



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## SERVING THE PURPOSE OF GOD

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 13:36 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** 1 Sam. 16:11; 17:45-48; 24:6 | Psalm 34:10

### SUMMARY:

**Many people have absolutely no sense of purpose for their life.**

Year after year, they drift along without any direction. Others have goals—but not godly ones. They may pursue wealth, position, influence, or pleasure at all costs. Or their purpose may be to assist others through financial giving or charitable service. But apart from God’s leading, none of these goals bring lasting satisfaction. Few people ever feel they have enough money, prestige, or happiness. And charitable work never ends.

Even as believers, we can be guilty of living with no clear purpose. Christians can go through life never realizing God’s plan for them. Only through discovering His purpose for our lives can we experience genuine fulfillment.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

#### What is your unique plan?

The apostle Paul described the life of King David by mentioning that he “served the purpose of God in his own generation” (Acts 13:36). We only have one trip through life. What would you like to accomplish? What is the purpose the Father has given you?

Believers tend to think serving God is limited to church and missionary work. We assume it means singing, preaching, teaching, giving, or participating in a ministry. But you can honor the

Lord with your daily choices—at work, at home, and in the community. The way you live serves God, the devil, or yourself. Even believers can be focused on their pleasure, prosperity, position, and popularity. But the best way to experience a fulfilled life is to live for the Lord. Our heavenly Father desires the very best for us, and Scripture says that those who honor the Lord lack no good thing (Ps. 34:10).

#### How did David serve the purpose of God?

■ **By working as a shepherd:** David was the youngest of eight sons, and his task was to tend the sheep (1 Sam. 16:11). He submitted to his father’s authority in that humble role. Although his family considered this an insignificant task, I believe the future king did the best job he could instead of merely enough to “get by.” Also, as David protected the animals, he learned how to fight courageously, a valuable skill he later put to use as a warrior.

■ **By fighting Goliath:** This Philistine giant challenged not only the army of Israel but also mocked their God as well. David recognized that the true nature of the battle was spiritual. He boldly approached Goliath in God’s strength and demonstrated the awesome power of the name of the Lord (1 Sam. 17:45-48).

You and I are given a similar opportunity when people criticize Christians or our faith. We can cowardly remain silent. Or we can stand up and defend the name of Jesus Christ, who gave His life on our behalf and faithfully cares for us day by day.

■ **By being obedient to authority:** Shortly after David killed Goliath, Saul became jealous of the younger man's tremendous success in battle. Twice the king threw a javelin at David, attempting to kill him. Later, Saul tried to end the warrior's life by sending him to fight the Philistines. But despite the king's animosity, David remained committed to serving Saul.

When you find yourself in a difficult situation—perhaps facing criticism or persecution—you also have a chance to serve the Lord. If you trust Him rather than lashing out, you will be serving the purpose of God for your life. You and I are to fight our battles on our knees, not by attacking others.

■ **By learning to wait for God's timing:** David's men urged him to kill Saul when he had the chance. He replied, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed" (1 Sam. 24:6). David determined to wait until God gave him the kingdom. To his followers' surprise, he refused to harm the man Samuel had anointed as king.

The world won't always understand our decisions, either. But when you respond to life's opportunities and crises in a godly fashion, you model the authentic Christian life.

■ **By serving as an illustration:** David's life provides a powerful example of the Lord's forgiveness as well as the consequences of sin. Sometimes, people wonder why the Bible calls David "a man after God's heart" when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged for Uriah's death. But after the prophet Nathan confronted David, he repented of his sin. Although God forgave him, his rebellion had consequences. His child died as an infant; one of his sons raped one of his daughters; Absalom rebelled and caused a division within the nation. In fact, David's life after his sin with Bathsheba was filled with heartache and pain. His sin had consequences even though God forgave him and allowed him to continue reigning over Israel.

Most people in our society want to be able to rebel against God and avoid all consequences. The

story of David illustrates the high cost of sin. As believers, our heavenly Father graciously forgives our wrongdoing, but there is always a price to pay.

■ **By writing songs:** The book of Psalms is full of lyrics that David wrote. In them, he speaks of his hunger for God and feelings of isolation. The king describes his victories and personal defeats, including moments of fear, anxiety, and depression. In fact, every human emotion—from love and devotion to jealousy and hatred—are expressed in this book. The Psalms give us an intimate glimpse of the relationship between a man and his Creator. Because of David's contribution to the Word of God, his life has served the Lord's purpose—not just for his generation, but for thousands of years after it.

## CONCLUSION:

Are you following God's will for your life? If you aren't a Christian, the answer is no. Perhaps you are waiting to accept Jesus as your Savior. I pray that you won't put off that decision any longer. Acknowledge that you have rebelled against God, confess your sins to Him, and surrender your life to His control. Believe Christ's death on the cross paid your sin debt in full, and receive His forgiveness. Then you can begin a new life in Him and start to fulfill God's calling on your life.

Maybe you are already a believer but never realized the purpose for your life. As a Christian, you should live in such a way that your life will make an impact for God. Your attitudes and actions should count for His kingdom. My friend, I pray you will seek the Father's will and surrender to His leading. The Lord will amaze you with the powerful things He will do in and through your life. ✨



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