

The Purpose Driven Life

What On Earth Am I Here For?

Made for a Mission

*In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world,
I give them a mission in the world.*

John 17:18 (MSG)

*The most important thing is that I complete my mission,
the work that the Lord Jesus gave me.*

Acts 20:24 (NCV)

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YOU WERE MADE FOR A MISSION.

God is at work in the world, and he wants you to join him. This assignment is called your *mission*. God wants you to have both a ministry in the Body of Christ and a mission in the world. Your ministry is your service to *believers*, and your mission is your service to *unbelievers*.

Your life mission is both *shared* and *specific*. One part of it is a responsibility you share with every other Christian, and the other part is an assignment that is unique to you.

Our English word *mission* comes from the Latin word for “sending.” Being a Christian includes being *sent* into the world as a representative of Jesus Christ. Jesus, said, “*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*”

Jesus clearly understood his life mission on earth. At age twelve he said, “*I must be about my Father’s business,*” and twenty-one years later, dying on the cross, he said, “*It is finished.*” Like bookends, these two statements frame a well-lived, purpose-driven life. Jesus completed the mission the Father gave him.

The mission Jesus had while on earth is now *our* mission because we are the Body of Christ. What he did in his physical body we are to continue as his spiritual body, the church. What is that mission? Introducing people to God! The Bible says, “*Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.*” **GNT**

The Importance of Your Mission

Fulfilling your life mission on earth is an essential part of living for God’s glory. The Bible gives several reasons why your mission is so important.

***Your mission is a continuation of Jesus’ mission on earth.** As his followers, we are to continue what Jesus started. Jesus calls us not only to *come to* him, but to go for him. Your mission is so significant that Jesus repeated it five times, in five different ways, in five different books of the Bible. Study these five commissions of Jesus and you will learn the details of your mission on earth – the when, where, why, and how.

In the Great Commission Jesus said, *“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.”* **Matt. 28:19** These words of Jesus are not the *Great Suggestion*. If you are a part of God’s family, your mission is mandatory.

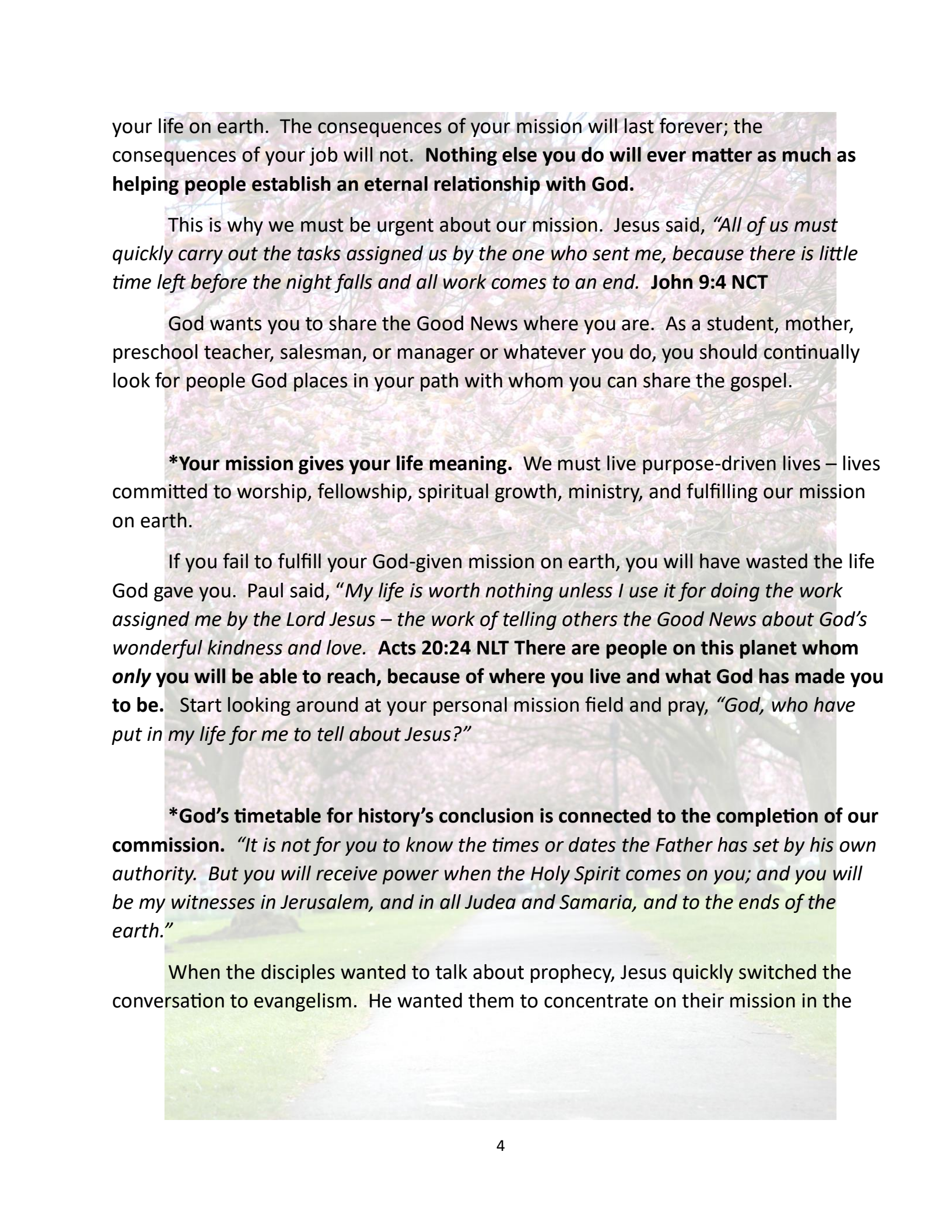
The Bible says, *“You must warn them so they may live. If you don’t speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death.”* **Ezek. 3:18**

***Your mission is a wonderful privilege.** *“God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him.”* **2 Cor. 5:18** **Your mission involves two great privileges: working with God and representing him.** We get to partner with God in the building of his kingdom. Paul calls us *“co-laborers”* and says, *(we are workers together with God.)*

Jesus has secured our salvation, put us in his family, given us his Spirit, and then made us his agents in the world. What a privilege! The Bible says, *“We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God.”* **2 Cor. 5:20**

***Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing you can do for them.** We have the greatest news in the world, and sharing it is the greatest kindness you can show to anyone. We must remember that no matter how contented or successful people *appear* to be, without Christ they are hopelessly lost and headed for eternal separation from God. The Bible says, *“Jesus is the only One who can save people.”* Everybody needs Jesus. **Acts 4:12 NCV**

***Your mission has eternal significance.** It will impact the eternal destiny of other people, so it’s more important than any job, achievement, or goal you will reach during



your life on earth. The consequences of your mission will last forever; the consequences of your job will not. **Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God.**

This is why we must be urgent about our mission. Jesus said, *“All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. John 9:4 NCT*

God wants you to share the Good News where you are. As a student, mother, preschool teacher, salesman, or manager or whatever you do, you should continually look for people God places in your path with whom you can share the gospel.

***Your mission gives your life meaning.** We must live purpose-driven lives – lives committed to worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, ministry, and fulfilling our mission on earth.

If you fail to fulfill your God-given mission on earth, you will have wasted the life God gave you. Paul said, *“My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about God’s wonderful kindness and love. Acts 20:24 NLT* **There are people on this planet whom only you will be able to reach, because of where you live and what God has made you to be.** Start looking around at your personal mission field and pray, *“God, who have put in my life for me to tell about Jesus?”*

***God’s timetable for history’s conclusion is connected to the completion of our commission.** *“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus quickly switched the conversation to evangelism. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the

world. He said in essence, “The details of my return are none of your business. **What is your business is the mission I’ve given you. Focus on that!**”

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Since Jesus said he didn’t know the day or hour, why should you try to figure it out? **Matt. 24:36**

It is easy to get distracted, because Satan would rather have you do anything besides sharing your faith.

When that happens, remember the words of Jesus: *“Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

***what It Costs to Fulfill Your Mission**

To fulfill your mission will require that you abandon your agenda and accept God’s agenda for your life. You can’t just “tack it on” to all the other things you’d like to do with your life. You must say, like Jesus, *“Father, ...I want your will, not mine.”* **Luke 42:22** You yield your rights, expectations, dreams, plans, and ambitions to him. **You hand God a blank sheet with your name signed at the bottom and tell him to fill in the details.**

Jesus has promised, *“[God] will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.”* **Luke 12:31 MSG**

***One More for Jesus**

If you want to be used by God, you must care about what God cares about; what he cares about most is the redemption of the people he made. He wants his lost children found! Nothing matters more to God; the Cross proves that. I pray that you will always be on the lookout to reach “one more for Jesus” so that when you stand before God one day, you can say, “Mission accomplished!”

