

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared for us in advance to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Our God is an amazing and awesome God. And He has a specific purpose for our lives. Do you know God's purpose for your life? Let us learn how John the Baptist lived out his purpose in God and what we need to remember to do the same.

- **God made us unique.**

¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:14-17

John was a very unique man and yet, God has chosen him to do a very important task—to prepare the way for Jesus and introduce Him as God's promised Messiah. Through his unique and symbolic lifestyle, John led men and women to repent and be baptized. He was able to fulfill his purpose in God because he obeyed Him. How do you obey God with your unique personality and gifts?

- **God created us to become like Christ.**

He must become greater; I must become less.

John 3:30

And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV

Though we are made unique, God's will is to make us more and more like Christ. Having a Christ-like character is not something we can do on our own strength but it shows that we are living lives that are yielded to God's work. What steps can you take to develop Christ-like character in you?

- **God completes His work in you as you allow Him.**

. . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

John was faithful to fulfill the work that God gave him. Up until his death, he continued to preach about the coming of the true Messiah. God intends to finish the work He began on us. But if we are not willing, God cannot do it without our cooperation. How do you allow God to work in your life?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How does your life reflect Christ-like character now?
- Looking at your abilities and strengths, what do you want to do to serve God?
- In what areas do you think you are relying on your own strength and not on God?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What did you learn from this lesson and how can you apply it in your life?
- What are you passionate about? How can you use it for God's glory?
- What areas in your life have you not fully surrendered to God?

PRAYER

- Pray that God will continue to use you to share the gospel to others.
- Pray that you will trust God more to reveal His purpose for your life.
- Ask God to search your heart for anything that is not in line with His will and purposes.