

12 Days of Thanksgiving: Day 8, Purpose



Day 8: Purpose

"But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." Exodus 9:16

purpose[pur-puh s] noun

1. the reason for which something exists or is done, made, used, etc.
2. an intended or desired result; end; aim; goal.
3. determination; resoluteness.
4. the subject in hand; the point at issue.
5. practical result, effect, or advantage: to act to good purpose.

One of the Greek words for *purpose* is *prothesis*. At its root, *prothesis* means *to set forth to be looked at, to place in public view*. According to this definition, part of our *purpose* in Christ is to make manifest the power of God in our life. We are to shine forth how He has redeemed, restored and shaped us into the image of Christ. We place ourselves in public view when we *purposefully* use our gifts to speak God's truth to the lost of the world. How are you using your gifts to show the

world there is purpose to your life?

Give Thanks for Purpose

Purpose of Life: Dear Father, we give thanks for You have called us to live a life of *purpose*. Thank you we have a reason to get up each day and we have important work to do for Your kingdom. We also give thanks because You use all things for Your *purposes* ... good things, bad things, hard things, painful things. You even re-purpose our failings and mistakes to work for our good and Your glory. Father, You have specifically gifted us to be fruitful and effective ministers of your Word. We are Your hands and feet. Please send us and use us according to Your *purpose*. We thank you for the gift of *purpose*.

More Purpose

[One Anna, One Purpose](#) a Bible study by Mary Kane

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Comment

Please leave a comment below in the **Comment** section on what God teaches you today about *purpose*.

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“Exodus 9 (New King James Version).” Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 22 Nov, 2014. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=Psa&c=111&p=0&rl=0&t=NKJV>>.

by Mary Kay Kane

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Blooming in the Cracks of Life: Sacred Everyday

Mark and I turned the corner in downtown Westfield on our way to a restaurant when it caught my eye. In a skinny crack of the sidewalk amidst a sea of concrete bloomed a velvety fuchsia petunia. Beauty stood out in the midst of the sparse environment.



Now I love flowers. Whether it's a beautifully tended garden, a colorful display of potted flowers, vining plants creeping up a trellis, or a wild riot of wildflowers, I'm always looking, smelling, touching, admiring. But I didn't expect to see one here.

And I realized that's what life should be like.

We spend too much time waiting for the perfect setting before we bloom. We think when I have...when I get...then I'll really do what I'm supposed to do. I'm always waiting for something to happen before I take action.

- An updated house worthy of HGTV before I invite the neighbors over.
- A promotion at my job before I start giving to charity.
- A visible position at church before I start volunteering.
- A perfect family before I let anyone get close.

We've got it all wrong.



When we live in the cracks and broken places of life and bloom there for Jesus, our fragrance of him beautifies and permeates the neighborhood.

[He won't ever use us where we want to be if we don't let Him use us where we are right now.](#)



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We are where we are for a reason. It's time that we become like the fuchsia petunia and bloom right in the midst of the cracks of our lives. It's then that we'll see our true beauty, our true purpose emerge, as Jesus transforms us and those around us.

Are you putting off blooming today because you're waiting for the next best thing to happen? Take your struggle to Jesus and ask Him to help you start living now.

Jane

Ready to Burst!

Pedaling down the Monon Trail, I breathed in the fresh air. Soft rays of shine danced on my head, dappled by the many trees around me. The lower edge of the forest was reawakening

into a soft, fuzzy green, but above the bare trees danced in the wind, most still waiting for their spring clothing.



Finally, a day worthy of being called spring. My sister and I flew along the path but quickly braked when a splash of pink caught my eye: a magnolia tree just about to burst into full bloom! Already a few anxious blossoms were opening to the sun.

I just can't wait for the flowering trees to bloom I thought. I'm ready to be done with the color gray. My impatience for color, warmth, sun, flowers, and life was growing.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

The words from Ecclesiastes 3:1 nudged into my mind. God was reminding me that you can't rush the seasons; you can't rush Him. Trees and flowers need nutrients and the time it takes to absorb warmth to bloom.

"And so do you," the Spirit whispered to my soul.

I pondered that timely thought. The last few months of my life have been busy with a new venture. I am getting impatient to get past the preparations into the launch. He was reminding me to not rush ahead, to absorb the "nutrients" I need for a full bloom.

Maybe you're there too. There's something you've been looking

forward to, working toward, and it's *just about* there. You're ready to burst. It's tempting to just jump in, but taking the time to grow a healthy blossom is important. Otherwise, this new thing may turn out like flowers lured into opening prematurely by the excitement of early warm weather – with their frozen blossoms stricken on the vine.



Make sure that the bud of your idea is bursting with nutrients. Pray, study, work, save, read, consult, talk – do all the things necessary so that God can coax you into full bloom in His time.

Jane



The 12 Days of Thanks Giving:

Day 8



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Walking with God: A Study on the Book of Ruth, Day Ten by Mary Kane



We are all searching for meaning, **purpose** and satisfaction. How can we find lasting **satisfaction**? Today's trophy becomes rusty overnight. To find the answer to true **fulfillment** and satisfaction, please join me for today's Bible study by clicking on the link: [Walking With God: Day Ten](#)

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