight to the calling and loose to the platform? We have no idea what life will throw our way. Sometimes in life everything will be going great, and other times it will feel like everything is falling to pieces. The good news is that no matter where you find yourself on that spectrum right now, you can fulfil 90% of your life purpose by leaning into the calling to pursue the image of God in your life and restore the image of God in your world.

So getting back to Moses' staff. At the beginning of the story, the staff was merely a work tool for herding sheep. By the end of the story it is referred to as 'the staff of the Lord,' the tool that God used to rescue a nation. What is in your hand right now? What could happen if you allowed God to use that to fulfil His calling in your life?