

Finding Purpose in the Midst of Change

- Prov 11:28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.
- Jer 17:7-8 ⁷ “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.

1. It starts with God

- Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- Job 12:10 In whose hand *is* the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?
- Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- 1 Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,
- Eph 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

2. The Lord knows us

- Isa 44:2 Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, *who* will help you: ‘Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.
- Psa 138:8 The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.
- Psa 139:15-16 ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *and* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when *as yet there were* none of them.
- Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,
- Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
- James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
- Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

3. What motivates us? What spurs us into action?

Job 5:2	For wrath kills a foolish man, and envy slays a simple one.
Ecc 4:4	Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also <i>is</i> vanity and grasping for the wind.
Prov 13:7	There is one who makes himself rich, yet <i>has</i> nothing; <i>and</i> one who makes himself poor, yet <i>has</i> great riches.
Isa 49:4	Then I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely my just reward <i>is</i> with the LORD, and my work with my God.' "
Job 7:16	I loathe <i>my life</i> ; I would not live forever. Let me alone, for my days <i>are but</i> a breath.
Gen 4:12	When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
Eph 5:17	Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord <i>is</i> .
2 Tim 2:7	Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.
John 14:6	Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

4. Benefits of identifying God's purpose

Psa 32:1	Blessed <i>is he whose</i> transgression <i>is</i> forgiven, <i>whose sin is</i> covered.
1 John 4:18	There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
Jer 29:11	For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Eph 3:20	Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
Isa 26:3	You will keep <i>him</i> in perfect peace, <i>whose mind is</i> stayed <i>on You</i> , because he trusts in You.
Phil 3:13, 15	¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing <i>I do</i> , forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁵ therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.