

## Creating a Personal Life Vision Based on God's Purposes

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." John 15:16 ESV*

Any serious student of God's Word could conceive of numerous potential purposes God may have had for putting his chosen ones here on earth. For example: to be an earthly expression of his image, to be fruitful and multiply, to rule over all creation, to obey his commandments, to have no other gods before him, to believe Jesus is his son sent to die for our sins, to follow Jesus, to be holy as he is holy, etc. Jesus, himself, was very explicit about two key purposes for our lives: 1) to love God and love others as we love ourselves; and 2) to make disciples.

Based on these purposes, Christ-followers have personal freedom to partner with Jesus in ways that express their own individual calling and uniqueness where such things as personality, values, hopes and dreams are concerned. You are one-of-a-kind and God gave you work to accomplish for His kingdom before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 2:10). The acrostic below can help you gain clarity on your personal life vision which is to be lived out based solely on God's divine purposes. Consider the following as you begin your vision quest:

**V** alues you treasure

**I** nsights from your past

**S** trengths from God

**I** mages of your future

**O** pportunities ahead

**N** ext steps to address

As you consider each step of the acrostic, journal, pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, talk to others you trust and ask them how they see you, practice solitude and listening, and ask Jesus specific questions – expecting him to answer. Your clear vision may not come as quickly as you would like, because this is a process worked out in God's timeframe – just trust him and know that he absolutely wants you to be clear on this so you can get busy fulfilling his purpose for you.

God will "tweak" this vision over time, but he trusts you to hear from him and make any course corrections needed. Be "strong and courageous" about living out your life vision as there will be "dream killers" – those who will question your vision and try to get you to do what they want you to do. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10 as a life verse and repeat it to yourself day after day:

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Finally, work with a Christian Life Coach as a thinking partner. They specialize in Vision Quest assistance!