

PURPOSE
Understanding & Discovery

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ABSTRACT

There is no absolute truth but one. There are many things we have come to know that are true. But not all that are true is the truth. Many things, out of being true may be a truth or the other, but beyond this fragments of available truths, there be one truth. This is not a truth, but the truth.

Everything is a precursor of one thing or the other, and they also have their antecedents in other affairs of life. The things we have come to know today are products of generally accepted perceptions and heightened opinions of respected individuals. Not because they are wrong or right, but because they are the products of the experienced that guides the inexperienced.

A question yet unanswered

If there is one question that generations upon generation ask themselves, if there is one subconscious yearning that has made sons of men believe that there can be a better tomorrow. Such is the questions that have arisen from the discourses on the matter and fact of identity and purpose.

Purpose is interwovenly related to the conception of essence, relevance and achievement. Although these concepts are very far from one another by reason of understanding, yet they are interwoven, in the better and appropriate conception of each of them. Succinctly, 'Purpose' can be seen as the 'what for? Or the why?' of a particular thing, being or course.

We must know for a truth that no one can rightly or appropriately define, understand or discover purpose outside God. this is not a dictate of religiosity or mere socio-cultural or denominational bigotry. It is the truth. No product ever and can ever dictate its own essence. A ball cannot tell you: oh! I'm meant to be played, nor would a car tell you: hey there! I'm meant to be driven. It is the producer that by the virtue of intrinsic intent in the course of production, knows why the product or produce is been produced.

By the reason of familiarity with the atmosphere of our functionality, daily misconceptions of possible independence, and natural default of the survival instinct in us, we have come to think that we dictate our essence. A car can dictate how it works, but cannot dictate what it is meant for, or created for. So also are we humans, we can be in charge and have sole control over what we want to do or should do, but the why we are created is not our dictate. And this why many of us would never truly know what peace is, until we start to live out purpose, we start to do what we are created to do.

Purpose is not achievement! Purpose is not success! Purpose is not defined by comfortable livelihood. It is good to be successful, as well as it is good to achieve a whole lot of things and live fine. But doing these things cannot substitute for the reality and expectations of a purposeful life.

It cannot afford to be outside God

The understanding and discovery of Purpose cannot afford to be outside God. This is because Purpose is like a fish whose survival is dependent on water, it cannot be defined without it, it cannot live without it, it cannot manifest its capabilities without it (water). Without water, it dies, first gradually and totally. Many people have by ignorance started and sought God for their purpose, and after knowing it, they did away with the God-factor, thinking the Purpose can run outside its planner. And at such, some people, wear out, some quit, some settle for less, not attaining the full potential of their purpose.

To understand purpose, we need to understand God, to discover purpose, we need to discover God. Not just as a spirit of distant acknowledgement as the dictionary regard it as a supreme being, but as a person who has created and would bring its creation into understanding why he created it.

He needs you to be patient enough to understand His plans

Often times because we confuse purpose to be the endgame of having to grow up, and then we need to have achieved some things by the standard of our society, we who have come to acknowledge that it is only God that can let known our purpose, now do so (seek), to know God so he can reveal to us what we need do in life (sometimes so we can run off to do it again ourselves).

But God who knows that the way purpose is designed, it cannot run or survive without him, would have us be patient enough to sometimes re-orient our motif for seeking to know purpose, or teach us the necessities to drive the purpose.

If God decides to show us what he has for us and the full potential of our purpose, there are two possible happenings.

1. Either we see it, and because of the awe and magnificence of such glorious purpose, we approach it with our voracious enthusiasm not having learnt the needful to keep it, sustain and manage it, we fail and the purpose caves in on us.

OR

2. We are extremely amazed at such glorious purpose and out of such amazement unable to believe such can be so, not understanding how such purpose would come to pass, and at that, run away from it.

God would not want that I am sure, and this is why he takes it gradual, prefers the "***unveiling mechanism***". That the more we get to know him, the more of our purpose we get to understand. So that in the process of knowing him, we understand our purpose as well as learn the needful to manage and preserve it. This is why purpose cannot afford to do without God.

They are simply equipment of purpose

The answer of purpose is not in the question of deeds; what can you do? What do you do best? What interests you most? What did you learn? Or what did you study? The question of purpose is answered in the aggregation of the above to the knowing of God.

Talents, Abilities, Potentials, Skills, Vocations and many more forms of competences that we have come to acquire are simply equipment necessary for Purpose fulfilment.

The corrupted mentality and philosophy that has dominated the world we have come to know today; our society have substituted the ***what we are meant for*** with the ***what we can do***. In the philosophy of 'what we can do' we use our 'purpose equipment' as the very platform of achievements, seeking out a good comfortable life for ourselves. Such longing that would never be satisfied, and when partially satisfied, would continue to pull us to achieving more, which is always about ourselves, how things favour us, and how much more we can enjoy its output.

In the philosophy (a manner of thought) of 'what we are meant for' we constantly feel the need to do for others, we have this subconscious obligation to make others happy and satisfied. This in return is what gives us joy and makes us happy, when we know that people are living of well and are fine because we made it so, that is the thought pattern of purpose.

It is on the strength of this knowledge that we know that the things we can do are equipment to what God would indeed have us do. That is when we know that they are a means to an end, they are necessary factors (equipment) for the execution of the God-bidding.

Achievement is to Success, Purpose is to Fulfilment

When a lady who is hungry sets out to prepare a food, the aim of preparing the food is to satisfy and quench her hunger ─ simply not to be hungry again. She first makes a choice of the meal she would love to take, then prepares the necessary ingredients for the meal, then cooks it, continually adding the fixtures to make it delicious and when the meal is done, there is a satisfaction of having cooked a good meal. But she does not stop there, she further eats the food and there is also a satisfaction of the hunger.

The illustration above intends to paint a picture of the differences that exists between achievement and fulfilment. When a person is successful on an initial intent about what he can do that he or she had set out to do, the person is ascribed, as having had an achievement. But when a person is successful on what they are fashioned to do (purpose), such a person is ascribed to have been fulfilled.

So success is not a determinant of purpose, it is just a pointer of how well or how wrong a thing is, because both achievement and fulfilment can be successful. This is to let us know that beyond the what we can do, or what we are expected to do, there is a place of what we are fashioned to do.

The Job description

No one can ever tell you your purpose or reveal them to you. Not even I.

Books, writings, teachings, revealings and tutelage of inspirational of motivational speakers, the admonitions of counsellors, alongside many other purpose revealing materials, can only attempt to tell us **how to get to** know, they serve as a pointer of attraction that gives us the confidence that we are meant for greater things. They cannot truly tell us what we are fashioned out for.

WHY?

This is because we humans are the most-complexly fashioned and woven entity of God's very creation. We are just like him, we are vast, deep, wide, unique, varying and continually a mystery of exploration. It is impossible for any book, or just one teaching or material to outline the exact dictate of our purpose. We are sometimes relatable to a software, there is the actual and exact thing some software are designed to do, but by the virtue of advanced competence on the path of the user, it is possible that such software serves other purposes of which it was initially created. This can be so because the world is closely knitted together, and even in the achievement of 'the intentional' we can stumble and infuse 'the unintended'.

So also is the human composition, it is impossible for a book to exactly give a dictate of our functionalities, this is why God continually desires that we stay with him, that he may order our steps to attaining purpose. And because we vary in **purpose & designation**, books and teachings can only point our path to Good for the discovery and understanding of Purpose.

It is all or nothing (You are either In or Out).

Nothing can exist in Vacuum. No one can exist in abstract. The principle of truth states that:

1. You can either be ignorant, then discover knowledge and follow it. **OR**
2. You are in knowledge, yet be ignorant that it is knowledge, but later discover it is the right path.

No one can seek knowledge or Truth without ever being in one side, no one can ever truly sit on the fence.

A class mate of mine once said to me that: she really wanted to know God, but she desired to know him in abstract (not taking sides of any religion), I laughed within me, knowing that it is fact that is nothing near to a truth.

It is impossible to truly run on the track of purpose, managing, sustaining and fulfilling it without God. No one can truly live without the ability to live; life. No one can truly run without the ability to run; strength. No one can ever truly fulfil purpose, even when it has been discovered, without the ability to do so, which is resident in our affiliation and continual relation with the designer of such purpose.

Succinctly ─ know God, you will discover purpose, and run with it. I can confidently say that knowing God is knowing purpose, walking with God is fulfilling purpose. Because he (God) is not without an aim. If and when we walk with him, he will be convinced of our motif, and be gracious enough to both reveal to us purpose, as well as teach us the nitty gritty of our purpose in and with him.

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