

Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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Hot off the Press!



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Dear,

"What's my purpose?" The man sitting across from me at the addiction recovery mission where I work, wanted to know. He'd been beaten nearly to death once, losing a vital body part; he'd been stabbed next to the heart (literally within an inch of his life); and he had been shot several times. A close family member had told him, "God is saving your life for a reason." He already knew the Lord, but **he had NO CLUE what that reason was.**

What would you tell him? I have heard these stories many times. The amazing thing to me are not the fantastic escapes from death ("to the Lord God belong escapes from death" Psalm 68:20), but the stunning fact that no one yet who has ventured to say "God saved me for a reason" has had any idea what that reason was. ***This is so wrong!***

Steve

Our #1 Purpose as Stated by Jesus

Without any doubt this is your #1 purpose...

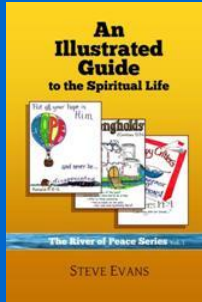
OK, so what was his purpose? I FIRMLY believe this: the reason why God kept that man alive by miracle rescues is the same reason He keeps you and me alive. Everyone of us has a #1 assignment which is also our number #1 purpose/reason for being alive. Could I have a drum roll please?

It is exactly what Jesus told us it is:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

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For the word commandment simply substitute

"assignment", "purpose" or "reason for being alive." They all fit and they all help "flesh out" the meaning. The most important command given me by my Lord and Master, Jesus, IS the first and greatest assignment that I need to be accomplishing day in day out. Because it is the most important thing required of me, this assignment becomes my greatest purpose in life and the main reason why I'm alive.

All of this is exponentially enhanced when you consider that given the nature of the assignment--total, steadfast love (to be discussed below)--this is an assignment that can only be accomplished moment to moment, effectively leaving room for no other purpose, assignment, reason for living to supplant it. Try not to see this as command only: Jesus is talking about our highest delight, not just our highest duty! ***How do you do it?***

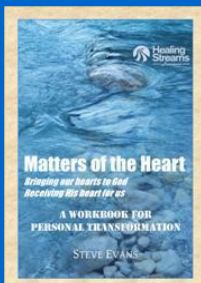
How Do We Pursue Our #1 Purpose?

There is so much else I also have to do...

OK, so now I understand that my highest delight, my greatest purpose and my number one assignment are all one and the same: loving God with my whole heart, soul, mind and body. ***How do you get a handle on that one?***

The command seemed so big and so all consuming that I had no idea how to go about it as a young Christian. It is not that I wanted to disobey it: ***I had no idea how to obey it.*** Not only that, but one peculiar, painful legacy of my captivity to darkness (see *Rescued from Hell* for the story) is that I almost never can *feel* affection, even for the Lord. So I set that command aside and began concentrating on "trust and obey" since there is "no other way to be happy in Jesus." That seemed like something I could do. And besides, I desperately wanted His peace (that comes from trusting) and His guidance (so necessary for avoiding pitfalls)!

Only in the last couple of years has it dawned on me that those twin desires are KEY to fulfilling the Great Commandment as well. In practical terms it does little good for me or anyone else if I have *feelings of love* in my heart for God and Jesus, but do not trust Them or obey Them. You can actually rephrase the Great



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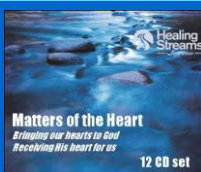
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Command as

"You shall trust Me with everything and everyone in every situation and obey Me in everything I ask of you--moment by moment and day by day."

That answers nicely to the meaning of what Jesus has commanded of us. The sign that we are doing it is PEACE, the peace of His presence, the peace that ONLY comes to us as we are faithful to trust and to obey. The sign that we are not doing it, or falling short of the mark, is STRESS and DISTRESS. ***What an incentive program! What a sublime system of feedback!***

The old Westminster divines had it (this first command) that our ultimate purpose is "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." God is not glorified by "believers" who do not trust and obey Him! And we are utterly unable to enjoy Him when we don't. It begins right here, right now, whenever I lay down my fears, my agendas, and choose instead to surrender to and submit to following the One who commands my entire devotion. ***The peace His Spirit gives you will show you how well you are coming along on your assignment...***

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides. Matthew 6:33 AMP

How Do We Discover Our #2 Purpose?

How 1 and 2 work together..

I can't leave it at going over the #1 purpose without adding a word about our #2 purpose/assignment. Most people think of this as their "purpose in life," but it is actually secondary according to Jesus who gives it to us.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39 ESV

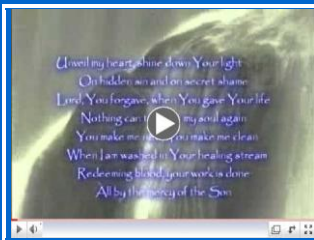
What I do to love and be of service to other people is what fulfills this command. Discovering what you are destined and gifted to do in service to others is so powerfully fulfilling that many people are fooled into stopping here, thinking that this point of discovery is one's purpose in life. But that is NOT what Jesus said. Our greatest purpose is fulfilling the greatest commandment.

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Mercy of the Son with stream

I often ask the men at the Mission where I work:

"When you were a kid, if your mom told you in the morning, 'Here are 10 things I want you to do, but the most important thing by far is making up your bed,' how do you think she will feel if you do all the other things and fail to do that? Will she praise you or berate you?"

Doing the second command is fired up and kept on track by doing the first command: if you think you are serving people well, but have no peace from God or are burning out, then something is going wrong with #1... Doing the first command is kept honest by doing the second: If you think you are loving God, but hate people, or are liked by only a few, then something is going wrong with #2...

OK, with that said there are **three sure ways** to discover your secondary purpose:

1) The Lord will give you a sense of calling in dreams, visions, or in your spirit. You simply may "know" or have known for a long time what it is you are here to do. If not go to step 2.

2) Look inside your heart: What "people group" do you have a special compassion or concern for? It may be a different country or a different part of our culture, such as youth or the elderly, or people with big noses. Your heart concern for their welfare is a HUGE indication from the Lord of the direction He is calling you.

3) Now that you have this sense of direction, pray to the Lord and start seeking to grow your understanding, your qualifications, your relationships, your skills in that direction. But walk with the Lord step by step and let Him get you ready. At the right time He will be opening all the doors.

It worked for me and I pray it will work for you too...

From We to Thee

Preparing for the Harvest...

Check out our new site for people seeking to be saved! Appropriately, it is called **forerunners4Him.org**. We are targeting "seekers" who don't know the Lord and "forerunners" who want to know Him so well that their lives are grace-filled and free! We want to run into His heart (our intimate devotion) and carry out what we find there to the world around us (our devoted service).

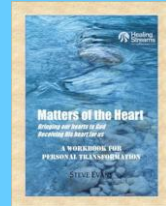


Let me know if you see things that can be improved! But keep in mind that it is still very much under construction, so a lot of the pages are far from being finished. Still, your spiritual eyes may see things I am blind to...

Steve and Eunice

Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are **"truths with traction,"** guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with.



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Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

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