



bloodline network newsletter

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS: PART I

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

Everyone wants to have a passion for something—it makes life worth living. At the Academy Awards Reese Witherspoon quoted June Carter Cash as saying, “I just want to matter.” She wanted her life to mean something. It is the very same cry of our hearts for identity and purpose—to know that our life really makes a difference. Yet not everyone knows how they fit into the larger scope of God’s plan for the Ages. Knowing His plan and call for our life gives us purpose—we really matter. And what God purposes is eternally written upon our life.

In the beginning of time God created matter along with a law to keep what mattered together. Matter is governed by His law of gravity and everything we do is subject to it. Whatever defies the law of gravity does not remain. All creation speaks of this order. Everything that matters comes under spiritual authority.

Likewise, if we ‘matter’ we are governed. That means there is a purpose to our lives. We are part of God’s plan and it makes a difference, or it ‘matters’ if we do our portion. One way to know if we are serious about ‘mattering’ is whether we search for our calling and purpose. Everyone needs to know their purpose in life. Purpose is the expression of our life—our voice in the earth. If we find our true voice we create a life of deep meaning, satisfaction, and greatness—a life that really matters.

Queen Esther learned what really mattered from her uncle Mordecai. She was afraid to speak to the King because it could mean death for her. Mordecai phrases Esther’s purpose in a few sentences: *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house*

will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther's purpose statement went beyond her fear and empowered her to not only speak to the King, but to create a situation that demanded justice for her people. Although Mordecai defined the moment, Esther had to choose to walk in her purpose and chose how and when she would speak to the King. Things that 'matter' are always connected to the plan of God. By walking in her calling and purpose Esther fulfilled her destiny.

Life becomes hopeless when we have no purpose—if we are only interested in ourselves and what's good for us. Solomon thought his whole function in life was to build a Temple because God spoke to his father David, saying, *"Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My Name."*

Solomon was project oriented. He may not have seen what mattered beyond the Temple. Therefore once he built the House his life had no real purpose. He did not know what to do—no anchor for his soul (as evidenced by his writings in Ecclesiastes.) He put passion into building a temple and when it was finished, life had no real meaning for him—not until he worked on building the House of God in his son and wrote the book of Proverbs.

"And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd." Eccl. 12

Solomon ultimately worked towards a greater purpose and understood what really makes a difference in life. Solomon came to the heart and soul of the matter, teaching his son: *"And further, my son ... let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all."*

A life purpose statement is not a goal or a project in life but rather a lifetime commitment of ministry to God according to the calling He placed on you. It is a life sentence that manifests your calling through purpose. It is a function you perform that is not limited to your occupation. We learn about writing a life purpose statement from the Apostle Paul. He recites his life purpose saying that the Lord said,

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." Acts 26

Paul concludes that his passion in life was towards fulfilling his purpose because he viewed it as an assignment from God, and *“therefore, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.”*

In the letter Paul writes to the Philippians he refers to his life purpose as the high calling of God that he continually pressed towards as something that mattered. We can do the same thing. If we are working towards the goal of His purpose in our life, our life really matters. What we do has purpose and means something. Everything we do makes a difference if our motive is working on our assignment from God.

Before the invasion of Iraq there were meetings for key people in our government and military to create a plan of strategy for not only invading the enemy lines but also for freeing a nation. There was a lot of preparation before the invasion. Each country briefed their divisions and squadrons etc. so that everyone knew their mission and purpose—they knew what was expected of them individually. Everyone had a critical work assignment that was part of the Operation for Iraqi Freedom. There were no loners out on the battlefield. Everyone was tactically located to work together for the greater good. Men and women put their lives on the line and it is making a difference.

Today it still remains a work in progress because winning the war on terror is not a project of the moment but a pursuit for freedom. What really matters is that we do not lose our freedoms ... what our forefathers fought for still matters to us. We will not be ruled by the dictates of terrorists. Therefore the purpose statement of ‘Iraqi Freedom’ is not a single project but a long term pursuit. We are fighting a battle of spiritual opposition. There are no literal enemy lines. Prayer warriors are learning how to break through covert lines to win a spiritual war.

We likewise are in preparation to break through enemy lines. The Lord says, *“Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem. Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!”*

First there is an awakening—the double annunciation of Deity that declares on earth what already is finished in heaven. Those awakened are strengthened with garments of praise because they know the Word they speak is for the greater good of His plan. They eliminate the clutter of dust (the things that don’t ‘matter’ or impede their purpose) from their lives so they can rise up to another dimension of truth and freedom. They rise to come up higher and sit down as one man—as the Holy City. This is the moment we break the bondages and personal hindrances of resistance that held each of us captive to become totally free!

They went out as one to come in as an exceedingly great army, knit together as one body, not breaking their ranks; *“They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like men of war; every one marches in formation, and they do not break ranks, they do not push one another; everyone marches in his own column ... The Lord gives voice before His army, for his camp is very great; for strong is the one who executes his word.”*

We will not faint nor falter in our quest for more of God. We relentlessly pursue 'til the full victory is won by all—no one missing in our ranks. Every one must learn that when an order is given, he must employ all his resources and ingenuity to fulfill that order. A soldier is trained to do what is commanded—not questioning the validity of the command or choosing a better one. He already is proven in battle and trusts the judgment and justice of those he is assigned to work with. There should be a firepower of prayer at his command as a weapon for warfare. He is a soldier in an army, awake, alert and prepared to know what really matters—the promise is that the violent take it by force.

When we experience more of Him, He opens His presence beyond anything the mind and spirit of man ever thought possible. In His presence is the fullness of joy, love, peace ... nothing is bound nor limited by lack—we enter into a new dimension of the Fear of the Lord. There is greater perception, admiration, and wonder in God when we are consciously aware of the miraculous.

We must ask the question; “Do I matter?” You should know that you do matter but maybe there is something in you that is still caught between a rock and a hard place, or you really don't know if it is God talking to you or just your own thoughts. You want more of God but you don't have Him breaking into your thoughts and life like you think He should if you really mattered. What should you do?

Sometimes we create resistance to what God is doing. When we have a hidden bad habit we must first become aware of it before we can change it. In other words, we cannot break through something that we don't even know exists. But when we are made aware of our resistance to what God is doing, it is imperative that we do something beyond getting angry, blaming someone else or being impatient (citing the usual responses that signal resistance to change). Awareness means we take responsibility for our short comings and do something about it—we stand up and shake futility from our lives by changing our thoughts, our responses, and ultimately our ways.

If we are aware of resistance, then we need to ask ourselves what we are afraid of. With any resistance there is always a root fear and once we are aware of that fear we can do something about it. This is why writing a life purpose statement is so important. In writing a life purpose statement we speak life beyond our fears. This statement gives us understanding to make right choices. Now what we do in life is not dictated by our fear but determined according to our identity and purpose. Our life purpose statement empowers us to wisely choose what we should do.

Sometimes we think that if we have enough will power and discipline we can overcome our bad habits, but it doesn't last when we are only dealing with symptoms. If we are aware of the fear that causes our resistance, then we are able to deal with releasing our fear, we are ready for real change. The chains come off and “*we run like a troop and leap over a wall*”—nothing holds us back from doing what really matters in life.

“*God is able to make all grace abound towards you.*” The only thing hindering His grace is your resistance to receive it. We have come to the crossroads—it is time we come up higher together. The violent take it by force. You literally break into the

spiritual vaults by your desire for more of Him. That desire will change the way you behave and think.

Solomon's conclusion to the whole matter is to "*Fear God and keep His commandments.*" If we want to matter then we fear God—meaning we are submissive to His Authority and everything we do comes into divine order under His law of grace. Jesus called it the great commandment: "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength ... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" His conclusion was that "*there is no other commandment greater than these.*" We know it as the golden rule and if we obey this commandment, we find the true meaning of life—what really matters in the end.

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