



A Season of Purpose

Commitment of a New Year

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Seasons are made with a grand design. Nature’s purpose is fulfilled in their continuous cycle. As steady as the sunrise they come, winter, spring, summer, and fall, only to repeat the process again. Not all the seasons are equally appreciated, but the choices are – one can endure them or enjoy them. The seasons are cycles of time and mark the passage of life. The wise man said “To everything there is a season ... a time for every purpose under heaven.” Even in the “off” seasons there is purpose. The winter provides rest, regeneration for the soil and rejuvenation for the soul.

Winter fires burn with purpose. The ascetic value is secondary to its reason for being. Principally, the ember’s glow is not for light or for an evening’s ambience, but to warm the room and repel the cold. The warmth of the fire reminds us of summer days as the heat of the sun’s rays glisten on our sweaty brow. The fire is but a subtle substitute for the reality to come in time.

Shortened days and cold winter nights invite one to linger by the fire and slow down the pace of life for a few days or perhaps weeks. In the fire there is

Seasonal Inspiration

inspiration, a glowing passion to fulfill the purpose of our existence. Peer into the flames and feel the life-giver reveal His purpose in your being. Use these times of respite for reflection. Consider the grand plan of His divine purpose in you.

This collection of inspirational writings is appropriate for the winter season, January through March. I call this time *A Season of Purpose*. Each new year there is the urging to recommit to His purpose. It is a season of new beginnings, the possibility to redirect life and start fresh with new resolution. It is a time of commitment to God's will and His plan.

Also in this season is the reminder of the value of life (the anniversary of the tragic landmark decision of *Roe v. Wade*, a modern holocaust of epic proportions). February brings an abbreviation of time (our shortest month) and a reminder of romance (His love for us and our love for one another). The month of March suggests that winter will have an end and the budding of new life reminds us that dark and cold seasons are not forever.

A Season of Purpose provides foundational lessons in reflection and focus, times of prayer, fasting, and commitments. You will find reminders of the purpose of prayer in the priceless pattern of *the Lord's Prayer*. Devotionals from the 103rd Psalm will remind you of the greatness of our God and His infinite love and concern for His children.

At the beginning of a new year or at the start of a new direction, may these short writings of inspiration provide a season of renewal and resolve in your life!



My Purpose

Everyone needs a reason to live. Why am I here? What makes me different than other creatures? Who am I? Where am I going?

The devaluation of human life is a natural response to the legalization of abortion and acceptance of euthanasia. When life is cheapened to the point of easy termination, there is justification that we are no more than another animal or just another form of life. There are no lower forms or higher forms of life, just existence easily snuffed out and replaced.

God's valuation of humanity gives credence to our existence. The Word of God substantiates the basis of our value system and it elevates mankind to a higher level of life than any other. We have value to God, to His higher purpose, and to others. "A little lower than the angels," was the description of Scripture given to the One who gave His life for all mankind. The God of Glory came to take your place in death. Self-sacrifice and unconditional love are qualities seldom exhibited in a self-centered society.

Man, created in the likeness of God himself, is exalted to a position of dominance over all the earth and living creatures. Yes, mankind has more value than a whale, a tree, or a spotted owl. Whether politically correct or not, our opinions must be based on the eternal

Seasonal Inspiration

Word of God and not the whims of self-esteeming individuals of carnal causes.

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:27-28).

God has promised us fulfillment in living as we follow after His purpose in this life. He extends the greater promise of life everlasting when we commit our lives to His plan. Seek His plan and find purpose in your life!

You are important to God! *You have a purpose!*