

# 12 Days of ThanksLiving, Day 8: Purpose



## ThanksLiving, 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.

### Purpose? What purpose?

I remember the day clearly. I was about 12 years old, I went to the kitchen to get a snack. From out of the clear blue sky, a question hit my mind, *What is life all about? Why am I on this earth?*, and more importantly, *What is my purpose?* As far as I could tell, I didn't really seem to have a purpose. I

wasn't particularly gifted or good at anything.

These questions hounded me day and night for years. While I suffered much anxiety and fear from these questions, they ultimately led me to a saving relationship with Christ.

## God's 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?

## A ThanksLiving life of purpose

We have all been gifted by God to do very specific works in very specific places. No, you don;t have to go start a world wide ministry, God already has a world wide ministry going on. You need to find ways to use your gifts right here, right now. Ask your self two questions:

1. **What's in your hands?** (ability to clean, bake, caregive, write, speak, teach, sing, encourage, fix, sew, etc.)
2. **Who needs it?** (your family, neighbors, church, the elderly, your local school etc.)

Now, go find a way to give it. In your giving and serving you will find your purpose.

## 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 ThanksLiving Purpose

One Anna, One Purpose a Bible study by Mary Kane

On Purpose a short Bible study by Mary Kane

## Comment

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

### Previous Links

- Introduction
- Day 1: Light
- Day 2: Cleansing
- Day 3: Sacrifice
- Day 4: God's Word
- Day 5: Restoration
- Day 6: Service
- Day 7: Redemption

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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>>.

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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.



## Tweet This

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

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## 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.





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# The 12 Days of Thanks Giving: Day 8



## Day 8: Purpose

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## More Purpose

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*On Purpose* a short Bible study by Mary Kane

*Believer or Achiever?* an article by Joyce Meyer

## Comment

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

## Previous Links

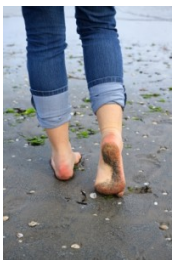
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# Walking with God: A Study on the Book of Ruth, Day Ten by Mary Kane



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***

# **This is the Life! by Mary Kane**



What is the secret to living a life of satisfaction and fulfillment? Where does one go to find meaning and purpose? The Bible contains the answers to these important questions. To find out how to live a life of purpose and satisfaction please click on the following link: [This is the Life!](#)