



Sermon 1: Created with Purpose

Introduction

I'm so happy to share God's message with you on World Pathfinder Day. We now have approximately two million Pathfinders around the world as we celebrate the 69th anniversary of Pathfinder ministries. This ministry has expanded to over 150 countries preparing people for eternity.

Pathfinders and church family, have you ever wondered why you are here? Have you contemplated why God created you? Have you considered the main reason He made you? I hope that today you will discover God's plan for your life and understand that He created you with purpose.

The well-known author, Dr. Myles Munroe once said, "The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without a purpose," he also said, "You are not important because of how long you live; you are important because of how effective you live."

Pathfinders, friends and brethren your purpose in life goes beyond your goals, achievements, career, desires and victories. One of the most published female writers, Ellen G. White wrote "Those who live for a purpose, seeking to benefit and bless their fellowmen and to honor and glorify their Redeemer, are the truly happy ones on the earth, while the man who is restless, discontented, and seeking this and testing that, hoping to find happiness, is always complaining of disappointment. He is always in want, never satisfied, because he lives for himself alone." To understand more of God's purpose in placing you on this earth, you must begin with His words found in Genesis chapter 1.

Before we look at our Bibles, let us pray: Loving Father and Creator of all, we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation. As we look around us, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature all around us speaks of your greatness - the sky, mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colors of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot fully express the magnificence of all you have created. We join in praise with the writer of the Psalm when he says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created. We humbly give you praise and thanks. In the name of Jesus, Amen!!!





- **God the Creator**

The book of Genesis is considered one of the most important books in the Bible. Without the book of Genesis, the whole Bible would have been difficult to understand. The book deals with the origin of the world, human kind and with our purpose. Go with me to the first book of the Bible written by Moses, the book of Genesis. We are going to read chapter 1 verse 1.

Genesis 1:1 “In the Beginning God Created the heavens and the Earth”

In the “beginning” God created not only this planet but the whole universe and later He created you and me also. One thing that is clear, it is God that created everything. He is the initiator of creation. He made us for His purpose and until we discover that purpose we will not have the peaceful sense of belonging. *In the Beginning God*, the writer wants us to understand that there is no beginning without God. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is the one who created in the beginning, He is the source of life, existence and purpose. God appears in the beginning because without Him there is no creation.

I would appeal to each one of you to put God first in your life. Beginning and Creation happened because of God. God should be the most important person in our lives. If you are going to begin a task or do anything in life put God in the “Beginning.” When we wake up in the morning instead of grabbing the phone, taking a shower or doing any other chore, start the day with God first. There are many reasons why violence, murder, rape, suicide, and discrimination are increasing, but one reason is because God is not in the beginning of some people’s lives.

God should be in the beginning of our decisions, dreams, career, finances, and relationships. He should be in the beginning at school, at work, and even when we are making our social media posts it should reflect God as our beginning. So many people live purposeless lives, with no joy or hope, and sometimes it is because God is not their priority. So, let me ask, Pathfinders and church family, what place does God have in your life? Matthew 6:33 says *“but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (NKJV)

There are blessings that result when we put God first in our lives; there is order, light, growth, and abundance. Without God, life has no meaning or purpose and without purpose, life has no value. Without value, we have no hope. The name God means a Supreme Being, in *Hebrew*, “Strong,” “Mighty.” It shows invincible power. God is the most important word in this verse. He is subject, the one that does the action and deserves all the credit. He gives purpose to His creation.





What God does no one else can do. Jesus said in Matthew 19:26 *“but Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.””* (NKJV). God is the subject of this work, not only the most important One, but indeed the only One. The theologian Jacques Doukhan put it this way, *“God is the only Leader, not simply because He is the Creator, or because of His creating power, but more importantly because He is the One who preceded everything and everyone else.”*

One key verb that we cannot ignore is the Hebrew word for “Created.” It shows that what was formed was new and perfect. This definition of create is always and only used with God as its subject. It is used only with God’s activities of initiating a thing or project. No one else can do it, only Him. The same word is used in Psalm 51:10 *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”* (NKJV) David is saying you are the only one that can change my life, you are the only one that can change my circumstances, you are the only that can help, lift me up and cleanse my life. God is the only one that can create a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose in your life. The Bible says in Philippians 2:13 *“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”* God wants to create a new person filled with hope. God wants to give you His identity so you can fulfill your purpose. This act of creation sends a message to the different philosophies of this world:

- To the atheist it says that creation was the work of God.
- To the polytheist it says there is only one God.
- To the pantheist it says that God is apart from and independent of His creation.
- To the evolutionist it says that the universe was created and did not evolve.
- To the materialist it says that matter is not eternal but was itself created.
- To the existentialist it says creation has a purpose.

God created the heavens and earth and the Bible declares in Colossians 1:16 *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”* (NKJV)

The British poet William Cowper once said, “Nature is a name for an effect, whose cause is God” and the British Mathematician Lord Kelvin commented *“If you think strongly enough, you will be forced by science to the belief in God. We must pause, face to face, with the mystery and miracle of Creation.”*

In Isaiah 45:18 says, *“for this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.”* (NIV)





II. God created with purpose

We just read that God created the earth to be inhabited, to have a purpose. But we have a situation, the earth is without form, empty and in darkness. In Gen 1: 2 says “*Now the earth was formless and empty (void), darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*” (NIV)

A. Formless and Empty

We find here that the earth is formless. In Hebrew the word used here means “nothingness.” The word used for “empty” or “void” means absence of life. God appears and starts a process which will teach us God’s purpose in our life. Let’s see what happened in the first three days of creation:

- **First day: creation of light** (Gen 1:3–5): “Then God said, ‘Let there be light.’” He then divides the light from the darkness.
- **Second day: creation of space and water** (Gen 1:6–8): He separates the atmospheric, upper water from the earthly, lower water.
- **Third day: creation of plant life** (Gen 1:9–13): First He separates the water from the land. Then He brings forth green grass, plants, trees, and vegetation of every kind on the earth.

As you can see, in the first three days God forms and organizes. The earth was without form and God begins to shape it. What happened in the following three days?

- **Fourth day: creation of sun, moon, and stars** (Gen 1:14–19)
- **Fifth day: creation of fish and fowl** (Gen 1:20–23)
- **Sixth day: creation of land animals and people** (Gen 1:24–31; 2:7–20)
 1. *The brute creatures: livestock and all wild beasts* (Gen 1:24–25)
 2. *The blessed creature, who is given two things:*
 - a. The image of God (Gen 1:26–27)
 - b. The instructions from God (Gen 1:26–31; 2:15–19)
 - (1) They are to rule over all nature (Gen 1:26, 28),
 - (2) to fill the earth with their own kind (Gen 1:28),
 - (3) to cultivate and care for their beautiful home, the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:15),
 - (4) to eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:16–17),





(5) and to provide names for all the other creatures (Gen 2:19–20).

- **Seventh day: God rests** (Gen 2:1–6): His creative work is complete and is pronounced good. God blesses and sets apart the seventh day.

To summarize, the first three days God forms and the last three days God fills. God gave purpose to His creation. On the 1st day light was divided from the darkness, on the 4th day the sun and the moon were given purpose to provide light during the day and night.

The heavens were filled with the stars and birds flying in the sky. The sea was filled with the sea creatures. The earth was filled by humans and animals to walk on it. Everything that was created had a purpose.

What God did was give purpose to His creation. Then God created Adam, “formed” him and filled him with the Spirit and he became a living creature. God gave him purpose. Adam was full of God.

What is your purpose? God created you to be full of Him. He gave Adam and Eve the task to fill the earth, to be steward of the earth, and to be a blessing to others. Why did God create you? Number 1, to fill you with His Spirit and number 2, to be a blessing to others. In other words, the purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.

Maybe there is someone here that feels formless, empty and in darkness.

- **Formless (Disordered)**- Maybe there is chaos in your life. Your family is a mess, your school is a mess, your self-esteem is very low, and you feel like you have no purpose.
- **Empty:** Maybe even though you are here in church, you are still feeling empty. Your heart is full of hate and pain, but empty of hope and God. I am speaking to someone that is here feeling that life is meaningless. Some of you are even planning to go back home empty.
- **Darkness:** Maybe you are not only formless and empty, but you are in darkness. Nicodemus came confused when it was dark. Judas betrayed Jesus when it was dark. Jesus was apprehended when it was dark. Peter was confused, became violent and denied Jesus in the dark. You might be in darkness; you are confused not knowing what the future holds.
- But one thing I know: God can organize your life if you allow Him. He can fill the emptiness in you with hope, strength and power. He can be the light directing your decisions. He can illuminate your life and give you purpose. God created you to be





like Him; full of love, full of passion, full of courage, full of hope, full of energy. HE created you in His image, you have a purpose.

Conclusion:

You were created with purpose. God has a plan for you. You are important to Him. Since you were in your mother's womb, He was there for you. Psalm 139:13-14 says *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."* (NKJV)

Listen to the words of this poem, written by Russell Kelfer

You are who you are for a reason. You're part of an intricate plan. You're a precious and perfect unique design, called God's special woman or man. You look like you look for a reason. Our God made no mistake. He knit you together within the womb, you're just what he wanted to make. The parents you had were the ones he chose, and no matter how you may feel, they were custom designed with God's plan in mind, and they bear the Master's seal. No, that trauma you faced was not easy. And God wept that it hurt you so; But it was allowed to shape your heart So that into his likeness you'd grow. You are who you are for a reason, you've been formed by the Master's rod. You are who you are, beloved, because there is a God!

Rick Warren put it this way *"Your birth was no mistake or accident; your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents did not plan; God did. He was not surprised by your birth. Indeed, He was waiting. Long before you were conceived by your parents, God had already conceived you in His mind. He thought of you first. It is not because of fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that at this very moment you are breathing."*

You are not an accident, *"You were born by His purpose and for His purpose."* You were created by God and for God, and until you understand it, your life will be meaningless.

There are benefits of a purpose-driven life: Gives meaning to your life, simplifies your life, focuses your life, motivates your life and prepares you for eternity.

Psalm 138:8 reads; "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands." (ESV)





If you want God to fulfill His purpose for you stand with me as I pray.

Final Prayer: Our Father and our Creator, as we stand before you, we praise you because you are God and there is no one like you. We thank you because you created us with a purpose. You have filled us with your Spirit and made us living creatures. You have asked us to be a blessing to those around us. Your plan for our life is the only thing that will fill us and bring light and order into our lives. Lord we want to be what you have created us to be, so help us to fulfill your plan for our lives. We ask for your will to be done in the life of each person here today. Lord bless us and help us to be a blessing to everyone we come in contact with. Help us to share your love and the hope that we have of living with you forever. Thank you for the 2 million pathfinders around the world, our parents, our church family and all the staff that make this Pathfinder day possible. In Jesus name I pray Amen!

