

You're Here for a Reason!

Introduction. “God put you here for a special purpose!” Or so we’re told. Someone may have told you that you’re born, at God’s specific direction, for a special purpose. I can understand the appeal. Everyone wants to feel special and their lives to have “meaning.” They want know that God’s special imprint is on their existence.

It definitely isn’t lost on me that people are being nice when they make statements like this, and that they’re trying to be encouraging. However, pleasant sentiment doesn’t equal truth. Only God’s Word is truth (John 17:17). Is this point of view found in the Bible?

The phrase, “You’re here for a reason” is a modern inspirational saying that traces back to Nancy Tillman’s 2015 children’s book *You’re Here for a Reason*. The expression means a person’s life has value, purpose, or a role that matters to others, indicating that the world would be incomplete without the individual.

We’re interested in what the Bible says so we’re going to look at the fact that we’re special to God, the special plan that God has for all humanity, and most importantly, my participation in this grand plan.

I. Am I Special to God?

- A. The Bible is clear that mankind is special, and there’s many passages to which people attach special, individual purpose.
 - 1. Humanity is created in God’s image and given stewardship over creation, showing purpose that’s built into human identity (Genesis 1:26-28).
 - 2. Every single person is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (or remarkably and wondrously made, Psalm 139:13-14).
 - 3. God tells Jeremiah that He knew and set him apart before birth, a strong text leading people to believe in personal calling (Jeremiah 1:5).
 - 4. God had thoughts toward Israel, to give them hope and peace in the midst of their captivity because of idolatry (Jeremiah 29:11).
 - 5. Paul said that God works all things together for good for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).
 - 6. God’s will is revealed in Christ, and we’re predestined according to the plan of God who works all things according to His counsel (Ephesians 1:9-11).
 - 7. God’s at work in believers “to will and to do” for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).
- B. The preceding passages cluster into four themes: creation purpose, covenant purpose, redemptive purpose, and personal calling. God created with purpose, called with purpose, saves with purpose, and sustains with purpose.

II. Does God Have a Special Plan for Me?

- A. Accurately stated, the question really isn’t that God loves mankind as His prized possession. The question is does this translate into a special, specific plan for every person? We’ll see that the Bible doesn’t reveal any special, individual plan of God for me which differs from His plan for all mankind.

1. People say, “God loves YOU!” (But the Bible says He loves everyone else too, Romans 5:8).
2. They may also say, “Jesus loves YOU!” (But the Bible says He loves everyone else too, John 15:13).
- B. The only revealed, divine purpose for my life is threefold:
 1. I must love God with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).
 2. I must worship God and serve Him only (Matthew 4:10).
 3. I must fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
- C. This is a concise summary of the divine purpose for my existence, but this is the same purpose for every human who has ever lived. And this is what a lot of individuals miss.

III. What Choice Do I Have In This Special Plan?

- A. I can choose to seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). I can choose to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:8-9). I have the freedom from God to be and do anything I want, but what God wants me to do — His purpose for me — is to come to Him in faith and obedience (Matthew 11:28; Romans 10:14).
 1. The idea that God put each human on earth for some special purpose denies one of the most basic tenets of the character of God: He’s not partial or a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11).
 2. As we’ve seen, all of us are called to the same purpose. And when you complete this task, you aren’t special nor heroic; you’ve merely done what was your duty to do (Luke 17:10).
- B. But let’s dig a little deeper before we end. I’ve watched videos of young people, people in midlife, and older people who describe themselves as feeling invisible, like they don’t matter to the people around them. What can be done about this?
 1. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” The “good works” are the God-pleasing acts of obedience that flow from your new life in Christ, a life which can give you great sense of purpose.
 2. What “good works” can you do to combat the feelings of invisibility?
 - a) You can live honestly and humbly.
 - b) You can worship God faithfully.
 - c) You can pray and study Scripture.
 - d) You can love your neighbor in practical ways.
 - e) You can care for the poor and vulnerable.
 - f) You can be a helper in your church.
 - g) You can teach the gospel and make disciples.
 3. I want you to understand that even if your life doesn’t seem to have a specific, inspired, God-given purpose, it’s no less valuable or significant to God. In Luke 12:6-7, the hairs of your head are numbered. Don’t be disappointed that the purpose of God is shared by all who’ve been born in the world! It’s still a special purpose!

Conclusion. If you ask, “What good work is God calling me to right now?” the answer is obey His Word, love the people in front of you, use your abilities faithfully,

and walk in holiness today. That's exactly the kind of life Ephesians 2:10 describes. This is how you have purpose. This is how you matter to God and other people.

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