

The Comeback - Part 3
"Comeback... to your Purpose!"
August 22-23rd, 2020

Intro: (31:00 minutes). (Sit at Table and Chair for this message)

- Next week - HFTH Offering Opportunity

- Unpack & Explain - A couple of times a year, we have an opportunity to Fuel Forward the Vision of God in this House thru our HFTH Offering!**
- So, next weekend, we are going to be receiving our HFTH Offering!**
 - We want you to be praying about what God would want you & your house to do!**
 - Obviously, some of us have fallen on hard times & we nor God wants you to do anything, in fact, God wants you to come to us & let us help you and stand with you!!!**
 - NLCNEED - 757-87**
 - But others of us, God wants us to Pray this week, our last 7 days of our 21 Days of Prayer & ask God what He wants us to give Above & Beyond our Normal Tithe to Fuel Forward what God is doing!!!**

- Cape Coral Update Video

- One of the Biggest Initiatives we have been working on is our Cape Coral Location!**
 - In fact, we have an update for you Church Family, take a look at this!!!**

CAPE CORAL VIDEO

- How Awesome is that? So all you Cape Coralites, stay tuned b/c you're going to hear us talking about Launch Team Mtgs starting up later this fall!**
 - Everyone else, let's pray this week & ask God to speak to us about what He wants us to give next weekend!!!**

Transition... "Let me ask you a question..."

- ? Do you know why you were born?**
- ? Do you know the Purpose of Life?**

- ? Is it really just to try and go around this ball as many times as we can?
- ? Is it really just to survive & work & pay our bills for as long as we can?
- ? Is it really just to amass as much money, or possessions or titles or accolades as we can?

? Or is it for something Higher & Greater???

Mark Twain said: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

- We are in our series called, "The Comeback" & this weekend I want to talk for a few minutes about Coming Back to our Purpose!
- Church Family: Every one of us were made for a Purpose!!!
 - And yet, the reality is, so many of us Don't know what our purpose is.
 - Or... we've forgotten our purpose w/ all the Craziness of a Global Pandemic going on!
- But just b/c we've never thought about it, or don't know what it is, or have forgotten about it, doesn't mean that God doesn't have a Purpose for all of us & He wants us to live it!
 - We've got to come back to our Purpose!!!
 - To do that, we need to hear from the one who created us!
 - B/c, When we try to discover our purpose apart from our Creator, we always struggle!
- WHEN YOUR CAR BREAKS DOWN ILL.
 - If you're car is not working right, don't talk to your good-hearted friend who owned a car like that once, take it to the Dealership!!!!
 - Why? B/c the Manufacturer knows what's best for that car!!!
 - You don't need opinions, you need Truth!
- The Bible is our Owner's Manual of Truth from our Manufacturer!
 - Good news: In the Owner's Manual, Every one of us can find Great Purpose!!!

4 Truths about our Purpose:

1. We were Created for a Purpose.

A. Contrary to what you may have heard someone say in your past, you are NOT an Accident!

- You were not the product of a one night stand.
- You were not an accident!
- You were not a mistake!
- You were Made by God for a Purpose!!!

Colossians 1:16 "For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, ... everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him." (Message)

B. You may not know what your Purpose is, but it doesn't mean you don't have one!

- We all have one! - And we all fit into God's Plan!!!

Ephesians 1:11 "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ, ...he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone." (Message)

C. Let me tell you 4 Facts about your Purpose... You have been destined by God to...

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1) Know God. | 2) Live in Freedom. |
| 3) To know & use your Gifts. | 4) To Make a Difference. |

D. Here's how we like to say it around here:

*** Lost people found!**

- We can't know our purpose if we're lost!
- Until we know Jesus, we are lost!
- That is step 1 in knowing our Purpose!
- God said Primary Purpose is to be a Son & Daughter of God!

2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

* Found people free!

- God has a victorious, overcoming life He wants us to live, but b/c of our past, it is impossible to live it!

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

* Free people empowered!

- There's nothing better than to How God has wired us & gifted us & to know how our Giftings fit into what God is Up to on the Earth!!!

I Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

* To make a kingdom impact!

- God wants us to leverage who we are & what He has placed inside of us to see others Experience His Love as well!
- We call that "Kingdom Impact!!!"
- IOW, this life isn't all about us!!!

2. When we don't know our Purpose, we Flounder.

A. That's what is so hard about a season like this, we have been forced off of our purpose.

- We weren't made to be isolated & alone!
- We have been created to use our lives for something greater!!!

B. Show me someone who is depressed or discouraged and I'll show you someone who doesn't know or isn't living their Purpose!

3. When we DO know our Purpose, we Flourish.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, ...They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit." (NLT)

A. God wants us "Planted" in Him & when we are, we can grow!!!

- Around here we have 5 "Core Values" that we believe are the Key to growing in our Purpose as sons & daughters of God!

B. We grow in our purpose when we are taking steps in these 5 areas:

1) Set free to be.

- God wants each of us to live in Freedom & know our Identity in Christ!
- FREEDOM REVAMP THIS FALL!!!
 - Made several tweaks! - 2 Theologians!!!

2) Strive to Thrive.

- God wants us to constantly be Growing in our Relationship with Him.
- MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP ILL.
 - If you never talk, never interact, or meet once / week, it's not gonna be a very good marriage!
- We have tools for you to grow daily in your Rel. w/ God!

3) Better Together.

- We were not meant to Live Life Alone!
- God wants us to be in relationship w/ others who can Know, Love & Challenge us to be more like Jesus!
- In September, our New Groups Semester begins!
 - Online & In-Person Groups at Both Locations!

4) Serve All, Love All.

- As I said a minute ago, we all have Gifts that God wants us to use to be Loving & Serving others with!
- If we're only living for ourselves, we will not live our Purpose!
- Our Empowerment Track is the Easiest way to get on a Team

5) Live to Give.

- God wants us to live beyond ourselves, not just w/ our gifts & talents, but with our finances too!
- Money is 1 of the closest things to our hearts!
 - If you don't believe me, take money out of someone's wallet, & see what they do!
 - Steal a Pen, okay! Steal a \$20, you're in trouble!
- So God built into our Purpose a way for us to Systematically & Sacrificially serve Him w/ our finances!
 - TITHE - 1st 10% of all our Increase.
 - ABOVE & BEYOND - HFTH / KBers Opportunities

C. We wholeheartedly believe that when we are growing in each of these 5 areas, we WILL feel significance, worth, energy, joy, strength & Purpose!!!

D. MIP: IMAGINE YOUR LIFE 365 DAYS FROM TODAY...

- You are more free of fear & lies & your past!
- You are Closer to God than you've ever been!
- You have Close Friends that you're doing life with!
- You are using your gifts to make a difference in other's lives!
- You are leveraging your income to build God's Kingdom on earth!

? Do you think you'll have more joy or less joy / more purpose or less purpose 365 days from now???

- The answer is pretty simple!!! MORE!!!
- That's OUR Purpose as a Church! That's why WE exist!!!

4. Our Purpose fits Perfectly into God's Higher Purpose.

A. God's Higher Purpose is Reaching People who are far from Him & seeing them set free & live their purpose as well!

Jackie Robinson: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

B. God has put Gifts in us to use in that Purpose!

- It's the most fulfilling life we can live.

Challenge / Next Steps:

? How well are you using what God put in you to Impact others for Eternity?

- SIGN UP FOR FREEDOM THIS FALL**
- EMPOWERMENT TRACK**
- SERVING ON A TEAM**
- JOIN A GROUP**
- GIVING - TITHING / HFTH**