

Purpose – The 7 P’s of Purpose Part II

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Nathaniel Bronner: When you understand purpose, it changes what you do.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part two of the series titled, Purpose, subtitled, The Seven P's of Purpose, by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5857.

(Music Playing: 00:00:16 - 00:00:29)

And now for, Purpose Part 2, The 7 P's of Purpose.

Nathaniel Bronner: Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.

And today, I'm really in the middle of the series simply called Purpose. You know in life, so often we struggle with knowing what is my purpose in life, you know they say, that there are two great moments in your life: the first when you are born, and the second, when you find out why. And a lot of people go through life and they never even know the question and answers of, "Why am I here? What am I supposed to do? What is my purpose?" So, in this series we're going to just try to address some of that. So, we can get to the purpose of your life.

There was a preacher and he was visiting a city, so he went online trying to find some him somewhere to eat and he saw this restaurant and it was called, Church of God Grill. So, he said, "Church of God Grill?" What kind of restaurant is that? So, he dialed up, called the restaurant on the phone, and young man answered with a very cheery voice, "Hello, this is Church of God Grill, how may I help you?" And he said, "Yeah, I'm just curious – what kind of establishment is this?" "It's a grill, it's a restaurant." He said, "Yeah, I kind of gathered now." But how did you come about that name of Church of God Grill? He said, "Well, it's a rather unusual history. First of all, we were a mission church and every week we would serve the homeless, we would serve the poor, we had a mission and we really were helping people."

So, people would come from all over and after the church on Sunday, we began serving chicken sandwiches and the chicken sandwiches were really, really good and the chicken sandwiches help to defray some of the expenses of the ministry. And more and more people were coming to get the chicken sandwiches and we were making more and more money from the chicken

sandwiches. So, we actually started decreasing our church hours and increasing the hours of the chicken sandwiches. So eventually, we just shut down the mission and we fulltime Church of God Grill.

You see, even in church. You've got to know your purpose. And if you don't know your purpose, you can get all off track. And that's why even when I became the senior pastor here, my first goal was going to be the fill up the church.

And I told you this once before how God sent me through a series of question of why, why, why and why and finally I had to ask God, "What do you want me to do?" He said, "Do not worry about trying to fill up the church, you just fill the people." He gave me a different purpose and that's why now, I don't worry about how many folks are here because that's not my purpose.

So, when you understand purpose, it changes what you do. And it changes how you understand things, but there's so many people right now and you in life and you really don't know what you were supposed to be doing, you really don't know your purpose.

There was an interview on 60 Minutes, Tom Brady. Tom Brady is a quarterback of the New England Patriots. He is probably the most celebrated modern quarterback there is, definitely the most celebrated of any quarterback playing. He's won six Super Bowls and he was being interviewed by 60 Minutes after he hit one three of the Super Bowls and he had three Superbowl rings. And they asked him this question. What it is all about? And Tom Brady answered this, he says, "Why do I have three Super Bowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me?" I mean, maybe a lot of people would say, "Hey man, this year is what it is." He said, "I reached my goal, my dream, my life. Me I think it got to be more than this." I mean, this can't be all there is, because it's just not cracked up to be.

And then the interviewer asked Tom, and said, "Well what's the answer?" And Brady just look at him and he said, "I wish I knew; I wish I knew."

Now here is the man, at the absolute pinnacle of career.

Here is a man that millions of folks just idolize, who young boys and men dreamed they wish they could be like Tom Brady. And here was Tom Brady on 60 Minute says, "There's got to be more to life than this." And I don't know what it is. When you can get your life's purpose, it changes how you feel and it changes what you think.

There was an article that came out last week and the article was a scientific survey and it basically said they had found the age for the average person found the meaning of life. And it's a really good article, I don't have time to go into details about the article but I put the article at link, go to coachb.tv/meaning and there you will find this article. Coachb.tv/meaning.

And there you will find what the scientists said about the meaning of life and what age most people were when they found the meaning of life. You know what that age was? 60. Most people had to hit 60 years old before they got a sense of the meaning of life, the problem is by the time you hit 60, you know, you're all up there.

And then it says, when they finally found the meaning of life, most of the folks were now dealing with some significant health challenges. So now you found the meaning of life, but it is better to find it older than never, but it's better to find it at a younger age, where you can go through life with an understanding of meaning.

So today, I want to talk about the P's of purpose. Just the P's of purpose, to help us as we go through these series, kind of get a grasp and to get a little bit better vision in what is our purpose of life. Next week, I'm going to tell you what the Bible says your purpose is. But I want to go to the P's of purpose today.

And the first P of purpose is to understand phase. Not F-A-C-E but P-H-A-S-E, phase. To understand that as you go through life, you go through phases of life. And often, your purpose at 10 years old, is not your same purpose at 60 years old. So, you have to understand first of all the phase of your life.

And there's a phase usually that you're going through in your younger years when you're 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 years old to be on it, your prime purpose is just school. You know, that's one of the major obstacles that you have to go through and you have to

accomplish and conquer. But do you know, there's a major epidemic in America in particular among young people that is actually caused the lifespan on America to go down and it's going down because of two phenomena: Number one is, the opioid addiction. People are so hooked now on these super strong narcotic drugs and these are mainly the very young people.

And number two, suicide. So, there's a huge uptick of drug use of these super powerful opioid drugs and suicide and most of that when you trace it down. They don't know their purpose. And they can't find the meaning of life and if they knew why they were here and what they were supposed to do, but because they don't know what they are here and what they supposed to do, they let trivial things take all of their attention.

And all of the psychologists they're finding that one of the major detriments of the mental health of young people are social media. Because now, they're more concern about how many likes they get and who follows them, and all this kind of stuff and how many friends they got and it becomes so sensitive of stuff.

Your purpose is not Facebook and Instagram and Snapchat. But if you got to distorted view of what the purpose of life is, your purpose can be your peril if you don't have it right. So, you have to understand first of all, you go through phases of life. And with phases, Pastor James, why put out a video of him dancing? And do you know when I was young, one of my biggest problems was being able to dance. And if you went to a party and to a function, you had to make sure you could dance worth the hoot and none of us had any rhythm and what the hoot, and we kind of knew we were not the best dancer. But do you know this thing occupied a huge amount of mental energy and psychological stress and energy trying to figure that if you go to a party how you will go look dancing? That may sound funny to you, but it was real.

So now, Pastor James, didn't give a hoot what he looked like while he was dancing. See, that makes the difference. Because he understands his purpose is not a dancer. So, if you understand your purpose is not a dancer that maybe just some pleasure, but that's not your purpose.

Sometimes when you are younger you've got your purposes all mixed up and you think this is why I'm here on the earth, so I can get some likes on Facebook and your purpose becomes all distorted and when you don't get the likes, now you go into a depression, and now you thinking I'm going to end my life because I am not accomplishing what I ought to be accomplishing.

So, you have to understand first of all even just phases, and almost every ten years of life, you go through a different phase in life. When you're ten, versus when you're 20, versus when you're 30 and 40 and 50. So, every phase has a different purpose for your life and something you ought to be doing differently and if you doing the same thing at 60, that you would doing in 20, so I'm wrong.

So, your purpose has change and your focus has changed as you go through the varying phases of life. So, before you even ask, "What's my purpose of life?" You need to ask, "What phase am I in?" My phase and my purpose at 20 are not my phase and my purpose at 60. A whole different set of directions and responsibilities.

The second P that we often get confused with our purpose is our profession. Your profession is not your purpose. Now, it can be in some cases, but in the majority of cases, your profession is not your purpose. Often, we hear when people we're out and people will ask, "What do you do?" That's what you do, that's not who you are and that's not necessarily what your purpose is.

When you look through the Bible, some of the greatest people in the Bible, there purpose was not their profession. Jesus was a carpenter, that was His profession, that was not His purposes. His purpose was not to come and build you a chair. His purpose was to be able to allow you to sit on the throne of grace, it wasn't to build you a chair. So, His profession was not his purpose.

What was Abraham's profession? You don't even quite even know what it was, because that wasn't his purpose. He was a patriot to produce generations upon generations and to train those who would come after him. So, his profession was not his-- what was Noah's profession? You don't even know. The Bible didn't even tell you what his profession was. You know he built the ark, but what was his profession?

So many of the disciples were fishermen, that was their profession, it was not their purpose. So, don't get your profession confused with your purpose. Maybe you are lawyer, maybe you are doctor, maybe you're a carpenter, maybe you are janitor, maybe you're an electrician, maybe you're a teacher.

And sometimes your profession maybe your purpose. Maybe you are minister. Sometimes your profession maybe your purpose, but not necessarily so you need to understand the difference between profession and purpose. I had to change even my answer when people would ask me that inevitable question, "What do you do?" Because first of all, I got my five different jobs. So, it was very difficult to answer the question succinctly, because I'm a pastor of a church, Executive Vice President of one business, President of another business, I got an online presence, I am a daddy, I'm a husband. So, "What do you do?"

They don't ask you what is your job? They ask you, "What do you do?" And most of you all do more than one thing. So, I had to come up with an answer that was true and concise and you know what I ended up telling people when they ask me, "What do you do?" I help people. And all of my things that I do, I frame within that framework. And if I can't help people with whatever I am doing, I don't need to be doing it. It's simple as that.

So, when people ask me, "What do you do?" "I help people." It's an unusual answer, but it fits my purpose in life. So, the second P, profession and understanding your profession might be, but more often than not, your profession is not your purpose.

The common things of the world when they talk to you about purpose they will say, "Your purpose ought to be your passion." Sometimes that's true and sometimes that's not true. Again, when you go back to the Bible, oftentimes their purpose was not their passion.

The greatest writer of the Old Testament, Moses who wrote the Pentateuch, Moses didn't want to do that. That wasn't his passion that he go-- and talk to pharaoh and liberate-- that wasn't his passion at all. The matter of fact, Moses is lucky, if you get somebody else, I can talk with the (00:14:50). I don't really want to do this, that wasn't Moses' passion. That was his purpose, but that was not his passion.

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See, some of the things that God really may have for you to do, to be honest, but you may not want to do it. That just absolutely was not his passion. When you get to the New Testament, the man who wrote most of the New Testament, Paul, that's what his passion. Paul was killing Christians. So that was not Paul's passion. It didn't become Paul's passion until he had a conversion, but he had to have a conversion, he had to meet Christ face to face before he truly understood his purpose.

And even Jesus, who came to die for our sins, that wasn't his passion. Jesus said, "Lord..." if yeah, you all know the verse? Yeah, "If you can take this bitter cup from me..." "If there's any way you can take this bitter cup from me, but nevertheless, thy will be done." He didn't want to go on that cross and die. That wasn't his passion, that what his purpose.

So sometimes, your true divine purpose in life sometimes it's not particularly something that you really want to do, but there's something that God will place into you or speak to you just like when you have to speak to Moses, "Go and talk to pharaoh." "But I'm not good in my, my, my, my—I'm slow in my speech." But carry your brother with you.

Sometimes we don't want to do what God has purpose, because most of our passions to be honest about it, most of our passions are pleasurable. We equate our passion with something we want to do, and something we enjoyed doing, and usually, even if something we really want to do to get to the path of where we are really good at it, is just not easy.

So, often don't just thing because you don't have a passion that it is not your purpose, and when you begin to attune yourself to God and when you begin to really become in line before the God wants in your life, He may send you to some places that you don't want to go. He will send you to talk to some people that you don't want to speak to. He will send you to do some things that you don't want to get your hands dirty with it. God will send you to get in places where you don't feel like giving. God will often have you at a purpose of something and particularly you may not want to do. So, passion is usually always pleasurable.

When I had to have a talk with my children about it because when you look at the stats, when you look among high schoolers, 75% of high schoolers who have a passion, their passion is in two areas, entertainment and sports, but only 2% of the jobs are there. So, if you go have a job, just going to pay your bills, and 75% of the folks' passion is in an area where you're 2% of the job, more likely, you will have a job that's not in the arts, entertainment or sports.

How many of you all know folks make a full living in art, entertainment and sports? Very few, but a 75% of the passion of folks in high school. So, they had to learn to readjust their passions. It doesn't mean that you cannot enjoy what you do, but sometimes you would have to learn to enjoy the assignment, but once you become in tune with God, He will speak and show you your assignment.

The next P is proficiency. You'll generally will have some proficiency in your purpose. If God is going to send you to do something, it's usually something you will be reasonably-- He is not going to send me out to minister to the world and song and I can't sing. No, I'm not saying it's not possible, but I am saying it's not probable.

So, generally the area of your purpose, you will have a proficiency in that area, if your purpose is counseling people, you would generally be good at counseling folks. So, whatever your purpose; if your area is service, you will really generally be good at serving people. So, whatever your purpose is, you will usually have a proficiency in that particular area. If it is something that you just have no -- trust me, my area of purpose is not dancing. I have very little and any proficiency in that. So, that without question. Now for some people, it's their purpose. But for me, no. I have very little if any proficiency in that area. So usually, your area of purpose will be an area of proficiency.

The next P, it will also be an area of production. Where your purpose is, you will be able to produce some results in that area. If God has gifted you and He sent you in an area, you'll usually going to see some fruit from what you are destined and what you are proficient in and what God has set forth for you to do. You'll usually are going to see some production in that area. When God has said, "This is your purpose." You're going to see some production in that area.

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One of the major pieces that goes along with purpose, that oftentimes we really miss, is priority. When it is your purpose, you put a priority on that thing. Whatever God has really set in your life and has put a fire in your heart, for all given you just to command for-- you got to put a priority on it. You cannot do ten other things first and then, get to your purpose last. Whatever your purpose is, you're going to have to put some priority in it. And you can usually find where a person thinks their purpose is, by looking at what they prioritize in life.

If your purpose is to be a good father, look at your priorities. If your purpose is to be a good mother, look at your priorities and your purpose to be a good business person, look at your priorities. If your purpose is to be a good preacher, look at your priorities and you can tell by your priorities where your purpose is. So, where your purpose is, you have got to give it some priority.

God has spoken me and I will live to be 116 years old. I have to give that some priority. There's not just going to happen out of the blue by me sitting here, "Yup, that's going to happen." No, I got to give that some priority. I have to make some changes. I have to do stuff. I have to put a way up up at the top of the list of things on my schedule if that's going to happen. So, when you got a purpose, when you've got a promise, you've got to give it some priority.

The other thing I want to explain to you about purpose, is sometimes, a purpose will bring you peace. But other times, a purpose will bring you pain. Sometimes, it will bring you peace, sometimes, it will bring you pain. But generally, a purpose only brings you pain in the process. But you do have peace in the journey.

Let me kind of explain what I mean by that. Even just dealing with longevity, I understand that I have to be real diligent with just keeping my body in shape. It's going to turn to dust one day, but I don't plan on eternity to dust to a 116. So, if I wanted to make that so, I have to go through some pain with that.

I was having a meeting with sons this past Saturday, and after the meeting, I was getting ready to head to workout and all four of them were there and I said, "I'm getting ready to go workout

with Ringo.” I said, “Any of you all are welcome to come to work out with me.” Now, they all knew without question the workout was beneficial and all four of them had worked out with Ringo before. The first man said, “I got an appointment.” And each one of them will write down the list to finally got to join and said, “I don’t want to go.” Because they understood the pain involved. They had worked out with Ringo before, they understood that going to work out with Ringo, was going to be painful.

I knew it was going to be painful. But I understood purpose and I knew if I was going to get to the purpose, if I was going to the promise, sometimes, you have to go through the pain. And we’ve got to go through the pain of something. Sometimes, you want to be something in life, I want to design and build cars. But if you wanted design and build cars, if that’s your dream, if you feel that’s your purpose in life, you got to get an engineering degree. No company is going to hire you to build cars and you don’t have an engineering degree and even if you start your own company, you won’t know how to design and build it without an engineering degree. So, you would have to go through the pain of calculus and physics. And all kind of advance math and design. You’re going to go through the pain of that, so you can design cars.

So, sometimes if we know our purpose, we must understand the other P, which is path. And we’ve got to be able to go through the path that sometimes has pain to get to our purpose. And sometimes God will bring the destiny or purpose in our spirit, but will simply say, “I don’t want to go through the pain of that.” “Yes Lord, I understand what you’re speaking to me. But do you understand I’ve got to spend so many years to get to the point where I can do that.” I don’t want to go through the pain in that. If you’re going to follow Jesus, you got to go through some pain. That’s what He had to do to fulfill His purpose and that’s what you will have to do.

See, oftentimes purpose is just not glory and easy and all is-- Sometimes, that’s stuff is going through the mud, it’s going through sweat, it’s going through the trials and tribulations necessary to get done what you need to get done to get to the destiny that God has destined for you to go through.

Billy Sunday, the great evangelist said, he said, “That more men have failed through lack of purpose, than lack of talent.” You all know a lot of failures who were just talented to the hilt.

When I used to work in my father's drug store, and there used to be a lot of alcoholics, we would call, "winos" in that day. Most of the winos were very highly educated. They didn't have lack of talent; they didn't have lack of education. They had lack of purpose. And then you know your purpose, and when you are determined to go and fulfil your purpose, nothing can stop you.

I asked God for a scripture for today's message, and I somehow was just later to just ask him and he spoke Psalms 26:1. And I have to go and look it up. I'm not like C. Elijah that would know what it was. I had to go look it up.

And Psalms 26:1 says this, "Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have led a blameless life; i have trusted in the Lord without wavering." I don't believe anybody has lived a blameless life, but you can do the best you can and you can trust in God without wavering.

When we learn to trust in God without wavering, He will ultimately take us to our purpose and our destiny. And we often don't get to our purpose and destiny because we waver away from God, get sidetrack and start selling chicken sandwiches. When you stay on your purpose, when you do not waver from what God has told you to do, you will reach your destiny; you will fulfill your purpose. Next week, I'm going to show you just scripturally what the Bible says your specific and definite purpose is.

Jesus came to die for our sins and there's no question, He knew his purpose, He didn't waver from His purpose.

(Music Playing)

He did ask if there was an easier way. I'd like to know if there's an easy way to get done what I need to be done, because to be honest about it, I'd like to take the path of least resistance. If I can get it without pain, I prefer to get it without pain. But Ringo often says, "Pain is weakness living the body." Sometimes, with many of us, what we go through, strengthens our spirit and we have to go through some pain to get rid of pride and ego and jealousy and whole lot other stuff. Sometimes, pain is weakness living our spirits. He came to die for us. He knew his purpose, and he didn't waver that from that.

You know, God will look some of us straight in the eye, not physically, but spiritually. He can see through; you can't fool

Him, He knows. He knows when you're real, He knows when you're faking. He knows. He'll look you straight in the eye. He'll ask you this simple question, "Are you ready to follow me?" "Are you ready?" If you could imagine in Christ asking this, "Are you ready to follow, Christ?" And I want to just pray and this goes for everybody.

Dear Heavenly Father, we just thank you right now. Father we just pray that we dedicate ourselves and we are ready to follow you. Even when we have wavered, when we have deviated, when we have gone off path, we have gone off course. Father, right now, upon this day, we make this declaration, we are ready to follow you. Through hell and high water, we are ready to follow you. Father, we are ready to be obedient and we are ready to be diligent. We are your children. Your servant and we have accepted that your Son is our Lord and Savior and they Son Jesus' His Name, we pray, Amen. Amen, amen and Amen.

I thank you for joining us today just to talk about purpose and I truly hope that you find your purpose. Seek and ask God. But, be willing to accept that what He says and to pursue your purpose with passion.

Nathaniel Bronner: Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, you can go to brothersoftheword.com, listen to this entire series or over 2,000 other message absolutely free of charge. Thank you for joining us at Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the Word. Amen, amen, and Amen.

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