

Wednesday February 1st

It all starts with God

Sometime back in Nigeria, you find many people walk into a pharmacy store ordering a particular drug called *Indocid*. *Indocid* is a strong pain reliever. But then someone must have discovered that it kills rats. So most people bought this drug not for the purpose for which the manufacturer intended.

If you want to know why you were born, you must begin with God, your manufacturer. Focusing on ourselves, asking questions like what do I want to be and what should I do with my life will never reveal our life's purpose.

Many people use God for their own selfish purposes. That's a wrong approach to life because you were made for God and not vice versa. Motivational speakers tell us to dream, set goals, know what we are good at, aim high, go for it and never give up. Truth is, following these principles can lead to success. But becoming successful and fulfilling your life's purpose are not one and the same. Paul writes *"in Him we were also chosen, having been pre-destined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory"* Ephesians 1: 11-12

Point to ponder: It's not about me

Verse to meditate on: *"For by Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by Him and for Him"* Colossians 1:16

Prayer focus: Lord what will you have me do for you? Help me to fulfil the purpose for which I was made.



Thursday February 2nd

You are not an accident

Someone said, there are no illegitimate children, only illegitimate parents. Regardless of the circumstances of your birth, God had a plan in creating you. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the picture of you he always had in mind.

- Your race, colour of your skin, size of your nose was pre-determined by God (see Psalm 139: 13-15)
- Wish you were American and not Nigerian? (see Acts 17:26)
- He had us in mind before the world was created. (see Ephesians 1: 4,5)

God never makes mistakes. So you are not an accident nor a mistake.

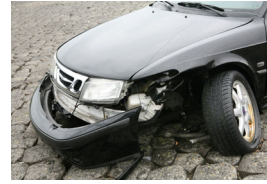
This poem by Russell Kelfer sums up the fact that you are not an accident

You are who you are for a reason
You're part of an intricate plan
You're a precious and perfect unique design,
Called God's special woman or man
You are who you are for a reason,
You've been formed by the Master's rod.
You are who you are, beloved,
Because there is a God!

Point to ponder: I am not an accident

Verse to meditate on: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."* Jer. 1:5

Confession: *I know I am fearfully and wonderfully made. You know me inside and out. You know every bone in my body. The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me. You are mindful of me and you care for me.* (Psalm 8:4, Psalm 139:13-16)



Friday February 3rd

What drives your life?

There are numerous circumstances that can drive people's lives. Here are five of the common ones.

Guilt: Many people's lives have become defined by past regrets. It's true that we are products of our past, but we don't have to be a prisoner of it (see Psa. 32)

Resentment, anger & unforgiveness: Some people internalise their anger and others fly into a rage and explode. Both responses are unhealthy. Those who have hurt you in the past cannot continue to do so unless you hold onto the pain through resentment. (see Job 5:2, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Matthew 18:23-35)

Fear: These could be real or perceived. Whichever it is, fear robs us of opportunities as it paralyzes us. Fear will always cause you to play it safe. It's a self imposed prison. (1st John 4:18, 2nd Timothy 1:7)

Materialism: The drive to want more is based on the deception that having more will make us happier. Things only provide temporary happiness. We become bored with them because they don't change. Valuables don't determine your value. (Luke 12:15)

Need for approval: The rat race. Keeping up with the Joneses. Peer pressure. These are conditions that result from allowing the expectations of others to control our lives. (2 Corinthians 10:12, Luke 18:9-14)

Point to ponder: Lord, nothing compares to you.

Verse to meditate on: You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you (Isaiah 26:3)

Question to consider: What would my family and friends say is the driving force of my life? What do I want to be?



Saturday February 4th

Made to last forever

Bible Scholar Matthew Henry said “*It ought to be the business of everyday to prepare for our final day*”.

Our aspirations and ambitions all seem to the point that this is the final bus stop. Unfortunately, it is not. We will all spend a greater part of our life on the other side. This life is preparation for the next.

It is interesting to know that while on earth we can make many choices. However, listen to God’s advice: *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life.....*(Deut. 30:19) On the other side, there are only two possibilities - Heaven or Hell.

Know this: one day your heart will stop beating. That will be the end of your body and your time on earth, but it will not be the end of you. Remember this: Death is not your **termination**, it is your **transition** into eternity. Just as the nine months you spent in your mother’s womb was not an end in itself but preparation for life, so this life you live now is preparation for the next. You may feel it’s morbid to think about death, but it’s actually unhealthy to live in denial of death and not consider what is inevitable. You need to think *more* about eternity, not *less*.

Point to ponder: There is more to life than just here and now.

Verse to remember: *The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*(1st John 2:17)

Prayer point: Teach me to number my days aright, that I may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)



Do spend time in praise and worship of our God. This should be more than just doing it for a specified time. God inhabits our praises. (Psalm 22:3) All through this fast, surround your ear and mind with a lot of worship music and spend a lot of time praying in the Spirit. Have a notebook and pen ready to capture thoughts that would drop into your heart. Tell the Lord to speak to you. (1st Samuel 3:8-10, John 10:1-10)

- Pray that God will open the eyes of your heart that you may know the hope to which you have been called. Pray that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way. Ask the Lord to keep you from wilful sins (Eph. 1:15-19, Colossians 1:9-14, Psa 19)
- Pray for everyone in position of leadership in Nigeria, from local council chairman to Mr. President, that the Lord will uphold them at this time, granting them wisdom and boldness to do that which is right. (1st Timothy 2:1-4)
- Pray for the police, SSS and other security agencies that the Lord will protect and embolden them as they face those perpetrating evil in our land.
- Declare that in Nigeria, violence will no longer be heard in our land, nor ruin nor destruction within our borders. Nigeria will become a praise.(Is 60:18)
- Ask the Lord to terrify those perpetrating evil in our land. Ask Him to scoff at them and throw confusion into their midst. (Psalm 2:1-5)
- Pray that God’s presence will always dwell with us in Jubilee Christian Centre. That we will remain revived by His Spirit, having great number of men and possessions with the Lord being a wall of fire round us and the glory within us (Zech 2:3-5, Hab 2:2)



29 days of Purpose.



The Redeemed Christian Church of God
Jubilee Christian Centre

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