

Sunday, January 8, 2012

## **God's Purpose for You Never Changes**

### **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

God has a plan and purpose for you, and that plan never changes. Oh, but if we could just understand God's unconditional love and total forgiveness and the righteousness under the new covenant. We are overcomers, champions for God, and thanks be unto God that always causes us to triumph in every circumstance. We are trophies of God put on display for people to see and to know that there is a God in the world today.

#### **Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)**

*<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,  
<sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

As we start this year we are going to have to forget the mistakes of the past. If we are going to keep pressing towards the mark we are going to have to sever with the past because God has forgiven it and there is no remembrance of it. Amen. Now that takes men and women of faith. Blessed be God his grace is sufficient and more than enough.

God has a purpose for us.

#### **Romans 11:29 (KJV)**

*<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

Second Timothy is the last epistle that Paul wrote. He was in prison awaiting his execution but yet he wrote to Timothy encouraging him.

#### **2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV)**

*<sup>9</sup>Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

All Christians basically desire to walk in the plan and purpose God has for them. It's probably not so much sin but the business of life that distracts and draws us away from our plan and purpose.

When you start to give yourself to the things of God wholeheartedly then something happens and you don't do it you miss it because you are craving it and desiring it. When you begin to taste and see that it is good your heart will begin to crave and desire the things of God.

God's plan was given for us before the world began. The plans of God are never ones of failure. It is a plan of being successful, being in health, and overcoming in life. Sometimes people choose a different way but that doesn't change the plan and purpose of God for us.

**Ephesians 2:10 (AMP)**

*<sup>10</sup>For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), <sup>1a</sup>recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].*

The devil has a plan for your life just as God does. Sometimes Christian people talk more about the devil's plan for their life more than God's plan, and what you focus on is what is going to come to pass.

God has a specific path for us to walk in and when we get into that plan and purpose we will live the good life which he has already prearranged.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP)**

*<sup>11</sup>For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 (KJV)**

*<sup>17</sup>But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.*

*<sup>18</sup>Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.*

Hinder in the above scripture means to impede, to detain. The road you are traveling is broken up.

In our pursuit to fulfill God's purpose for us Satan is going to hinder us. He is going to try and offset us. We must know that there is a greater one living on the inside of us and He has come to empower us and give us special ability to overcome any adversity or circumstance that the adversary would use to impede our spiritual growth and progress.

If you make a commitment to do something spiritually there will be opportunity to not do it. Sometimes we are good starters but not good finishers but God gives us the grace enabling us to finish.

Paul also wrote this scripture from jail in Rome.

**Philippians 3:11-14 (KJV)**

*<sup>11</sup>If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

<sup>12</sup>*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

<sup>13</sup>*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

<sup>14</sup>*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

The word resurrection is used 41 times in the bible. Of the 41 times, only one time is resurrection used this way meaning that you wouldn't have a resurrection from the grave but one out of adversity that has come to put the fire out that is in your life. You are going to rise above the circumstances that have come to destroy and defeat you. Paul is saying he is going to have this kind of resurrection.

### **Philippians 3:12-14 (MSG)**

<sup>12-14</sup>*I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.*

We get off and running and when a little adversity comes we turn back. Or we get off and running then encounter some challenging times and we decide to postpone and say we will start over when... With Jesus there is no turning back. Amen

We will have many opportunities to turn back after we start our race to pursue Jesus. We must say we are not tuning back. This time, no turning back. It doesn't make any difference what happens.

### **Philippians 3:15-20 (MSG)**

<sup>15-16</sup>*So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.*

<sup>17-19</sup>*Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.*

<sup>20-21</sup>*But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven!*

When God speaks to us we are responsible for growing and embracing the incorruptible seed that is planted on the inside of us through the word of God. For no word from God shall be without

power or impossible of fulfillment. The Word is alive and full of power. God is no respecter of persons.

Stay focused on Jesus.

God's people are in a climate where they can continue on if there are mountains. They can continue on when the flood comes. They rise above adversity and they can't be stopped. When the enemy comes in Isaiah spoke prophetically then like a flood the Lord would come.

**Isaiah 59:19 (KJV)**

*<sup>19</sup>So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*

A better translation is, *When the enemy comes in, that is when like a flood the Spirit of the Lord shall rise up a standard against Him.*

We the body of Christ and followers of Jesus Christ we must learn what it means and what it is like to be strong in the Lord, to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

**Ephesians 6:11-13 (KJV)**

*<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*<sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*<sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

We are overcomers in Jesus because he has overcome the adversary. We are not in our strength, or ability.

**Joshua 1:3 (KJV)**

*<sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*

**Joshua 1:5-6 (KJV)**

*<sup>5</sup>There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

*<sup>6</sup>Be strong and of a good courage...*

God is not going to fail you. He's not going to forsake you so be strong and be of good courage because God has an inheritance for you. If you aren't strong and of good courage and think God is going to fail you, you will not enjoy the inheritance God has for you.

When God promised all this to Joshua he had to defeat 31 different kings in Canaan's land before he could ever possess the Promised Land. In the Promised Land that God has for you there are giants, impossibilities, but God is in you and you are bigger than any adversity or giant. You can take the land! Five years it took them to possess the land and defeat those 31 kings. It doesn't matter what we have to defeat God is more than enough to do it.

Whatever giant is standing between you and your inheritance or what giant is standing between you and fulfilling the plan and purpose God had for your life it matters not, God is on your side, he is in you and will give you His ability and with that there is nothing that can stand against you successfully. Rest in Him and take a step of faith and put your foot on your Promised Land and receive the inheritance God is giving you. He has great things in store for you. Amen.

This is a year of restoration. This is a year of receiving some of the things you have been believing God for. You will have to stand in faith. You will have to be strong. Yes you are.