

☝️How many of you have ever wondered 'Why am I here?'

It is a very important question to ask

The problem is even though it is a question that people all over the world ask

and one that a lot of people struggle to answer

Many of them their whole lives

So it results in being a source of aimlessness, lack of focus, depression, and has led to many suicides

Because people feel they have no purpose, meaning or value

And for others it has been a question that has driven them forward

Some to become great success'

In spite of the difficulties and hardships

☝️Steve Jobs and Nick Vujicic would be a couple modern day examples

Why Am I Here?

It is a question that I personally struggled with for a long time

And one that almost drove me to suicide in my

early teen years

I grew up feeling like I had no value and no purpose

And even when I came to see that suicide wasn't
the answer I still struggled with this feeling

And when I encountered God personally one of the first
things He showed me was that I had meaning and purpose

☞ Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give
you a future and a hope.”***

All of us, no matter where we are in life or what we think
about ourselves are here for and with a purpose

☞ And the Psalmist wrote in Psalms 139:13,16 NLT

***“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother’s womb.***

...

***Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.”***

☞ And to the church in Ephesus Paul wrote
Ephesians 2:10 NLT

***“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew
in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned
for us long ago.”***

You were planned, and everyone of us has a purpose, has
value and meaning

☛<On A Mission>

Why am I here? It is up to us to discover what our mission is because each one of us has one

If you haven't started that journey yet it is a life changing one that I invite you to take

You will never be the same

As I was praying about what to talk with you about I really felt that I was supposed to talk with you about mission, but more about how God releases us into the purpose He has for us

Something I have learned over the last year is that we tend to overlook some of the ways that God shows us who we are and what our purpose is

I know I did

And for many years I misunderstood what God was doing in me

And I thought that a lot of my life was simply wasted and so I didn't look to see what God was trying to do in me

All the failures, trials and hardships

All the times I went my own way

God was there in all of them

And if we overlook what God is trying to do in us
we tend to miss out on what He is working to
release in our lives

You see God doesn't just release us into the dream and
purpose He has for us

In fact He usually doesn't tell us the whole story
either

☕ What I have learned over that last few years is It is the
moments of life that lead us into our mission

Time may be measured in minutes , but life is measured in
moments . And some moments are larger than life .

Ninety - nine percent of life's experiences vanish
like vapor into the subconscious abyss . Only one
percent make it into our conscious memories .

And less than one percent of that one percent are
not just memorable but truly unforgettable .

Those are the moments that define us . And it's
those defining moments that dictate the way we see
life .

There are a lot of moments in our lives that God is using
to do amazing things in us

Some of the most powerful ones are the ones that
we see as negative

The things you see as negatives about yourself

And the experiences that you have which you feel
are negative

God is using all of those to form you and release you into
your purpose

Difficulties and hardships are moments that can
define us for the negative or for the positive

difficult childhoods have produced some of the strongest
people I know

Look at Joseph in Scripture

He was the favorite son of Jacob

He was given a bright coat of many colors and was
a very proud young man

and his brothers hated him

But God still planned to use him powerfully, despite his
shortcomings

And God spoke to Joseph about his future

And the story is found in Genesis 37 – 50

God told Joseph that he was to be a powerful ruler
where his whole family and all the nations would
bow to him

What Joseph didn't know was how God was going to get him there

God neglected to tell Joseph about all the little moments that He would use to define him and make him into a wise young man ready to rule

God never talked to Joseph about being sold into slavery by his brothers

He never talked about the abuse he would endure, because slaves were not often well treated

He never talked to Joseph about the 13 years in prison because he wouldn't sleep with his master wife

God missed a lot of details when He talked to Joseph about the mission He was called to

But it was those moments in Joseph's life that allowed him to become the man who could fulfill God's mission

It was those memorable moments in his life that formed him and shaped him and brought him from being that spoiled proud boy to a strong powerful leader

And Joseph isn't the only one who God has done this with

Moses needed to tend sheep for forty years before he could lead the flock of Israel .

The disciples needed to fish for fish before they could fish for men .

And even Jesus needed to craft masterpieces in wood before He made masterpieces out of us .

☞ ***“Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.”***

Hebrews 5:8 NLT

What are we doing with our moments?

☞ <Nick Vujicic – Learn From The Bad>

☞ Every past experience is preparation for some future opportunity . God doesn’t just redeem our souls . He also redeems our experiences . And not just the good ones . He redeems the bad ones too — especially the bad ones .

How ? By cultivating character , developing gifts , and teaching us lessons that cannot be learned any other way .

Sometimes it is the hardest experiences which form the strongest foundations

Around the turn of the twentieth century, a pioneering psychologist named Alfred Adler

Adler concluded that perceived disadvantages , such as birth defects , physical ailments , and poverty , can be springboards to success . And that success is not achieved

in spite of those perceived disadvantages . It's achieved because of them .

Difficult circumstances are common to us all

What we do with them determines the outcome

Every divine appointment is preceded by a season of preparation .

God speaks about our potential, and then starts working on releasing that potential

And if we submit to the preparation , God will fulfill His promise . If we don't , He won't . Why? Because God never sets us up to fail

The problem is we don't usually see what is happening in our lives as the hand of God working

We just see the circumstances for what we can see

And most would agree that they suck

Many is the time I have gone to God and said
“Why do I keep getting the short end of the stick?”

What I have learned over the years is we usually err on one of two sides when it comes to difficulties

And God loses both times

We either say that God is absent and the difficulties come

So I need to get my life back together so
God can bless me

And we wonder why God left us

The second things many people believe is that God
caused the problems

Be they lesson, or judgment God gets
blamed

Why did you do this to me?

What I have come to learn is that God doesn't create our
problems

We do a fantastic job ourselves

And life is problems, check your pulse – still have
one, great you have problems

God isn't the cause of our problems, but He is there in all
our problems

☞ ***“We know that God makes all things work together
for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be
a part of His plan.” Romans 8:28 NLV***

All too often we see prosperity as blessing and difficulties
as punishment or training or something

We need to start seeing the difficulties as blessings

It is those moments in our lives that move us into our mission

What is important is our attitude – We can become bitter or better

☕ Your experiences will either empower you or debilitate you .

They can be a catalyst for change or they can be as imprisoning as iron bars . And it's up to you .

The longer I live , the more I thank God for the disappointments in my life . Those disappointments often prove to be divine appointments .

They may come disguised as divine delays or perceived disadvantages . But if you give God a chance , He will redeem your disappointments . Of that you can be sure.

Part of keeping the right attitude is realizing that your mission it isn't a place God wants to take you

You fulfilling you mission is not a destination

We tend to see it as a place to get to, something to accomplish

What is more important to God is who you are becoming than what you are doing

And it is in the becoming that the mission is accomplished

The mission is accomplished along the way
of becoming

It was the years of being faithful despite the circumstances
where Joseph developed the character qualities necessary
to fulfill the plan of God for him

We see the events of Josephs life in Egypt and
never think about the process God was working
him through

Even David had to work the process of becoming so he
could fulfill the purpose

It's not until you find yourself facing the biggest
challenge of your life that God reveals how and
when and where He prepared you .

That's when you recognize that the battle isn't won
on the battlefield . It's won or lost long before that

For God it was never about the giant.

It was always about David becoming the man God
wanted Him to become.

David understood this process

And he could look at all the circumstances he went
through

And all the hardships he endured

And all the false accusations

And in the end David could write

☞ ***“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”***

Psalm 119:71–72 ESV

David knew it was more to do with becoming who God wanted him to be, than about any accomplishments along the way

When it comes to the will of God , we tend to focus on what and where . But what you are doing or where you are going are secondary issues .

The goal is not accomplishing the dream God has given to you. The dream is a secondary issue. The primary issue is who you become in the process.

We fixate on what and when and where. God’s primary concern is always who. And He won’t get you where He wants you to go until you become who He wants you to be.

God is interested in who you are becoming

So take a deep breath , enjoy the journey

We need to keep the right attitude

But we also need to deal with the memories

Our memories can either empower us to live by faith or
imprison us to live by fear.

We need to go back into those memories and begin
to see how they changed and formed you

Or how they imprisoned you

You have your memories for a reason

They had an effect on you

Go back to see if it was a good or a bad effect and
then work it through

Only when we are willing to do so can our future
be released

Joseph had many years to work through his
memories of what had happened to him

He had the choices we do, to allow them to
make him better, or to hold them and make
him bitter

In the end Joseph was able to say to his brothers

👉 ***“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for
good.”*** Genesis 50:20 NLT

It was his choices of how to deal with his
memories that opened the doors to his future

And your choices can either lock or unlock

the door to your future

Start by dividing your life into chapters, corresponding to ages and stages. Then go all the way back to your earliest memories. What are they? Positive or negative, how did they shape you?

And how can God redeem those past experiences to help you move into your future destiny? Digging into your past can be emotionally exhausting, but remember, your destiny is hidden there. Pray for a spirit of revelation. Make sure you have a journal to record your thoughts

Working through those memories helps us to see where God was in all of them

And can help us to identify and unlock who we are to become

Corrie Ten Boom deeply understood what I am sharing today

And she wrote after spending years in concentration camps

My life is but a weaving between my God and me, I do not choose the colors, He works so steadily, Oft times He weaves in sorrow, and I in foolish pride, Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside. Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why. The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's skillful hand, As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.