

## God's Purpose for our Lives

We look at someone else and we say, Oh he isn't nearly as good as I am. And then we look at another and we say, Oh, if only I could reach his level of sanctification. No. We can never get to be as good as he is. Actually I think we should say ~~up at the ceiling~~ If the level God wants is say up at the ceiling I would say most of us come to about right here (motioning a third of the way up). We have a long, long way to go. God doesn't want us comparing our progress with other people. He wants us to compare it with His standard. He wants us to realize that no matter how far we go He is interested in our development and He is there and every moment He takes an interest in how ~~and the best we can do if it turns~~ turns out to be the opposite of what we expect we can know that God has a purpose in it. And in the end it may be that we can look back and say, Praise God it didn't come out the way I wanted because God's way is much better.

God has a purpose for the development of each one of us. He desires to bring us to His standard of sanctification but it is a long slow process and our way is often ~~difficent~~ difficult. God may want to put us through the fires of adversity, through the fires of misery. We don't know what His plan is for each of us. We don't know. We know if we truly believe in Jesus Christ, He is our Heavenly Father, He is leading, He is directing, He knows what He wants to bring about and we can trust in Him ~~and~~ and we can keep our eyes upon Him because we know that the ~~is far~~ is far than anything we can plan

We know that God is interested in each one of us. He has foreordained His purposes for the development He wants in us but also God has purposes to accomplish through us. There is an imaginary story that says that when Jesus left to go into heaven, the Angel Gabriel said, Why did you leave earth and come back up here? There are millions of people there who have never heard of God. Millions who know nothing about the truth. Why didn't you stay and go on and on and on and preach to more and more people? Someone figured out that if Jesus had gone into China and gone into a village and preached and then gone the next day into another village and preached, and the next day into another, etc and gone on that way through all the villages of China, ~~that~~ just spending one day in each of them preaching the Gospel there he would yet to go to the last village in China.

So for Him to have stayed in an earthly body and gone about preaching would have been a process that would have reached very very few people. But on the other hand supposing that Jesus had left only one Christian in the world and suppose that Christian the first year led one other person to the Lord, and then after one year with one convert that those two each of them had led another soul to the Lord the next year. And then if those four each of them had led another one to the Lord the next year. And if this had gone on and on just each one leading one other to the Lord each year today every man, woman and child would have come to the Lord.

This is a rebuke to us. God has left the Gospel in our hands to present to the world and the pollsters tell us that tell us that more ~~of~~ than 95% of the ~~the~~ people in the United States say they believe there is a God. More than 95% and yet in their actions we can say at least 70% of them act as if there were no God. What are we who know the true God doing that the Gospel is not more widely accepted in the United States than it is? Our whole culture is being shot through with that which would not even been mentioned say 50 years ago except in prison(?) perhaps. Today it is ~~is~~ yelled out over thehouse tops.