

LIVING WITH A PURPOSE

DAN 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king' meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs **that he might not defile himself.**

Although Daniel was one of the favoured Hebrew captives held in the palace and surrounding grounds of Babylon. They were allotted a portion of the king's food. Most people today would feel blessed eating from the king's menu; however, Daniel held a much different view. He did not want to align himself with the restrictive heathen practices that prevailed under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel had to maintain his spiritual mandate which would ultimately lead to spiritual excellence. To reach a higher spiritual realm Daniel felt the need to diplomatically reject the food menu offered by King Nebuchadnezzar. Surely, this was going to be an impossible lifestyle for a Hebrew young man. However, when you purpose to be obedient to God, one is prepared to make any changes necessary.

It's a fact that some believers refuse to live out biblical "principles of purpose". How is it that the devil can convince believers to live in spiritual idleness? It's time to learn how to say "no" to the things that hinder our purposing for God.

JN 8:23 And he said unto them, "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: **ye are of this world; I am not of this world.**"

Jesus said, "**I must work the works of Him that sent me**"

HEB 11:27 By faith **he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, **as seeing him who is invisible.**

God will always expect us do an impossible task. That's the way He teaches us.

EPH 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness **of his power to us-ward who believe**, according to **the working of his mighty power**,

2 COR 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and **their deep poverty** abounded unto **the riches of their liberality**. ³ For to *their* power, **I bear record**, yea, and beyond *their* power **they were willing of themselves**;

Even the poor can purpose to believe and abound to liberality.

We must pick up the principles of purpose and give beyond our normal ability.

LUK 12:21 "So *is* he that **layeth up treasure for himself**, and is not rich toward God." 22 And he said unto his disciples, "Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." 23 "**The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.**"

Believers must monitor the spiritual progress of the inner man to make sure that they are rich towards God. Even some missionaries have reduced their effectiveness on foreign mission fields, due to their constant thoughts of personal welfare. Most Christians believe that all five-fold ministers and missionaries are very dedicated. However, even gifted ministers at times fail to come to adhere to the "terms and conditions" of biblical principles.

Living as purposeful Christians is not easy; in fact it is impossible! But God is the God of the "possible". Like Daniel we can purpose in our hearts. God wants to prove to us that He can turn the impossible into the possible.

LUK 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

LUK 18:23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for **he was very rich.**

Most people can't say "NO" to riches. Working for the heavenly riches takes greater dedication. God's work is linked to God's will. We can't do one and not the other. Obedience to His will engages us to His work.

LUK 18:25 "For **it is easier for a camel to go through a needles eye**, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

At the time of the ministry of Christ the "**eye of the needle**" was a small gate in the walls of Jerusalem. It was not possible for a large camel loaded with goods to enter into the city through such a small gate.

JN 9:4 "**I must work the works** of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh, when no man can work.**"

JN 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, "**My meat** is to do the will of him that sent me, and **to finish his work.**"

Like Jesus Christ, we must not only begin to work the works that God has called us to do, but we must finish the works He has called us to do.