

We are Women of P.U.R.P.O.S.E. in the Kingdom of God

By Dale Young

1. What does it mean to become a woman of purpose?
2. How do we find our purpose in God?
3. What role does our heritage play in living by our God ordained purpose?

I believe answering each of these questions in a personal way, is a challenge that is set before all of us. The following lesson concerns the first question. How do we BECOME a woman of P.U.R.P.O.S.E.? The additional questions will be addressed at the Women's Retreat next month!

To answer each question we must first realize two things:

ONE - God has called us unto himself because He loves us

TWO - that God has a plan for **each** of our lives.

God's love and God's purpose make each one of us very significant in the kingdom of God no matter what our limitations or backgrounds.

It automatically qualifies us to have the right to enter into the presence of God worshipping at His feet and learning from Him.

It automatically qualifies us to pray with power and authority over everything that would hinder us from pursuing God's purpose for our lives.

God is a covenant keeping God. God is in covenant relationship with you to strengthen you, to equip you, to train you, and lead you, so that you will be able to experience the **fullness** of your purpose in God. Finding our purpose is a process of releasing ourselves and our concerns to God and watching as HE creates life in them. It is not always an easy road. It is a road that requires faith to move forward. But you will find that the journey is worth the destination!

How do you **BECOME** a woman of purpose?

- You must be willing to dig a well. No one draws a cup of pure water from a shallow well. Women of purpose in the bible were women who knew how to dig deep and bless those she came in contact with.

LET'S LOOK AT THE WORD "PURPOSE" AS AN ACRONYM. BY APPLYING THESE PRINCIPLES WE WILL BECOME A WOMAN OF P.U.R.P.O.S.E. IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Women of Purpose are women of

P**RAISE** - They are seeking to express themselves openly without fear. They have experienced God's grace and mercy for themselves and understand that God loves them.

Women of Purpose are women of

U**NITY** - They are learning to find intimacy and vulnerability with others.

Women of Purpose are women of

R**EVELATION** - They are diligent in their study of God's word. Willing to be taught
They are learning to *FIND REVELATION FROM GOD'S WORD* so they can *RECEIVE INSPIRATION FROM GOD'S WORD* and *LIVE BY THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD*

Women of Purpose are women of

P**RAYER** - They are learning to make the time to feed at God's table. They go beyond a "wish" list to a time of entering into God's presence for personal cleansing, crying out to God for mercy, provision, and direction.

Women of Purpose are women of

O**BEDIENCE** - They are willing to submit to spiritual authority and allow God to have control of every aspect of their lives. They willingly speak to those whom they respect in Christ to receive counsel, instruction, encouragement and correction.

Women of Purpose are women of

S**ERVICE** - They are willing to prefer the other women in the body of Christ. They refuse to strive with those whom they live in community with. They willingly inconvenience themselves for the sake of others with no desire for personal recognition. They understand the imperative need for true unity and a lifestyle of community. They are hospitable.

Women of Purpose are women of

E**NCOURAGEMENT AND EVANGELISM** - They are able to speak words of truth in faith. They share their testimony with others from an attitude of peace spoken with pure motives. Refusing the temptation to be manipulative. II Timothy 2:2

In the process of Responding to life as a woman of P.U.R.P.O.S.E. we discover the ability to **develop and live by our faith in GOD** is what is most important. **THIS** faith allows us to express our individual roles - or purpose in such a way that we inspire others and impact the world around us with the glory of the Kingdom of God.

Let's look at the story of One such woman who so impacted those around her that even Paul refers to her in the New Testament. She is spoken of as a woman of such faith and honor that she is referred to as an example of faith in God!

Luke 4:25-26 (Amplified Bible)

But in truth I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were closed up for three years and six months, so that there came a great famine over all the land; And yet Elijah was not sent to a single one of them, but only to Zarephath in the country of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

Zarephath was a woman who had a good reputation with God! He knew she would respond to the prophet in a way that would bring life to her and her household. Of course, at the time she had no idea how it would turn out!

The full story is in I Kings 17:8-24 As we read it we will see her commitment to live as a woman of **P.U.R.P.O.S.E.** enabled her to naturally respond with spiritual wisdom in a critical situation.

I Kings 17:8-24 ⁸And the word of the Lord came to him: ⁹Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you. ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her, Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

This was a REASONABLE request and she was a kind woman willing to attend to the needs of others even in her own time of need. She was a woman willing to sacrifice. **SHE WAS A WOMAN OF SERVICE**

¹¹As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.-

This was an UNREASONABLE request because he knew this was a time of famine and God had already told him this woman was a widow.- **Her ability to serve out of a relationship with God, allowed her to look closely at this man and override her maternal instinct to protect her son at all cost and refuse the man what little she had.**

¹²And she said, As the Lord your God lives, I have not a loaf baked but only a handful of meal in the jar and a little oil in the bottle. See, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it-- and die. **SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO WAS ABLE TO PERCEIVE GOD IN OTHERS, A WOMAN OF REVELATION. SHE AND HER SON WOULD HAVE DIED IF SHE HAD NOT BEEN OBEDIENT.**

¹³Elijah said to her, Fear not; go and do as you have said. But make me a little cake of [it] first and bring it to me, and afterward prepare some for yourself and your son. **THIS IS SOMEONE WHO HAD LEARNED TO BE A WOMAN OF OBEDIENCE. SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO KNEW HOW TO SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS.**

¹⁴For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: The jar of meal shall not waste away or the bottle of oil fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth. ¹⁵She did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not spent nor did the bottle of oil fail, according to the word which the Lord spoke through Elijah. **SHE WAS A WOMAN OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH.**

¹⁷After these things, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Elijah, What have you against me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call my sin to remembrance and to slay my son? **THIS IS A WOMAN WHO KNEW TO GO TO THE MAN OF GOD WITH HER DOUBT AND FEAR AND NOT TO JUST GOSSIP OR MURMUR-SHE PRAYED.**

¹⁹He said to her, Give me your son. And he took him from her bosom and carried him up into the chamber where he stayed and laid him upon his own bed. **SHE LET GO AND SHE PRAYED.**

²⁰And Elijah cried to the Lord and said, O Lord my God, have You brought further calamity upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? ²¹And he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord and said, O Lord my God, I pray You, let this child's soul come back into him. **THIS IS A FORESHADOWING OF CHRIST.**

²²And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the [lower part of the] house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, See, your son is alive! ²⁴And the woman said to Elijah, By this I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth. **AND SHE PRAISED!!!! THIS IS SOMEONE WHO HAS LEARNED TO BECOME A WOMAN OF REVELATION AND EVANGELISM.**