

Made New

Living Beyond Ourselves

Pastor Jeff Graham

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Sermon in a Sentence: You were not created to just exist. You were created to thrive, to make an impact, to leave a legacy.

Application: It's so easy to go through life on cruise control, but God has called us into an abundant life where we will thrive, make an impact and leave a legacy. This will require us to learn to live beyond ourselves into a place where we love like Jesus in every area of our lives.

Tension Set: You were not created to merely exist. You were created to thrive, to make an impact, to leave a legacy.

We (Exploring the tension)

[IMAGE] Guardrail

Most of us live our lives on cruise control. Some live bouncing between guardrails and in constant danger of driving over a cliff.

Most of us don't even remember how we got to work in the morning.

We have moments that wake us up, and we wonder if this is all there is to life. And then we push those thoughts back down inside where they belong.

[VIDEO] Zebras on the freeway.

"People have gotten out of their normal routine"

One of the words used to describe what's happening is beautiful. Why? Because something unusual is happening to bring the community together.

What if you could live the abundant life?

John 10:10- I have come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- It's a super abundance of life!

Romans 8- I am free from condemnation, God is working all things for my good, and I cannot be separated from the love of God. I am more than a conqueror through Him

Philippians 1:6- He who has begun a good work in me is faithful to complete it

Ephesians 1- I was chosen by God and adopted into His family

Philippians 4- I can do all things through Him who strengthens me

Romans 8- The SAME POWER that raised Christ from the dead lives inside of me!

To borrow a line from Transformers: There is more to me than meets the eye!

What is the big picture (sermon in a sentence)

God

Series Recap, Background on Text

Let's see what Peter had to say about these great and precious promises that God has given us.

2 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- Divine nature= God's character and how He does things. Love Like Jesus.
 - We will spend our whole lives and after-lives searching this out, it's anything but mundane!

[SLIDE] We were created to thrive!

- We were meant to live beyond ourselves, to live lives of meaning and purpose beyond what will I eat and where will I live.
- **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**
 - God's handiwork. He lovingly created you on purpose for a purpose. What purpose? To do the good that He planned for you to do.
 - The whole Bible is a story of God wanting to partner with us to see His will accomplished.
 - 2 Peter said that we participate in the divine nature. This is how we participate, by walking out our calling. Some of you have been shrinking back for years, and God wants you to embrace His plan and start to live beyond yourself!
 - This plan is why we were Made New. Jesus didn't die for fire insurance, He died to give you an abundant life of joy and purpose! (He makes your life better and makes you better at life -Andy Stanley)
- How do we know what we're called to do?
- **2 Peter 1:3 (NIV): ³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.**
 - Through knowing God (through the written word of God) we get everything we need to live a godly life.

- But, this knowing only comes through His divine power.
- When we surrender to Jesus we are able to really understand the Bible (the Holy Spirit comes to guide us into all truth). In understanding we unlock the treasure box that lets us live this abundant life.
- Is this making sense? God has a plan for us. That plan is accomplished as we surrender to Him and learn more about Him. This plan is the key to us thriving in life!

[SLIDE] We were created to make an impact

- This plan extends beyond ourselves. God wants to use you to make a difference in this world.
- **We make an impact by living generously and making room for others**
- **1 Peter 4: 10 (NIV): ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.**
 - Gift = time, talent, or treasure.
 - Faithful stewards = **This is a stewardship issue.**
 - You might feel like you don’t have a lot of any of those, but God has given you exactly what you need
 - 2 Peter 1:3- His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness
 - I talked to someone recently: “I figure God must still have a plan for me or He would take me to Heaven”. He now spends his afternoons in East Wenatchee at the mall building relationships with employees and praying for them.
 - How are you living generously and making room for others?
 - God didn’t give to you so you could be comfortable. **He gives to you so He can give through you.**

We were created to thrive, and we were created to make an impact
Last thought:

[SLIDE] We were created to leave a legacy

- After service today I will be conducting a funeral for someone that unfortunately I didn’t know very well. She sounds like an amazing lady. She was funny, observant, loving and unselfish.
- When I sat down with Sue she wanted to talk about the times her Mom invited people to live with them, or how she just loved babies, or the times she spent on the porch laughing with her friend.
- She never mentioned how much money she had, her possessions or even her accolades.
- **[SLIDE] Life isn’t measured by what you get, it’s measured by what you give.**

- As we learn to Love Like Jesus (participate in the divine nature), we will leave a godly legacy. How do I know? Listen to the next verses:
- **2 Peter 1: 5-8 (NIV)**
⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - When you think about people in your life who have left an impact, isn't it for reasons like this?
 - When you read the Bible under the Holy Spirit's guidance you will start to learn these things.

You

- The world is waiting for you to step into your purpose and make a difference. You have unique gifts and talents that the world needs. So, don't hold back—go out there and shine your light!
- Whether it's in your workplace, your neighborhood, or halfway across the globe, God wants to use you to impact lives and bring hope to the hopeless. So, let's be bold, let's be fearless, and let's change the world together!
- We want to commit to living beyond ourselves. To finding purpose in selfless living. We want to unleash a movement of love, compassion, and transformation that will shake the foundations of this world.
- You are called, you are chosen, so let's Love Like Jesus!

Pray

And as we do, let's remember that our ultimate example is Jesus, who lived the ultimate life of selflessness, laying down his life so that we might live.

If you aren't thriving the way God has called you to, or if you want prayer that God would guide you as you seek to make an impact on the world, the altars are open.

Altar