

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 8 “Divine Purpose”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament reveal recorded in *Acts*. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of *Revelation*.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. Last week we talked about how God is building all of us into a new temple not made with human hands but by the spirit of God. Tonight I want to talk about how do you find your place in the temple. Which stone (brick) are you?

II. Divine Purpose

A. 2 Basic Keys to fulfilling God’s plan for your life.

1. *Romans 12:1* be a living sacrifice and *Romans 12:2* renew our mind.
2. This creates a framework to discern the will of God about many of the objective truths that are in the Bible such as being thankful, live from our identity in Christ, obtain from sexual immorality and so on.
3. When I obey the specific will of God, I’m better positioned to hear God’s voice about the subjective will of God. ex: Jesus thankful before he multiplied food.

B. How Do I Find the the specific will of God for my life? **Ecclesiastes 3:11** God has eternity (your divine purpose in your heart).

1. *Psalms 42:7* deep calls out to deep. It’s like sonar. There is a place in the world that is calling out for us and there is a part of us (the spirit) that is crying out for it. **It’s part of our wiring.**
2. How do geese know to fly from Canada to the the south? Fly through cold, heat, wind, rain, snow and return to the same spot every year. **It’s in them.**
3. Salmon example - If a goose knows and salmon knows, a child of God filled with His spirit should sure know to what and where they are called.

C. **Ephesians 3:1-7**

1. What is the dispensation of grace? Grace - charis - God's supernatural endowment of ability in a specific area. Pez dispenser - it's this gifting He puts in you us do certain things.

a. ex: Ashley to sing, John Maxwell to do leadership. God puts the gift in there. **THE GIFT MATCHES THE CALL.**

b. **Romans 12:6-8 Motivational gifts** - usually most people are highly motivated, internally wired to do 1 of these things.

c. When we hear the voice of Jesus in our heart, something in us comes alive - **John 6:63**. This life is a grace gift and affects our internal wiring.

i. **Effects our emotions - Nehemiah 2:1-5** Nehemiah never heard an audible voice to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but after he prayed in *Nehemiah 1*, he was so moved to do something it affected His emotions and he was willing to risk everything includes his job, status, security to rebuild the walls.

ii. **God's will gives us strength - John 4:34** - One of the ways you know you've heard God is when you are willing to give up natural pleasures to do the thing He has called you to do. Ex: Friends, high paying job, hobbies, etc. ex: My testimony

d. The gift in us can lie dormant if its not mixed with faith - **2 Timothy 1:6-7** (fear can cause us to not operate in our gift) and **1 Timothy 4:14-15** (don't neglect/forget your gift - must be intentional to remember).

2. We must separate or give ourself entirely over to our gift and calling.

a. When we do our progress becomes evident to everyone - others will see the gift and call and desire to be blessed by our gifting. ex: Outliers - 10,000 hour rule to go from good to great - The Beatles, NHL Hockey Players.

b. **Ephesians 3 3-7** the mystery of Christ in us that Paul would take to the Gentiles was **given to Paul when he separated to the gospel for 3** years in the deserts of Arabia shortly after His conversion. **Galatians 1:15-18**. The message he took was salvation/blessing was by grace through faith and not keeping the law.

c. God later separated Paul to this ministry in **Acts 13:1-2**. This was approximately 14 years after the original call.

d. Kenneth Hagin and Andrew Wommack examples of separation.

III. Conclusion - God has a divine purpose for your life that aligns with the gifts He has put in you. We need to identify these gifts and our call and separate to them in order to fulfill God's plan for our lives.

A. Say Goodbye to Livestream Audience

B. Pray Closing Prayer

Discussion Questions

1. What are your biggest takeaways or aha moments from this teaching?
2. What can you take from this teaching and apply to your everyday life?
3. What are your primary motivational gifts from the list in **Romans 12:6-8**?
4. When you spend alone time with Jesus, what makes you come alive on the inside?
(Examples could be starting a business, being a stay at home mom, being involved in a specific type of ministry, etc.)
5. Keep a prayerful and Jesus focused mindset on the next question: If I have you 1 billion dollars so money was no longer an issue and everyone will love you know matter what you did with your life so the opinions of others were no longer an issue, what would you do with the rest of your life? (Hint: if you have really spent time in the presence of God, what you want to do is what He wants you to do).
6. What are some practical steps you can take to separate to God's gifts and talents He has given you? (think about the example from "Outliers.") Are there things that are time wasters you need to cut out of your life to separate to your gifting/calling?