

# Seeking, Hearing, and Yielding to God

Finding the purpose that God has given each of us is a deeply personal journey rooted in three core spiritual disciplines: seeking Him, listening for His answers, and yielding to His will. Today we will explore these steps in hopes to guide you on your path to divine purpose.

The first step in discovering your purpose is a deliberate and earnest pursuit of God Himself. Purpose isn't found in a checklist of tasks but in a relationship with your Creator. Seeking God means prioritizing Him above all else, making space for Him in your daily life, and pursuing a deeper knowledge of His character.

A key biblical principle regarding purpose and guidance is the promise of discovery: God assures us that if we seek Him sincerely, we will find Him. This foundational concept is articulated in Jeremiah 29:13, which states, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart," confirming that our earnest efforts are rewarded by His presence and direction.

Furthermore, a core tenet is prioritizing the Kingdom of God; as detailed in Matthew 6:33, we are instructed to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you," suggesting that secondary concerns, including our specific purpose, will align correctly once our primary focus is God.

A prominent biblical example of this lifestyle is King David, described in Acts 13:22 as a "man after God's own heart." David's journey from a shepherd boy to a king was characterized by a relentless pursuit of God through triumphs and failures. His dedication to seeking divine direction is evidenced in instances like 1 Samuel 23:2, where he explicitly "inquired of the Lord" before making significant decisions, such as pursuing the Philistines.

# Seeking, Hearing, and Yielding to God

However, when individuals and nations consistently choose not to seek the Lord, the Bible indicates specific, often negative, outcomes for ignoring divine counsel. A poignant biblical example of these consequences is King Saul. While Saul began his reign with humility, his failure to consistently seek the Lord led him down a path of disobedience and desperation, eventually resorting to consulting mediums for guidance when he felt God was silent, as detailed in 1 Samuel 28:7. This persistent failure to inquire of God ultimately led to his downfall and an unfulfilled, tragic end to his life and kingship.

Seeking God isn't a monologue; it's a conversation. Once you have sought Him, the next crucial step is to quiet yourself and listen. God communicates in various ways, through His Word (the Bible), prayer, wise counsel, circumstances, and the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Listening requires patience, discernment, and a receptive heart.

Another biblical principle for discerning guidance centers on the manner in which God communicates. He often speaks not through dramatic displays but in quiet intimacy. This is powerfully illustrated in 1 Kings 19:11-13, where the prophet Elijah experiences a great wind, an earthquake, and a fire, only to hear God in a "still small voice" or a "gentle whisper" after the chaos subsided.

This highlights the need for stillness to perceive divine communication. Equally important is the emphasis placed on His written Word, which serves as the primary and enduring way God provides direction. Psalm 119:105 affirms this role, declaring, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," indicating that Scripture illuminates our journey.

# Seeking, Hearing, and Yielding to God

A practical example of learning to tune into this communication style is the young prophet Samuel. Growing up, Samuel initially mistook God's call one night for the voice of the priest Eli. Eli wisely instructed Samuel on how to position himself to hear God directly and respond appropriately. This formative moment is detailed in 1 Samuel 3:9-10, where Samuel is taught to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears," a posture that exemplifies readiness to receive divine guidance.

Hearing God's direction is only valuable if you act upon it. The final, and often most challenging, step is total surrender, yielding your plans, desires, and understanding to His sovereign will. True purpose is found in aligning your life completely with God's agenda, trusting that His plan is perfect and ultimately fulfilling.

A foundational biblical principle for navigating life's path is choosing trust over understanding, requiring us to lean entirely on God's direction rather than relying on our own limited human perspective. This is a central theme in Proverbs 3:5-6, which instructs us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

This posture of trust enables us to yield our plans and experience what Romans 12:2 describes as the "good, pleasing and perfect will of God" through the renewal of our minds. The ultimate biblical example of this complete submission comes from Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Facing the imminent agony of the cross, Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience to His divine purpose, expressing His human desire for an alternative path while ultimately prioritizing His Father's will.

# Seeking, Hearing, and Yielding to God

This moment of surrender is captured in Luke 22:42, where He prays, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Your purpose is not a mystery meant to be hidden from you; it is a destiny revealed through intimacy with God. By committing yourself to seeking Him earnestly, patiently listening to His guidance, and yielding your life to His perfect will, you will walk confidently in the unique purpose He designed just for you. But it won't be an easy path, if you listen to what the world believes, you may find yourself going down the wrong path. Here are some common misconceptions about discovering our God-given purpose, along with a biblical perspective to provide clarity.

First, there is the misconception that purpose is merely a specific job or career. The biblical truth is that while a career can express your calling, your core purpose is about glorifying God and becoming like Christ, a calling independent of your job title, as demonstrated by the Apostle Paul who made tents for a living.

Second, many believe purpose must be a grand, epic "BIG P" calling. In reality, God's purpose often unfolds in everyday faithfulness and service; the story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44) illustrates that the heart behind the act matters more than its scale.

Third, people mistakenly assume they will have one static purpose for their entire life. While our general purpose to love God and others (Luke 10:27) is constant, specific roles and assignments change across different seasons of life.

# Seeking, Hearing, and Yielding to God

Fourth, the "burning bush" misconception suggests finding purpose is an instant revelation. The Bible teaches that purpose is usually revealed through a gradual journey of seeking God, studying His Word, prayer, and receiving wise counsel, not a single dramatic moment.

Fifth, there is the secular idea that purpose is found purely through self-discovery. Biblically, purpose originates with our Creator, not within ourselves; we need God (looking up) and community (leaning on others) to discern our unique role within His kingdom.

Finally, some assume following God's purpose should be easy and without struggle. The biblical truth is that purpose often involves challenges, refining, and testing processes; Jesus promised that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33), but He also assured us of His presence and help through those struggles.

Ultimately, discovering your God-given purpose is an intimate journey of relationship, not a singular moment of self-discovery or an easy path without struggle. It requires a deliberate commitment to the three spiritual disciplines: earnestly seeking God, patiently listening for His "still, small voice" in Scripture and prayer, and totally yielding your will to His perfect plan, just as Jesus did in Gethsemane. By rooting your life in these biblical principles and steering clear of worldly misconceptions, you can confidently walk in the unique and fulfilling destiny your Creator designed specifically for you, trusting in His guidance every step of the way.