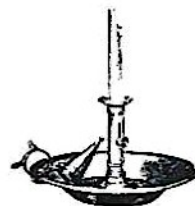


- When a teen-ager is asked what kind of work he plans to go into in the future he often experiences a sense of fear. He wonders if he will find God's will for his life or whether he will experience the frustration of purposelessness that many around him seem to demonstrate.

The very nature of God and the testimony of His Word confirm the fact that He has a purpose and a plan for our lives and that He is even more concerned that we discover it than we are. One reason why many people do not find God's will is simply that they don't know what they're looking for. This makes it all the more important that we look at our future through God's eyes rather than our own inclinations.



7. DISCERNING WISDOM THROUGH PURPOSE IN LIFE

NATURAL INCLINATIONS THAT LEAD TO LACK OF PURPOSE

- Making a distinction between full-time Christian work and secular vocations
- Considering the learning of practical skills in a variety of areas unnecessary
- Believing that since I don't have too many talents or special abilities I can't expect to do any significant work for God
- Assuming that the will of God for my life involves finding a particular job or having a particular title

PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM THAT LEAD TO FULFILLING ACHIEVEMENT

WISDOM IS recognizing that whatever my job is I am to work as though God were my employer and expect that my real reward for labor will come from Him

WISDOM IS remembering that God will use whatever natural skills I develop in the ministry to which He calls me and often they will be the very means of directing me in service for Him

WISDOM IS realizing that God uses the weak things of this world to confound the mighty and the foolish to confound the wise because His strength is made perfect in my weakness

WISDOM IS discerning that the will of God involves the forming of Christ's character within me and the resulting message which I can share with others

NATURAL INCLINATIONS THAT LEAD TO LACK OF PURPOSE

- Neglecting unwanted family responsibilities so that I can have more time to serve the Lord
- Expecting that God will bless my efforts in Christian work with acceptance and appreciation from those whom I serve
- Plodding ahead in order to fulfill a vision that I know God has given me to accomplish
- Looking for opportunities of leadership in Christian service

PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM THAT LEAD TO FULFILLING ACHIEVEMENT

WISDOM IS understanding that difficult family responsibilities are actually God's way of building essential character in me and that a far bigger ministry can result through the lives of those for whom I am responsible

WISDOM IS preparing for unexpected misunderstandings and rejection from those I try to help so that I can identify with new sections of Scripture and experience a more effective ministry with others

WISDOM IS planning for the death of my vision during which time I will be forced to learn the character of Christ and wait for His timing in the fulfillment of the vision

WISDOM IS seeking to serve Christian leaders because of the awesome responsibility which they have and the higher standards by which they will be judged

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS: Write in additional **NATURAL INCLINATIONS** and **PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM** that you discover from Scripture

WISDOM IS _____

WISDOM IS _____

WISDOM IS _____

LOOKING AT LIFE PURPOSE

1. Do you expect to find fulfillment in life by getting the right job?

2. Is there anything you are afraid that God would make you do if you totally dedicated your life to Him?

3. If you became involved in Christian work, would you want to spend your time reaching the largest number of people possible?

4. If someone came to you for counsel but wasn't making the progress you thought he should, would you tend to move on to others who had not yet gotten any help from you?

5. Have you had fears of being hurt and rejected by the very ones you try to help spiritually?

6. Have you admired those who left wife and children, family and friends to serve the Lord?

7. Do you feel it is essential to have academic degrees before you can effectively serve the Lord?

If your answer to any of the above is Yes, then you are in danger of missing God's will for your life.

LOOKING AT LIFE PURPOSE THROUGH GOD'S EYES

1. What actions, attitudes or neglects of other Christians irritate you?
2. How do their actions damage the reputation of Christ?
3. Have you thought through what is causing these Christians to be immature in their words, actions or attitudes?
4. What similar root problems have you experienced in your life?
5. What precise steps of action did you take in order to overcome similar problems? (Write them out)
6. How could you win the confidence of those who are irritating you so that they will ask you to share what you have learned from experience?
7. Describe how you shared these steps of action with one who asked you for spiritual counsel.
8. What attitudes, explanations or approach could you change to gain better results with the next person you talk to?
9. Describe how you shared your improved ideas with a second person.
10. Evaluate the lasting benefits of your counsel to him.
11. What related areas must he work on or resolve in order to gain lasting victory over his immediate problem?

As you do all you can to lead one person to spiritual maturity, you will discover expanding chapters to a life message which, in turn, will allow you to experience God's will for your life.