

TOLUPE & ANTHONY AKERELE

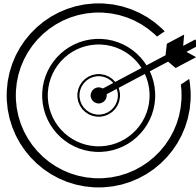


PURPOSE,
SUCCESS &
NEW YEAR

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A meaningful life is an ultimate goal that most people strive for. It involves purpose, meaning, and a visible contribution to our world.

The meaning of life is an eternal question, and different theories and beliefs try to answer it. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, humans need to meet their survival needs before moving on to self-actualization or pursuing other life goals. Some say the meaning of life is to feel loved and experience joy. Others believe it's optional to think about the meaning-of-life matters in the first place. This category believes one should just live to the fullest potential. Some combine striving for a goal with personal development. In fact, the fact that there is a question to this thing called purpose shows one can not just gloss over it. We all must find our purpose!

Interestingly, we all have much in common regarding finding one's specific purpose.

Let's check through some facts.

Numerous studies confirm that there are 3 major factors influencing how we feel about our lives:

- Being content with what we have
- Making a contribution
- Striving for something bigger than ourselves

These factors undoubtedly contribute to the intense competition for abstract things. Others simply run through life to prove a point or feel included in social ranks.

Sadly, for many in this category, there is no personal drive to live the actual reason for their birth. There is no specific passion for completely utilizing their divine talents too! Instead, they live by competition on copied cycles, cultural sentiments, and religious limitations. So, how can I ensure I am separate from the 'they' as described above? It's simple!

Find your purpose in life. It is the only way you can get a sense of direction in life and achieve what you really want. It is the only way to satisfy that inner longing that God, the creator, put inside you.

Funny as it seems, many people do not find their own purpose because they are too busy tending to other needs.

Oh, how we love our mothers! A mother can be so consumed with attending to others (husband, children, and extended family) that she forgets to pay attention or take time for herself. Don't get this wrong; taking care of other things is great. However, we must always avoid getting caught up in the 'busy with many things' syndrome that we forget to take time to identify 'the thing' we are on earth for.

This is why it is so crucial for everyone who wants a meaningful life to have time for introspection and self-reflection.

Finding one's life purpose can be challenging if you are

yet to sincerely ask the ONE who gives meaning to life. But no, it's not our intention to scare you off these pages. You just need to ask HIM! You know 'HIM?' It is in HIM we move and have our being. He gives identity and purpose to our lives!

He is God, the Messiah. He has done it for us and can for you too!

In fact, the day we find that purpose is the day we start living!

If we were to come up with a definition for purpose right now, it would be our "reason for being."

Once you discover your identity and purpose, 'the many things' suddenly become more manageable. You will feel motivated to do better each day, knowing that what we do has meaning. You won't just live for yourself anymore but for HIM. You now know it's all about each moment and its significance to 'the thing.'

Need we add more? You won't be moved much by the loud buzzing of 'rat races' here and there. Instead, you will lead a fully focused life and you will be set to achieve your true, ideal mission.

- ***What is my life's purpose?***

You may find yourself asking this question when you are unsure of your future.

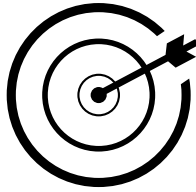
- ***How do I find my life's purpose? How can I find something that may not even exist yet?***

You may be asking the wrong question. Instead, you should ask yourself who or what your life should serve.

People often hunt for the next great thing to pursue to find their passion and live fulfilling lives. And while such a journey of self-discovery can initially be exciting, it typically ends as a long, lonely trek with no end in sight.

Just as the unnecessary copious competition has replaced the ideal place of finding one's purpose, material things have substituted for success.

One way to explore one's purpose is by looking at how you want to serve God, and others, fill a need in society and point others to God. There is typically no 'one size fits all' approach. You must be sincere, humble and diligently ask HIM.



Success!

On the other hand, success is something many people think they can define. Suppose you ask people today what success is; you may realize that many definitions are subjective. In many instances, the true definition of success has been tampered with, watered down, and greatly limited in actual value in the present-day world.

Just like the unnecessary copious competition has replaced the ideal place of finding one's purpose, material things also substituted success.

People measure success by how much is stored in the bank or invested in viable assets. All these things are great and should come to those who have found their purpose. However, there are other meanings of success.

Without mincing words, success is the ability to bring to completion the divine purpose for one's life. Success is finding or knowing your life's purpose and working rightly to fulfill them. See? True success is neither in bank alerts nor in the many assets stored up for generations ahead. If this was the measure, the stupendously rich should not commit suicide.

You need to outline your success; nobody can do it for you. Success may include making a quality impact on a specific area of interest and creating a difference. It may imply a feel of feat and professional progression and the ability to render quality services that bring about notable impact.

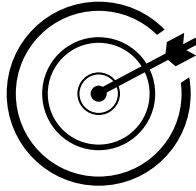
Truth is, a one-size-fits-all method is impossible! Every individual has a unique definition of success, determined by whether they fulfil their life's purpose. Every God-given and good success always fits into this box!

This comes only by living a life that accomplishes the set plans of God for one's life, living the footprint of God's set mandate for each individual

So God is the script writer, and one only gets to act out the pre-scripted scenes throughout a lifetime. How pleasant that is!

Undoubtedly, one on a mission to be successful in God's given directions must first have Him as a guide (this is crucial). And beyond having Him as a guide, He will play many lead roles through the journey and provide everything to attain a seamless journey to the goal.

- ***Are you walking with God as your Guide, or are you simply navigating life goals without Him?***
- ***Are you operating from a materialistic point of view for life's success, or are you committed to living a fulfilled life of attaining your life's purpose?***



New Year!

There's something about New Year; the new year comes with an opportunity to start afresh, make new resolutions, and set new goals. In fact, everyone sets out to make the new year better than the previous. This expectation leads many to commit or attempt to commit to make the new year their best year yet.

Individuals, young and old, make plans for growth, like small and big business organizations, with many strategic sessions on mapping out a better structure for the New Year.

However, brand-new is no longer new by the end of the first quarter. Almost always, the first quarterly assessments register two typical results. One happy goal-getter is satisfied with the rate of consistency on the initial goals for the year; the other is far from being satisfied due to the absence of visible changes or intentional actions on the goals set for the year.

You may have repeated the cycles of unmet goals for several years and lost interest in this beginning-of-year routine. Well, this New Year routine sure works, and would only work if...and only if you are willing to do the work.

Are you willing to do the work?

Did I hear you scream yes? Oh, that's right!

You do not need to go too far. Remember, we are set to achieve God-given success, right?

Easy! You need to first ask your Guide what plans He has for the year and the strategies He wants you to use to conquer the current odds in your life.

Sounds weird? But that's the best way!

Now you are not just praying and simply leaving it as it is. You must also do the work.

Once you have a clear lead from your Guide, write your goals and attach a timeline for each. Next, you have to spread the goals into a daily task. In other words, you must do at least one thing daily to achieve the set goals. Setting goals in the following areas will help you manage the several domains of your life and ultimately give you a valuable framework to fulfill your life's purpose.

Spiritual: How much of His word do I want to read this new year? How much time do I want to spend with Him daily? How often do I want to obey Him, and what will be my response to all the promptings He gives?

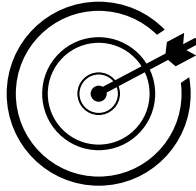
Financial: How much income do I need this year? How much do I need to invest this year? How much am I giving to God and humanity this year? Which charity, family need, or other course am I giving to this year? How much am I saving this year? How much adjustment do I need to make to my lifestyle to avoid overspending? How do I pay up my debt, if any?

Health: Am I healthy? Do I need to do a check-up? What do I need to do to ensure I eat healthily? Do I need to exercise more? What are the required efforts to put into action? Do I have any unhealthy habits that must be eliminated?

Relationships: Who are the critical people in my life, and how do I invest time with them this year? What do I need to do to improve my relationships? Who do I need to be close to, and who do I need to detach from? Who do I need to become to attract and retain the right kind of people?

Career/Academics: What professional certifications do I do I require to make progress in my career? What new course or role do I need to apply for? What conferences do I need to attend? What gifts/skills/talents do I have and what am I doing to make the best of my gifts? Where do I need to volunteer my skills? Do I know my purpose and what effort do I need to make to ensure I am delivering on my purpose?

Personal growth: How many books do I want to read this year? How many things do I want to learn, unlearn and relearn? How many coaching sessions do I want to attend? What sort of environment do I need to create for myself? What kind of character traits do I need to imbibe? What kind of character do I need to prayerfully desist from? How much am I investing in my personal care this year?



Remember these points!

- Find your purpose by first submitting your life to God.
- Do not measure success in materialistic terms. Instead, measure success in terms of the degree to which you have accomplished that task that is divinely assigned to you.
- Don't just set goals for the New Year. Allow your Guide to plan the year and deliver His winning strategy to get the much-required goal.
- Endeavour to do the work too!

Beyond the words you have read, we pray that God gives you the Grace to take action. Remember that it is not of the letter but of the Spirit: for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (2 Corinthians 3:6 NIV)

We are rooting for you! God bless you!!

