

Why Am I Here?

Acts 26:12-20

How would your life change if you knew the answer to the question: “Why am I here?”

Purpose: the original intent for the creation of a thing. – Dr. Myles Munroe

If you don't understand the purpose of a thing, then abuse is inevitable.

(Case study – Paul)

Acts 26:12–20 (NKJV)

¹²*While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,*

¹³*at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.*

¹⁴*And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’*

¹⁵*So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*

¹⁶*But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.*

¹⁷*I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,*

¹⁸*to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’*

¹⁹*Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,*

²⁰*but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.*

Your calling and purpose are discovered!

You Discover What You Are Called to By What **BURDENS** You

Paul was burdened that Jews were not saved

Romans 9:1–3 (NKJV)

¹I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,
²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.
³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

You Discover What You Are Called to By What **BREAKS** You

Paul was broken by the prejudice that existed in Peter and other Jews against the Gentiles, a people to whom he was called.

Galatians 2:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;
¹²for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.
¹³And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.
¹⁴But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

Sometimes You Discover What You Are Called to By What **Bothers** You

Saul was a deeply devoted Jew and he was bothered by the fact that these "Christians" were espousing Jesus Christ as the way.

Acts 9:1-2 (NKJV)

¹Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
²and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

"Don't run away from things that bother you." – Pastor Billy Johnson

Another Way You Discover Your Purpose Is the Thing That You Do That **BLESSES OTHERS**

Something that you do that comes naturally to you.

Galatians 4:12–15 (NKJV)

¹²Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.
¹³You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.
¹⁴And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.
¹⁵What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

Another of Paul's purposes was to write. God had to interrupt his life (have him arrested) so he could fulfill another of the purposes of his life.

“God uses the whole of your life.” – Pastor Billy Johnson