

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

SPIRITUAL PURPOSE

John Edwards

Paul wrote, *“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose...”* (2 Tim. 3:10). What is your purpose?

TO BUILD. Solomon said, *“I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God...”* (1 Ki. 5:5). Thus, it is written: *“So he built the house, and finished it...”* (1 Ki. 6:9). This was the purpose of Nehemiah and the wall-builders. Nehemiah requested of King Artaxerxes, *“...send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchers, that I may build it”* (Neh. 2:5). When Nehemiah sounded the building call, *“...come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem...”*, would you have said, *“...Let us rise up and build...”* (Neh. 2:17-18)? The message of Haggai was, *It Is Time To Build* (Hag. 1:2-5, 8). The church needs builders (Acts 20:32; Jude 20). Is it your purpose to build up the church of God?

MOUTH SHALL NOT TRANSGRESS. The Psalmist declared, *“...I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress”* (Ps. 17:3). Again, *“I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue”* (Ps. 39:1). Some mouth sins include: slander (Prov. 10:18), flattery (Prov. 26:28), backbiting (Ps.

15:3), taking the name of God in vain (Ex. 20:7), lying (Prov. 12:22), multitude of words (Prov. 10:19), and evil speaking (Eph. 4:31). May our petition be, *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer”* (Ps. 19:14).

NOT DEFILE SELF. Daniel was a faithful servant of God because of his spiritual purpose. *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...”* (Dan. 1:8). There are things which *“...come forth from the heart; and they defile the man”* (Mt. 15:18-20). Let us be purposed not to defile ourselves.

TO CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD. Barnabas *“...exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord”* (Acts 11:23). To cleave unto the Lord is to be steadfastly devoted to the Lord so as to remain and continue with Him.

TO GO. Paul was *“...purposed in the spirit...to go to Jerusalem...”* (Acts 19:21). There are some places we need to be purposed to go. When *“thy brother hath ought against thee”*, *“...go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift”* (Mt. 5:23-24). Jesus said, *“But go ye and learn what that*

meaneth...” (Mt. 9:13).

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone...” (Mt. 18:15). Matthew 21:28 records, *“...go work to day in my vineyard.”* Jesus commissioned, *“Go... teach”* (Mt. 28:19) and *“Go... preach”* (Mk. 16:15). Are you purposed to go?

TO GIVE. We are taught, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Cor. 9:7). Saints are ordered, *“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him...”* (1 Cor. 16:2). Jesus instructed, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”* (Lk. 6:38). *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). One reason we work with our hands is *“...that he may have to give to him that needeth”* (Eph. 4:28). How is your purpose in this area?

Without purpose, one will never obey the Lord (Heb. 5:9) or be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). What’s your spiritual purpose?

A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST

Nicolas Edwards

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3). The church is the Lord’s army! The life of a Christian is a militant one. We must not forget that we are a soldier of Jesus Christ and it is essential we be a good one!

ENDURES HARDNESS.

Hardness will come (2 Tim. 3:12), and salvation is promised to him that endures (Mt. 10:22).

IS NOT ENTANGLED.

A good soldier does not involve himself with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:4). As a soldier, we have been called out (1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 2:9). We must not allow the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life to choke us (Lk. 8:14).

PLEASES HIS

COMMANDING OFFICER. Our goal is not to please ourself. We give up self and the affairs of this life that we may please Christ who is our captain (Heb. 2:10; Col. 1:10).

IS NOT FEARFUL. There is

no room for the fearful and afraid (Judg. 7:3; Rev. 21:8). Faith is the remedy for fear (Mk. 4:40).

FIGHTS. The Lord needs people of courage who will fight with all of their might (Eph. 6:10; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12), like Paul (2 Tim. 4:7-8)! We must earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3). This means there is no room for compromisers, tolerators, sympathizers, or apathetic persons! Whenever sin bears its ugly head, chop it off with the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

IS NOT IGNORANT. *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”* (2 Cor. 2:11). Satan is our enemy (1 Pet. 4:8). We must not be ignorant! Christ resisted Satan and did not sin by quoting Scripture (Mt. 4). We must know our enemy! Satan is our enemy, his children are our enemies (Jn. 8:44; Acts 13:10; 1 Jn. 3:10), the friend of the world (Jas. 4:4), carnal minded men (Rom. 8:7). We are either with the Lord or against Him (Mt. 12:30). There is no sitting on the sidelines in this war. If we are not fighting for Christ, then we are on Satan’s side! Let us

remember that anyone, even among our own family, who is in sin is the servant of Satan and is the enemy of God! We must fight for the Lord.

IS SUBMISSIVE. A Christian is a person who denies self and submits. The life of a soldier of Christ is one of submission, supremely to God (Jas. 4:7). Submission is a military term which means “to rank under.” We must subject ourself to the control of God and do whatever He says, however He says to do it, no matter what!

IS NOT UNRULY. Unruly or disorderly is a military term which means “out of rank, deviating from the prescribed order or rule.” We must walk according to God’s rule carefully and exactly (Phil. 3:16; Eph. 5:15). Persons, who will not be ruled, must be warned and withdrawn from (1 Th. 5:14; 2 Th. 3:6). Failing to warn and withdraw from such makes us disorderly!

IS WELL EQUIPPED. By putting on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18). Be strong, stand, and fight!!!

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