Daily Devotion #223

**Your Purpose In Life**

**1 Peter 4:11 (NASB)** *“Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

Many times in life it is easy to lose focus on what we are to do. It is easy to get caught up in the times and find ourselves wondering if what we are doing is making a difference. After all, each new day often brings the same thing. Day after day the same grind, week after week, month after month, year after year of swinging the sword of righteousness that is often met with resistance. This, then, turns into feelings of failure and hopelessness. It is easy for our minds to gravitate to the negative and want to quit - quit being the people we are, quit doing what is right, and quit speaking out against evil,etc. If you have been a follower of Christ, you know how often the work for the Lord seems like it is making no headway against the tide of Satan and his evil schemes. Certainly the God-fearing people of Peter’s day felt that same way. I can only imagine how each day must have been filled with exhaustion, not only physically, but mentally and, most assuredly, spiritually. This was the case because they were now enemies of Satan and, therefore, proponents of what was holy and righteous. However, they were seemingly getting no where as they saw their friends and family members literally dragged into the streets and killed - all because they wanted good in this world. They wanted what God wanted, for all people to know Him and serve Him. To have a life that was filled with peace and joy and purpose. But life at this time in history must have seemed just the opposite, at least in their fleshly minds.

So continuing with his message of encouragement, Peter reminds those dear saints of a couple of things. First, that God had given them all very special, spiritual gifts which He designed for the edification and spiritual growth of others. This was not a new message. The Apostle Paul gave the same encouragement when he wrote his letter to the church in Rome and to the church in Corinth. (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). Specifically, God has given you very unique and special gifts, so use them. But again, too often the human flesh gets in the way of the Spirit and His purposes. When that happens, God’s people resort to what is safe and comfortable and often retreat into living life for themselves, instead of for God. So Peter says secondly, in my parahrase, “Listen, you must understand that the gifts God gave you are for the purpose of glorifiying Him. This world is not about us. This world is about giving glory to God, no matter the situation.” The people of Peter’s day were to use their God-given gifts for one purpose, to bring God the glory He deserves. One may ask how God can bring glory to Himself by my gifts? That answer is not for us to know. Our role in this life is to be obedient and in our obedience know that we are serving our Lord.

Our purpose, Beloved, is not to change the world; that’s God’s job. Our job is to live our lives using the various gifts we have been given to point people to Jesus. And in turn, God will touch hearts and draw people to Himself. So don’t worry about what is or is not happening in this world. Don’t get caught up in that. Sin will be sin, and Satan will do what God allows him to do. But you - you focus on doing and being what God wants for you to do and be, and He will use you at the right time and the right moment to reach the world. If your gift is to speak, then speak. If your gift is to serve, then serve. Why? So that God may be glorified.

You and I have no ability to change anyone. But what we can do and must do, is what God has called us to do, use the gifts He has given us. No matter where we make our income or what neighborhood we live in or what color our skin, we are to do all for His glory. Paul said the same thing, **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)** “*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*.” Not man! That is your purpose.

So, take heart dear ones, everything belongs to our King - the glory and the dominon, and get this, forever and ever. Did you hear that? Forever!!!! So along with Peter, we say, “Amen”. So let it be.