

Seeds of Eternity in the Hearts of Men

“But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose”
(Acts 26:16).

“I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision”
(Acts 26:19).

Who am I?

Have you ever wondered, “Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose? Does God have a plan for me?” I’m sure everyone has asked one or all of these questions at one point in life.

The Bible clearly answers the question, “Who am I?”

I am...
... A flower quickly fading,
Here today and gone tomorrow,
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind
(Job 14:1-3; *Casting Crowns* lyrics).
Like the morning fog,
I’m here a little while, and then gone (James 4:14)
I am a breath of air,
A fleeting shadow (Psalm 144:4)
I am a traveler passing through (Hebrews 11:13; Psalm 39:12)
I am a man of numbered days.

"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.
Remind me that my days are numbered,
And that my life is fleeing away.
My life is no longer than the width of my hand.
An entire lifetime is just a moment to you;
Human existence is but a breath”
“We are merely moving shadows,
And all our busy rushing ends in nothing.
We heap up wealth for someone else to spend” (Psalm 39:4-6, *NLT*).

Why am I here?

The book of Acts gives a glimpse of our mission (Acts 1:8); vision (Acts 26:19); and purpose (Acts 26:16).

“Mission” is a general, universal declaration of purpose. We often call it the great commission or co-mission. Everyone has a role to play in accomplishing the mission. The reason why we were born; what God calls us to accomplish is termed “purpose.” “Vision” is the faith needed to bring our purpose to pass. Our vision is precise and has definable restrictions. All of these come from the heart and plan of God. He has prepared us for the work He wants us to accomplish. “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10, *NIV*).

Does God have a plan for me?

God has big plans for each of us. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, *NIV*).

“The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, Surely, as I have thought and planned, so shall it come to pass, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand” (Isaiah 14:24, *AMP*).

God places in our heart what He expects us to do for Him and His kingdom. “I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem” (Nehemiah 2:12, *NIV*).

What will you do with your split second in eternity?

Our Bible school and Headquarters’ facility in the Ivory Coast was built by one couple that requested that the words on the dedication plaque be limited to, “A man and woman blessed of God, passed by here.” We have been blessed to be a blessing. We are pilgrims passing through this life and need to leave our mark.

Winston Churchill once commented, “There comes a special moment in everyone’s life, a moment for which that person was born. When he seizes it, it is his finest hour.”

Bill Bright said, “None of us has a long time here on planet earth. It’s our split second in eternity when we have an opportunity to invest our lives to help fulfill what our Lord came into this world to do.”

His ministry began in 1952 on the UCLA campus with thirty people responding to the gospel message. By the time of his death in 2003, more than 2.5 billion people had received his pamphlet, “The Four Spiritual Laws.”

Time on earth is short. What will you do with your “split second in eternity”?

Ferdinand Foch said, “The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire.” What a tragedy to leave this life without a flicker of a legacy, without a flame of a witness.

What has God planted in your heart?

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, *AMP*).

God plants a piece of eternity—His eternal purpose—in each human heart.

1. It is out of this world.
2. It is a purpose or a call that comes from outside this world. Every day it can be heard.
3. It is beyond our human, natural ability. It takes God's help to accomplish.
4. It is eternal. It never dies.
5. It is after the heart of God. It is from the heart of God to the heart of man. Deep calls to deep!
6. It grows through prayer and fasting.
7. It moves from the seen to the unseen.
8. It is a seed. It grows through obedience.
9. It is the portion that will be fulfilled in our generation.
10. It is in your heart, but it is also in His heart too.

What is the Father's business for you?

Jesus said, “I must be about my Father's business” (Luke 2:49). He understood His mission—the reason for being on earth. He came to...

1. Destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8).
2. Seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
3. Build His church (Matthew 16:18).
4. Bear witness of the truth (John 18:37).
5. Provide abundant life (John 10:10).

Thousands of years later we continue to do the Father's business. The mission has been passed from generation to generation.

What legacy will you leave for others?

Dr. Myles Monroe in *The Principles and Power of Vision* explains the generational nature of vision. He said, “You were born to do something in life that leaves nutrients for the seed of the next generation to take root in and grow.” Monroe believes that life has four seasons.

1. The first season is birth. During this time we depend totally on others for survival. This is a season of dependence.
2. The second season is independence. Here we capture what we were born to do, our purpose in life, and start gathering the resources to accomplish it.
3. The third season is interdependence. We share our dreams and visions with other people. We pass the vision on to the next generation.

4. The fourth season is death. Here we provide the nourishment for the next generation.

“People should be able to flourish on the fruit of the vision you leave behind on earth...You should live so effectively that...your life will be in the hearts and memories of those who could never forget you or what you did...If you live properly, history will not be able to ignore that you lived.” (Myles Monroe)

What are you doing to pass the truth to the next generation?

As Paul completed the race, and neared the end of life, he was able to pass the mission to his son, Timothy.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

Timothy was encouraged to pass the mission to the next generation.

“And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2, *AMP*).

Notice the progression in the verse above.

1. “The [instructions] which you have heard from me”—Paul passes this to Timothy (first generation to second generation).
2. “Entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men”—Timothy is to pass the truth to the next generation of leaders (second generation to the third).
3. “Who will be competent and qualified to teach others also”—third generation to the fourth, and so on.

What a tremendous privilege to be here for a split second in eternity, and to know that God has planted seeds of eternity in our hearts. Our portion of the mission is to be fulfilled in our generation. Like Esther, we have been brought into the kingdom for such a time as this (Esther 4:14). Like the sons of Issachar, we have an understanding of the times and now what we ought to do (1 Chronicles 12:32). Let’s be about our Father’s business!

Study Questions

1. What are the differences between mission, vision, and purpose? _____

2. Quote one Scripture that shows God has a big plan for us. _____

3. Prove, using Bible verses, that a person's time on earth is short. _____

4. Describe what is referred to by "planted eternity in our hearts." _____

5. According to this lesson, list three things Jesus came to do. _____

6. Explain what is meant by the generational nature of vision. _____

7. What are the four (4) seasons of life explained by Myles Monroe?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

8. How does the fruit of one's vision allow for others to flourish? _____

9. According to 2 Timothy 2:2 show how the truth can impact at least four generations.

Additional Notes
