

Made New

# Life on Purpose

Pastor Jeff Graham

Date: 3/19/2024

Sermon in a Sentence: **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

Application: Is there more to serving Jesus than just coming to church? God makes our life better by giving us a purpose that is higher than ourselves. As we're moving towards that purpose, we need to make sure we don't get discouraged but stay faithful to what He's calling us to do, that's how we live life on purpose.

Me

Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect

**[Video:] Is Your Faith in Kindergarten.mpg**

Tension Set: Is there more to serving Jesus than just attending on Sundays?

We (Exploring the tension)

God makes your life better and makes you better at life.

**[IMAGE] Life is the sum of your choices. -Albert Camus**

- You didn't choose where you were born, schooling, income level, family
- Bad things happen, but even then we get to choose how we respond
- Some of us have been dealt a bad hand, we're in the pit, but we get to choose if we stay there.

I decided I was going to start running again. The FIRST DAY I aggravated my plantar fasciitis and was out for a week.

There have been set backs, but I get to choose how to deal with them

The Bible compares this to planting and harvesting seeds.

God

Series Recap, Background on Text

## Galatians 6: 7-9 (NIV)

**<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

- **[SLIDE] The harvest we planted will grow**
- You are always planting seeds in your life, on purpose or accidentally
- **[SLIDE] We get to choose the harvest we reap**
  - **[IMAGE] Cherry trees**
  - If I want cherries, I need to plant a cherry tree.
  - If you spend your time watching horror movies, don't be surprised if you have a hard time sleeping
  - This is one of the main dangers with social media. It plants seeds of comparison, fear, anger.
  - Conversely, how do we sow to the Spirit? (bible reading and prayer, church, small groups, conferences, giving, serving)
- **[SLIDE] The harvest takes time (so don't give up)**
- **[SLIDE] Bad Habits = Immediate Reward – Delayed Consequences**
- **[SLIDE] Good Habits = Immediate Consequences – Delayed Reward**
  - Just 30 minutes every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance. It can also reduce your risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and some cancers.

What seeds are you planting in your life?

- We all have the same 24 hours in a day. Different demands and expectations on our time, but the same amount.
- Podcasts, books, worship music, uplifting relationships
- I listened to soooo many mock draft podcasts. It's not that there's never room for junk food, you just have to be careful with it.

The harvest will grow, we get to choose the harvest, the harvest takes time, and:

**[SLIDE] The harvest is in proportion to the amount you sow**

- **2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV) - <sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.**
- This one is talking about money, but the principle carries over to every area of life.
- My 2 cherry trees will have a limited harvest, even with 100 fold returns

- If you sow weeds in the garden along with the good, or mix plants the wrong way, it limits and sometimes kills the harvest

Transition Story: How is this working in my life?

You

Pastor Steven Furtick, in talking to aspiring Pastors and Leaders, said that many young leaders have a condition that he called Guitar Hero Mentality:

**Everybody wants to be a rock star, but no one wants to learn the chords.**

- We have to put in the work if we want the payoff

Back to Galatians 6:9, it is both a warning and a promise

- **⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**
- If you are faithful to plant in the hard times, obscurity, when others don't understand the changes you've made, when people ridicule you, when it requires more sacrifice than you think you can give, you will reap a harvest
- Your toil, hard work, sacrifice, and pain is going to produce a harvest
- But, if you choose not to plant, you're still planting. Maybe it will work out and maybe it won't (you might end up with a whole field of papaya)

If you've been in church a while, what's your next step. **DON'T GET COMFORTABLE!**

- For most people, they stop growing in their faith after 5 years, they settle in to serving in the way they want, praying when they need something, hanging out with the same group of friends. Life is good
- Sometimes good is the enemy of great
- What's your next step? (Lucky for you we have a card full of options to explore)
- If you just started attending, you might have some weeds to pull up and you might be working on your irrigation system.

We skipped right over purpose and went to planting, but how do you know what you're called to do? Today we're going to ask Him. And then we're going to start planting that harvest.

Altar