

**A Different Perspective**  
**Living the Life God Always Intended**  
**09-40-5**  
***Living a Life of Purpose***

The one big problem that I see with the whole 'me, me, me' thing is that we all try to live that out at some point in our lives but it lacks purpose. As my wonderful aunty always used to say, 'Berni, you can only live in one house, sleep in one bed and drive one car at a time'. You know something, she has a point.

Once we have a home and food and money to a certain basic level, truly, the rest doesn't matter. I know a man who's wealthy beyond anything I can imagine. He'd be well into his sixties by now and he continues to work these incredibly long hours to make more money. I'm not sure what the next bit should say. What for? Why does he do that? When is enough, enough? I mean, what's the purpose of life? What's your purpose?

Well, when is enough, enough? And what am I on this planet for? What are you on this planet for? I wonder why it is that we allow ourselves to be duped into thinking that if we can only jump to the next stepping stone in our journey of things and stuff and having and acquiring and spending and, all that stuff, if only we could get to the next stepping stone then, then we'll be happy?

There's every chance that you and I come from different social backgrounds, different economic backgrounds, different cultures and outlooks and wants and needs. But one thing that's not different is that we all need to be fulfilled.

There comes a point where we're full of stuff. My aunty was a wise philosopher. I thought she was stupid when I was in my twenties and thirties. At that age where it was all about accumulating wealth. It was all about establishing a career. It was all about making money. But actually, as much as I tried it never filled me up. It always left me empty and hollow.

I spent a lot of money trying. Expensive houses. Expensive sound systems. Art works. Holidays. You know, with the holidays you can jet off business class to some expensive resort and have everything laid on and live in the lap of luxury and yet still feel empty.

I know. And I knew that somehow I wasn't living the life that God always intended for me. You know what? My hunch is it's all part

of Gods plan, that 'stuff' won't fill us up. Instead of being fulfilled, you get this bloated empty feeling happening.

The apostle Paul, a couple of thousand years ago. I love the stuff that Paul writes in the New Testament. He was writing to his protégé Timothy. If you have a Bible you can look it up yourself. 1 Timothy, chapter 6, verse 10. This is what Paul wrote. We often misquote this. Just about everyone has heard it. He wrote,

"The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and in people's eagerness to be rich, they've wandered away from God and pierced themselves with many pains."

You see most often people say that money is the root of all evil. But money's Gods idea. Wealth is Gods idea. Goods and things and food and houses and car. They're God idea and in and of themselves there's nothing wrong with them. It's not money that's the root of all evil. It's the love of money which is the root of all kinds of evil.

In our eagerness to be rich, we've wandered away from God and pierced ourselves with many pains. I really relate to that. I spent a good quarter of a century chasing after money. You know, chasing after money sounds like such a good plan. I mean, why shouldn't we be wealthy? Why shouldn't we drive flash cars? Why shouldn't we have big houses?

But if that's the purpose of our lives. If that's the one thing that we're chasing after above everything else, it ends up in a whole bunch of pain and hurt. They've wandered away from God because they've been chasing after money and in so doing, pierced themselves with many pains.

I wonder if you can relate to that because I certainly can? Here's how it works. It doesn't matter how much we have, we never have enough.

I was talking about a man at the beginning of the program and he's in his sixties and he's wealthy beyond anything I can imagine. He has a massive mansion. He and his wife live in this huge house on this huge property just a few miles from the centre of a large city. The place is worth a fortune. And not only that, they have a huge holiday house overlooking the ocean and more cash and stocks and investments and companies than you and I can really figure.

And the people in those companies are really only tools for making money. And no matter how much he has you never see a quiet

contentment, a quiet joy, a quiet peace in his character, in his countenance.

He's always feverish. He's always under pressure. I mean the guy's well into his sixties, he doesn't need anymore money. What on earth is he doing? What on earth are we here for?

My hunch is we're here for a life of significance and significance only happens in community. I mean, imagine a virtuoso violinist but she has no audience. What good is the violinist? Imagine the butcher or the hairdresser but they have no customers. Imagine someone who would make a great husband but he has no wife.

Life only matters because of our relationships, doesn't it? And significance happens when we reach out beyond ourselves and touch others. See, for me significant means really, really, really enjoying my relationship with God. And then sharing His love with others. That's what makes me tick. That's what I live for.

You may have heard me say before, this week, it's almost exactly a decade and a half since I became a Christian. So I took that step and sat under a tree and said, 'Lord Jesus, I give you my life. With everything I am and everything I have and I'm not holding anything back from You.'

Now up to that point in my life I was rich in wealth, in money but I was dissatisfied because it was empty and shallow. And something happened. That instant that I invited Jesus into my life. Something awesome. It's like the black and white TV became colour all of a sudden.

You know what I mean? It's like God breathed some life into you and your circumstances, cause I was going through some bad stuff at the point, they didn't change overnight but I changed and Gods been changing me ever since. Day by day. Little by little. Just quietly walking with Jesus.

And sometimes making radical decisions for Christ. Sometimes saying, 'you know, I'm going to sell my IT consultanting firm. I'm going to move away from that and give up that life because God is calling me to tell His story on this radio station.'

And the two things that really shape my day, they both happen first up in the morning, every morning almost. Is early in the morning when almost everyone is still asleep and it's still dark outside, I spend time doing two things. Praying and reading Gods word, the

Bible. And it's the most wonderful time of the day. That dark quiet time when no-one else is around.

You can't do that sort of thing for any period of time without getting a heart to use everything He has given us and everything He has made us, to touch other people with that love and that joy and that peace and that contentment that come from two things. From a connection upwards to God and a connection outwards so that Gods love, overflowing through us, can go out to other people.

What about you? Are you living the life God always intended? Have you got that fantastic connection upwards? Not because you're Mr or Mrs Super Christian. Just because you spend some time quietly with Jesus.

Are you living that connection outwards, quietly and some days radically? Letting His love overflow through you into the rest of the world. Do you spend time walking in the cool of the morning with Him? And then in the day, walking through the fire with Him? Can I ask you this? Are you living the life that God always intended for you?