

One Cause

John 18:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. **For this cause I was born,** and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Jesus new who He was and the purpose for which He was alive

- His cause was so vital He was willing to die for it

While it's good to have a **vision and goals** for our lives, **fulfillment** in life will not be **realized** until we know **the cause for which we were created.**

- It has been said:
“Everyone who is born dies, but not everyone who dies has truly lived”

When Christ's cause truly underpins your life

- You will discover meaning and purpose
- Your life will never be the same again

Do you have such boldness and certainty for your life?

- Why were you born?
- Why are you on the planet at this time in history?

Coming to grips with the truth that you were born for a cause greater than yourself may be difficult

- Your past
- Your upbringing
- Your choices in life
- You may think things could never get better

You were born because the Father has a plan for your life

- He has a purpose that transcends all other life factors
- Greater than the limitations of environment or the challenges of your circumstances

Before you were born the Father

- Knew you
- Destined you
- Purposed you

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Psalms 139:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

You were born for the cause of the King and the Kingdom

In human terms Jesus had plenty of reasons to fail in life

- Born to a teenage girl not even married at the time of conception
- Joseph was not his biological father
- His father was an unusual entity – “GOD”
- Can you imagine answering the question – who’s your dad?
- His mother was whisked off to another town to give birth
- He was instantly pursued by a paranoid king
- He was not born in a usual setting – Farm animals
- Not your typical Christmas card

He had a lot to live up to some bold prophecies

- “The government would be upon His shoulder” – [Isaiah 9:6](#)
- “Peace to all men” – [Luke 6:14](#)

Not all men responded gladly to Him

- Persecuted everywhere He went – Pharisees
- Despised – Rejected – Mocked – Condemned to death
- Betrayed by one of His closest friends

He rose above every obstacle

He knew who He was and why He was created!

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Don't let your past dictate your future
- You were born for an awesome reason
- Change your perspective
- Get Gods perspective on your future
- Develop a fresh way of thinking
- See yourself the way God sees you

There is no richer reward in life than discovering God's purpose and allowing it to fuel your vision and direction

- Never allow yourself to develop a wounded spirit
- Don't focus on lack or disappointment
- You were born for the cause of the King

Ephesians 1:4, 11 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God,* for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

- There is no mistake about who you are or who you were destined to be – chosen “In Christ”
- This revelation will help you stay on course
- No matter what comes against you

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- Jesus is humanity's bridge to God the Father and eternity
- He came to find you and connect you to the hope, the future and the eternal plan the King has for you

“We believers become His hands and feet here on the planet, and our part in His eternal plan is both significant and a great honor” – Brian Houston

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

- We are here to exemplify Jesus to the world
- Your testimony, conviction and commitment to the cause of Christ is about ushering people into the kingdom of heaven
- The Church – Ecclesia – “the called out ones”

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- He is the light
- We are the beacon – the lightbulb
- When you live for Christ
- Others are attracted to the light in you
- Just like a moth to a lightbulb

Three dynamic factors in God’s plan for implementing the cause of Christ

- Jesus Christ
- Holy Spirit
- The Church

A healthy, vibrant, life giving, bible teaching church of worshippers, in love with Jesus is the key to reaching the world with the message of the Gospel

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

- The local church connects people to the promise of eternal life
- You can’t love Jesus and not love the Church
- Jesus loves His Church and is committed to seeing her flourish
- We should be passionate about the local church as well

The church is not about buildings or structures, nor should it be out of touch with real people and their real lives

The church is...

- All about people
- A loving family
- A community of people who love what the Lord loves
- Willing to extend grace and the love of Jesus to humans, wherever they are in their journey
- Committed to connecting unbelievers with Jesus

Am I planted?

Psalm 92:12-14 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

¹² The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like the palm tree [be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful]; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible].

¹³ Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ [Growing in grace] they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap [of spiritual vitality] and [rich in the] verdure [of trust, love, and contentment].

- Linking your life, vision, purpose and resources to God's church will transform your life and will enable you to bring effectual and eternal change to the lives of others

Proverbs 29:18 (1901 ASV)

¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint.

- A vision without a cause is only a set of goals
- A vision attached to a divine cause will empower you to overcome obstacles and fulfill your destiny

A defined vision gives us both a reason to run and something worth running after

- Vision should flow out of revelation of the cause of Christ
- Direct your motivation, thinking, time, talent and relationships
- Everything you put your hand to becomes a catalyst for something bigger
- A vision is something you possess
- A cause is something that possess you

Matthew 26:42 (NKJV)

⁴²Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

- When you commit to the Father’s cause, you don’t have to make up a vision for your life
- It takes hold of you and begins to influence everything you do
- You begin to live in a way that honors the Father and His kingdom

Purpose and vision are an endless flow

Philippians 3:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Does the cause possess you or are you trying to stay motivated by a vision you possess?
- A vision can be personal
- A cause is bigger than any one person

You may have a vision statement with goals

- On year – Five year – Ten years
- Whom does it serve?
- There is no power if it's all about you
- The cause of Christ is greater than any...
- Individual – Ministry – Mission – or church

A vision can exist for you, but you exist for the cause

- The church doesn't exist for you and your vision
- You exist to fulfill the cause of Christ through the vision of the church

“Ask not what can my church do for me but rather what can I do for my church?”

Romans 12:4 (The Message)

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.

With a Vision You Have a Way Out, But the Cause Leaves You No Options

- You may have a fantastic vision for your life
- Are you willingly to surrender your life for it?
- Christians around the world each year die in the name of Jesus
- Are you willing to die for the cause of Christ?

Those who have a revelation of the King and the kingdom will lay down their lives for the sake of the cause of Christ

- Their finances
- Their energy
- Their personal vision
- Is your vision worth dying for?

Galatians 2:20 (The Message)

Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:14 (The Message)

Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

When our vision is detached from the cause we can start to think the grass is greener somewhere else

- You start to think you have options
- If I become discouraged I can change direction
- You can choose to run with a vision or abandon it
- You hold vision in your hand
- Cause grips your heart
- You won't let go even in life's most discouraging moments

A vision can be ignored but the cause cannot be ignored

During Jesus' three years of ministry

- Crowds were excited everywhere He went
- "Could this be the Messiah?"
- "How can He perform such miracles?"
- Some thought He was the promised Savior
- Others came to join the spectacle
- When crunch time came many deserted Him and called for His crucifixion

The Apostles and early disciples understood The Cause

- They lived for The Cause and did great exploits
- Gave sight to the blind
- Healed the sick
- Overcame great persecution and challenges

When excitement or entertainment is the only thing keeping you there, the excitement could easily wane

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

- Vision generates excitement and enthusiasm
- The cause of Christ generates power
- It will empower your relationships
- Your plans for the future
- Your connection to the world

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” – Helen Keller

In general, I agree with this statement but feel there is something worse than having no vision

“Having a vision that is only self-focused and self-motivated”

- Vision on its own has limitations
- When linked with to the cause of Christ, it has supernatural power and purpose
- Is your vision a power generator?

When you surrender your vision and future into God’s hands and His will for your life the cause of Christ will take your personal passion and vision for your life to a whole new level