



Day One: Reason #10 You Have an Individual Purpose, Plan and Destiny - Purpose

The evidence we can find of God's individual love for us is, quite literally, endless. Whole volumes of books could be written about it, we could also add to those books daily because the ways in which He reveals His love is ongoing. However for our study, we will now look at the last of ten reasons why we can be assured of the individual love of God for each and every one of us. And that reason is that God has planned every single person on the face of the planet to have their own unique purpose, plan and destiny.

Just think of it – God didn't only say, 'This is my plan for mankind' and leave it there. While He does have a vision and a purpose for mankind as a whole, He also plans specifically and purposefully the part every individual will play in bringing this overall purpose into reality.

You are an individual, and God has loved you with your own purpose, plan and destiny.

Your Purpose

Purpose is the reason for which something is created or exists. God's purpose in creating you was firstly to love you and share intimacy and relationship with you, as you have seen. But beyond that He also purposed you for a particular work on this earth. Something that only you could do – no one else!

When He formed you in your mother's womb, He wove into the fabric of your being, everything you would ever need (outside of His Spirit indwelling you from the point of salvation onwards), to fulfil the purpose He planned for you. He placed in you desires, gifts and abilities so that you would be excited about, love to do and be capable of completing what it is you were born for. He saw your end from your beginning, had a vision for your life, made you capable of fulfilling that vision, then developed a strategic, step-by-step plan for seeing it come to pass.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP) *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone*



can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

We see purpose endued in the lives of every person in the Bible who ever had a connection with God – and even those who didn't! For all have a purpose but many choose not to walk in it.

When you know what your purpose in life is, you can't help but feel astonished, amazed and loved that your Creator would put that inside of you, and there is no way you can ever walk away from it or that anyone else could ever take it away from you!

Soak Time

Do you know how it feels to know what you are here for and to be excited about fulfilling it? If so, write what you feel is your purpose below. If not, begin to seek God to show you the purpose for which He has created you. Write out your prayer below and expect Him to show you His purpose for your life.

How does having an individual purpose make you feel loved by God?



Day Two: You Have an Individual Purpose, Plan and Destiny - Plan

Not only does God have a purpose for your life, which He had in mind as He formed you, but He also has a plan for how this purpose will come to pass.

Your Plan

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."*

Our God is an extremely strategic God. Think about the thousands of years, patience and planning that it took for Him to get Jesus into the world, and the way in which He covered His steps so that even satan had no idea what He was up to. It says in the Word that if satan knew what God had been up to, He would never have crucified the King of glory. Satan thought he'd won, but he was just playing right into God's hands (see 1 Corinthians 2:8). God had to be strategic to accomplish the purpose for which Jesus was born – and He is no less strategic in His planning for accomplishing the purpose for which YOU were born!

A plan is defined as a detailed map for doing or achieving something. Or, 'to decide on and make arrangements for in advance'. That's a great definition because it shows you what God has done for you – made arrangements in advance for you to fulfil your destiny. He has planned it in intricate detail, and if you have a sense of purpose and have been walking with God for very long, you will no doubt have seen some of these steps play out. Even if you didn't know something was an intricate part of God's plan when you walked through it, you may have had the experience of realising afterwards just how something 'fit' into God's plan!

He has planned, in intricate detail, how we will step by step fulfil the purpose for which we were created. And I don't know about you, but in my life I know that God has adjusted that plan along the way. Every time I missed His leading or didn't take or complete a step for which He'd planned, He made every adjustment necessary to get me back on track and walking straight through to my destiny of the fulfilment of my purpose, from whatever point I'd taken myself to.



The truth be known, He was aware of every deviation I'd ever take – and none of the deviations from your plan surprised Him either - though He always gives us the option to walk directly in His path first. Just think about it – for every time we didn't choose to walk first in His plan and created one of our own, did He ever say 'Oh well, too bad, you're off course now and you'll never get back on'? No! He didn't skip a beat, He just made a quick alteration to get us back on track and continued to pursue us until we listened. And though we may desire never to step out of His plan again, it's possible that we may do that, knowingly or unknowingly. If we do, His reaction to us in the future will be no different.

Just imagine God hovering over you, tending to you, showing grace and mercy and just making the alterations, watching you and caring where you place each and every one of your footsteps. What a picture of intense, focussed, individual love!

Soak Time

Can you recall times in which you got out of track with God's plan for your life, but He lovingly made the adjustments and got you back into His plan? How has this made you feel loved?



Day Three: You Have an Individual Purpose, Plan and Destiny - Destiny

When God forms us, He gives us a purpose and has a plan in mind for us to fulfil that purpose. The purpose is the reason. The plan are the steps. But the destiny is the outcome.

Your Destiny

Destiny is defined as the events that will happen to a particular person or thing in the future. It is the outcome, or the final destination of our lives. Will we fulfil the purpose for which we were created? It is God's desire that we will do so, and if we follow His purpose and His plan for our lives, we will. Yet because God has created us with a free will, our destiny may or may not line up with the purpose for which we were created. Destiny is not a matter of fate – something which is set and cannot be changed. God has loved us with the power to choose and we can choose either to fulfil the destiny He planned for us through our purpose... or choose another outcome. It's up to us. Either way, God knows two things:

- The destiny, or outcome that He has planned for our lives.
- The destiny that we will choose walk in and what it will look like every step along the way.

Not only does God know the words we're going to speak before we speak them, or the thoughts we're going to think before we think them, but He also knows what's going to happen every day of our lives before we live them.

Psalm 139:16 (AMP) *Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them.*

Who does that?!?!?! Of course it's only God who could know enough to know what every day of your life would look like in the first place. But who would care enough to know that? Who would want to know what every day of your life looks like and beyond that, to record it all... before ever one day of your life even took place?



Only the intense and limitless love of your Father in heaven would go to such lengths. He is incredibly interested in you, and His love for you defies everything you have ever before felt, known or experienced.

Believe it and receive His individual, unsurpassed, unlimited, incredible and unfathomable love for you. It is true. It is real. It is personal.

Soak Time

Just close your eyes and imagine Father God pondering on your unformed substance, feeling consumed with love for you, anticipating with excitement what He would plant inside of you and the incredible potential of the future He could see for you... and then starting to write. Recording your days, one after the next, and prophesying your future. Relentlessly, until He reached the end of your story. And then beginning to create you. How does that make you feel?



Day Four: From a Child to a Bride

We've spent weeks looking at the individual love God has for each and every one of us. He is our Father God and we are His children and His adoration of us is beyond anything we've ever known. I hope that you are feeling absolutely awed and incredulous about the amazing and undeserved love that He has for you. If you're experiencing it the way God has given it, it will feel almost unfathomable to you.

Ephesians 3:17 – 19 (TLB) ...*May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it, and so at last you will be filled up with God Himself.*

Here is what I wrote during the soak time of the One Heart retreat in which we were asked to ponder these scriptures in Ephesians:

"Your love is for exploring, Lord. You want me to push the boundaries and limitations of what I have believed about your love for me. You want me to go places in the exploration of Your love for me, that I have never gone before. I will never reach its outer limits. And I want to love You with this same love."

If we're not feeling that we'll never get to the end of understanding His love for us, we may not really be understanding it. Our acceptance of, belief in and amazement at God's love for us should be like travelling on an incredible journey for which there is no end, as we seek to discover the width, depth and height of it. And each step of the journey it will feel as though a whole new world is opening up for you, as you catch a bigger picture, a clearer glimpse of what this love looks like.

Nowhere does the picture take a bigger jump, than when we look specifically at the love that Jesus has for us.

We must remember that the Trinity is three persons in oneness – our Father God, our Savior Jesus and our Helper Holy Spirit. Each one of them loves us with an incredible, sacrificial and unending love that it would take us to the ends of eternity to fathom.



While we've spent a number of weeks receiving the individual love of God the Father for us, now we're going to look at how Jesus Christ loves each and every one of us individually. And to do this, we will need to make a shift in our perspective from that of a child to a bride. For God is our Father... but Jesus is our Husband.

Soak Time

What does it mean to you to think of Jesus as your Husband?



Day Five: You are His Chosen Bride

The Bible describes us as many different things. We are called children of God, an army, a body... and a bride. The identity of the collective church as the bride of Christ is seen throughout the Bible.

Revelation 19:7 (NIV) *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready...*

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NIV) *...I promised you as a pure bride to one husband – Christ.*

- **See:** Song of Songs 4:9 – 12; Song of Songs 5:11; Rev 21:2; John 3:29; Isaiah 62:5.

Q: We may see ourselves as children of God, but do we also see ourselves as the bride of Christ?

It's easy to see ourselves as children. There's a level of intimacy to that relationship, but it's a whole different level when we're talking about the relationship between a husband and a wife. As a result, many Christians are very comfortable seeing themselves as children and identifying primarily with the love of their Father God for them. But generally speaking, we may seldom see past the identity of children of God, to really see our collective and individual identity as the Bride of Christ.

Q: Perhaps we see the body as the bride of Christ, but do we see ourselves as Jesus' bride?

And once again, it's one thing to see the collective church as the bride of Christ. But seeing ourselves individually as the bride with Jesus as our Husband does not come quite so naturally. It is far less confronting to think of ourselves as one of many in relationship with Jesus, than to face the level of intimacy associated with a one-on-one relationship with Jesus as His bride.

However, with this comes an incredible realisation! If Jesus wants us to see Him as our Husband – individually and not only collectively – then that means He wants to love us like a Husband. Not like the man down the street who knows us and is pleasant and nice to us, but like the husband who chooses us, pursues us, adores us, pays a price for us, knows everything about us, does life



as 'one' with us, comforts us, cherishes us, and will be devoted to us every day of the rest of our lives. This is the love that only a Husband can give.

You were chosen by Jesus Christ, to be His bride. He wants you, He's pursued you, He adores you, has paid a price for you, knows every intimate detail about you, longs to share His life with you, comforts you, cherishes you, and will be devoted to you every day of the rest of your life. You will never know love like your heavenly Husband has for you.

Soak Time

How did you answer the questions above:

You may see yourself as a child of God but do you also see yourself as the bride of Christ?

You may see the body as the bride of Christ, but do you see yourself as His bride?

How does a relationship of such intimacy with Jesus make you feel? How does the love of your Divine Husband for you make you feel?
