

Transforming
Your
Life

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A Biblical Alternative
for Living



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Republished by Redemption Press 2017

Published by Redemption Press,
PO Box 427, Enumclaw, WA 98022
Toll Free (844) 2REDEEM (273-3336)

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ISBN: 978-1-68314-368-0

CONTENTS

Foreword	7
Step 1: Understanding Purpose	11
Step 2: A Unique Design	15
Step 3: Transforming Our Minds	19
Step 4: Challenging Our Perceptions	23
Step 5: Systems Of Governance	27
Step 6: The Internal Dictionary	31
Step 7: Understanding Your Programming	35
Step 8: Who Is Programming You?	39
Step 9: Your Private Dilemma	45
Step 10: The Key To Overcoming	51
Step 11: Who Do You Believe?	57
Step 12: Adjusting Our Perceptions	63
Step 13: The Impact Of Influences	69
Step 14: Primary Influences	73
Step 15: Testing Your Influences	77
Step 16: Influencing Others	83
Step 17: The Impact Of History	89
Step 18: Who Is Omniscient?	95
Step 19: Examining Historical Traditions	99
Step 20: A New Creation	103
Step 21: Understanding Emotions	107

Step 22:	Signals From Your Belief System	113
Step 23:	Discerning The Truth Of Our Emotions	117
Step 24:	Responding In Faith	121
Step 25:	BT or BS?	125
Step 26:	Discovering Biblical Truth	129
Step 27:	Roundabouts And Solomon	133
Step 28:	Exercising Faith	139
Step 29:	Controlling Your Behavior	143
Step 30:	The Wisdom Of God	149
Step 31:	Reclaiming Your Value	155
Step 32:	Trusting God For Your Identity	159
Step 33:	The Challenge And Liberation Of Forgiveness	163
Step 34:	The Challenge Of Trust	169
Step 35:	Biblical Love	173
Step 36:	Understanding Transformation	177
Step 37:	Changed Lives	181
Step 38:	In The Master's Hands	185
Step 39:	Sacrifices Made For You	189
Step 40:	Your Purpose	193

FOREWORD

Our lives are filled with challenges and changes that seem to disrupt our schedules and make unexpected demands on our lives, sometimes without warning. Sudden shifts that seem to be momentary find their way into our history and begin to shape our way of thinking. We are stretched beyond logic when we are bombarded with emotional demands that seem to govern our steps. Fear becomes a ruler and builds its stronghold in our lives. We find ourselves trapped with no way to escape the captivity of ourselves.

This book is designed to help discover the freedom we are intended to experience. It will take you through steps and strategies that will help you discover a place of peace and success.

Discovery, however, is only part of the journey. There has to be a desire and a willingness to take the necessary steps that will help overcome practical and emotional obstacles and drive down that sometimes bumpy road to success, where we can find a peace to surpass all understanding.

This book was inspired and motivated by the experiences I shared and the challenges I faced while serving as Senior Pastor at Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO. My belief that there is a “biblical alternative for living in every area of life” demands an answer for all of life’s questions.

As a church family we have grown together through many trials, and we have been privileged to share many blessings as well. We are a family committed to growth in the Word of God, genuine fellowship, and true discipleship, seeking to follow Christ in every endeavor. As we seek to become better disciples of Christ, we need to let go of everything that hinders our ability to follow Him earnestly.

The experiences of discovery during my training as a licensed professional counselor served to reinforce much of what I believed about human behavior, behavioral change, and life transformation. Even further, the discoveries during my Ph.D. course work offered an even deeper foundational insight.

The greatest contributing influence to how we live and experience our lives is the particular “worldview” that creates the lens through which I believe all reality is viewed. This is best described and explained by the work of Dr. Tony Evans and his Kingdom Agenda approach to living. He describes God’s Kingdom Agenda as “the visible demonstration of the comprehensive rule of God over every

Transforming Your Life

area of life.” It is from this ideology that we adopt our “biblical alternative for living in every area of life” philosophy.

The strategies we learned and the understanding of God’s expectations for every Christian have given us insight that has led us through a “cleansing,” giving us the liberty to love God and love one another in ways beyond measure.

Begin reading this book with a focus on prayer. Ask God to bless you with willingness to be renewed for His purposes. Set aside time each day to read and meditate on the daily devotions. Spend time completing the scripture readings and more importantly, follow-up with journaling to reinforce your learning and discoveries. Make this more than a daily to-do item. Be willing to revisit the painful past and let Him shine His light on your experiences, history, and influences. Allow God to show you how your belief system has been shaped. Allow Him to prune you where pruning is needed; be willing to let go of what He shows you. Trust Him to walk with you through your anger, tears, and fears. Do not be afraid—this is pruning by the hand of the Master who created you and loves you more than anyone else. Most importantly, allow yourself to understand and live in the love of God. During your experience reading this book, let Him show you His perfect love.

You will wake up one morning knowing that God has begun a new work in you, removing and changing those parts of your belief system that need to be addressed so He

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can better use you! Know that His purposes for your life are where you truly long to be—let Him show you how to get there.

—Pastor Stan Archie, MS, MA,
LPC, NCC, BCPC, SATP-C Senior Pastor,
Christian Fellowship Baptist Church

STEP 1

UNDERSTANDING PURPOSE

Many people believe that if you are lost, the first thing you need to consider is where you are. But contrary to popular opinion, the best thing to do is to first discover where you were supposed to be. For many of us, discovering our purpose is a lifelong task. Why? Because our purpose is not static, it is actually evolving. Over the course of our lifetime, we will have many purposes based on the stage of life and what God has purposed for us at that time in our life. So, our purpose is not the destination, it's the journey!

Yet, in the Christian community, the dreaded phrase is “knowing my purpose.” That’s because we often don’t understand what this means. For example, when you are a teenager your purpose may be to represent your family and prepare yourself academically for your future (*Ephesians 6:1*). When you are a newlywed, your primary focus is to please your spouse (*1 Corinthians 7:33-34*), but when you become a parent, you must add the rearing of your children to your responsibilities. The point is that in order to be in line with your purpose, the first thing you must consider

is who or what determines your present responsibilities and purposes?

Our scripture reading for today is from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon takes a look at the “things” in his life (fame, riches, knowledge, etc.) and evaluates them. After evaluating all these earthly things, he reaches a conclusion about what is important in life. Read *Ecclesiastes 12:9-14* to see his conclusion.

ASSIGNMENT:

Read this entire passage (Eccl. 12:9-14) three times (seek understanding). Then consider the following questions and record your answers in your journal:

- a. What are the areas (three or less) in your life where you feel most lost?
- b. If God is the source and gives us our purpose, it should be assumed we know Him better than anyone else. How many people do you “know” better than you know God? (Under 10, between 10-100, between 100-500, too many to count).
- c. Read Jeremiah 1:4-5 and Luke 12:6-7 and think seriously about what these passages say to you.

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JOURNALING:

Based on these passages, write about what you mean to God and the value God sees in you.

