

PRINCIPLE-CENTERED LEADERSHIP: THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Everything that has ever been made has been made with a purpose in mind. The Creator, inventor, manufacturer or artist saw something in his mind's eye and he created with that intent. He created something with the exact specifications to achieve his purpose for its existence.

It's a great tragedy to be alive and not know why you are. I believe if you are alive today, there is a purpose for you to be. Unfortunately, it's possible to be physically alive and living like the walking dead. To be truly alive and excited about life, it is essential to know what you were born to be and do.

Purpose is powerful! Purpose is the key to life! Without purpose, life has no meaning. It is aimless and often haphazard. But when you tap into the powerful force created by knowing your purpose, you become more creative, energetic and passionate. You already have within you everything that is needed to fulfill the Creator's purpose for you.

"To remove your purpose would be to significantly change who you are, because your purpose both informs and reveals your nature and your responsibilities. Everything you naturally have and inherently are is necessary for you to fulfill your purpose. Your height, race, skin color, language, physical features, and intellectual capacity are all designed for your purpose." (Myles Munroe)

Having a clear sense of purpose gives one an excitement about the future and adds a powerful dynamic to the present. It gives one a reason to get up in the morning! And this reason helps one to prioritize and put things into perspective.

We are all on a journey. Yet, we don't know how long the journey will be. It is in our best interest to develop a sense of urgency about how we travel, because none of us have any guarantees of how much time we have left to accomplish our special purpose.

It takes a lifetime to complete the journey, but every step of the way is a working out of purpose. Knowing who you are, why you exist and what you are here to do will keep you on course even when the going gets rough. Others will come along for the journey, but even then you must discern what their purpose is in your life. Remember: everything has a purpose!

Unfortunately, many people live for themselves with no clear sense of direction, passion or purpose. They've adopted the attitude that they can live as they please and take things as they come. The problem is they tend to live empty and unfulfilled lives. And they are often bitter, critical and cynical. How sad! This does not have to be so!

None of us can sit around and wait for others to inspire us, prepare us or get us moving to our destination. We are the ones who are responsible for giving our lives significance and satisfaction. We alone can create happiness and passion in our lives. Every opportunity, resource and talent can be engaged in fulfilling our God-ordained purpose. We can daily live joyfully on purpose, while keeping the big picture in perspective.

Even in the midst of constant change, we have the added benefit of being able to view everything that happens through the lens of purpose. Our sense of purpose is the motivation that keeps us going even in the midst of great adversity. Our eyes remain on our destination – not on our surroundings or the difficulties that lie ahead. When purpose is a reality being experienced in our lives, we are committed to forge ahead and press through all obstacles. We have direction and are empowered to act. We are not moved by public opinion, nor do we look to others to determine our course.

If you wish to make it to your destination, beware of the many things that will attempt to derail or discourage you. Be careful of the relationships you form. Be careful of who you allow to walk alongside of you on your journey to fulfilling purpose. There are those who will suck the life right out of you. That may not be their conscious intent, but behind jealousy, discontent or a competitive spirit, is sabotage waiting to happen.

When you are living passionately on purpose, you simply do not have time to get caught up in foolishness, distractions, toxic relationships, energy drains or anything else that does not encourage and further your purpose. You cannot be bothered with what others think about you or your chosen course. There will always be naysayers and those who doubt you. It takes courage to determine that you will give your very best in the pursuit of purpose, but you must determine to act only in accordance with that divine purpose. Filter everything that touches your life. Ask yourself, “How does this relationship, this situation, this decision affect the overall outcome of my predestined purpose?”

Even those you are closest to may not understand your commitment to purpose. You may seem cold, distant or even isolated. You may almost seem ruthless as you protect your sense of divine purpose, but in the process, your purpose will protect you. You can relax when you are living passionately on purpose. If your heart and mind are on course, your feet will naturally follow.

Keep in mind that where you are right now is not who you are entirely. You are evolving as you grow and develop. There are yet unlimited possibilities before you. Keep on growing- in love, in faith, in knowledge, in purpose!

What things are holding you back from achieving your purpose? What do you need to do? What do you need to let go of?

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