

**Rick Warren**

**Evangelist Extraordinaire**



# **Rick Warren – Evangelist Extraordinaire**

## **Part I**

- **Background**
- **Saddleback Church**
  - **Warren wrote The Purpose Driven Church... (1995)**
  - **P.E.A.C.E. Plan**
- **Rick Warren – Other**
  - **Views on a Purpose Driven Retirement**
  - **Rick Warren and Billy Graham**
- **Impact of Suicide of Matthew Warren**
- **Kay Warren and her book Choose Joy (2012)**
- **Wrap-up: Things to Consider from Today's Lesson**

**Background**

# **Rick Warren's Background**

- **65 years old (born January 28, 1954)**
- **Married to Kay for 44 years (since 1975)**
- **3 adult children (one deceased) and 4 grandchildren**
- **Warren, a fourth-generation Southern Baptist pastor, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from California Baptist College, a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. Turning down an offer to become pastor of a 5,000-member church in Texas during his last year in seminary, he and his family arrived in California's Saddleback Valley in January 1980 to establish a church.**

# Rick Warren's Background

- **Rick Warren founded Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., in 1980 with one family. Today, it is an evangelical congregation averaging 22,000 weekly attendees, a 120-acre campus, and has more than 300 community ministries to groups such as prisoners, CEOs, addicts, single parents, and those with HIV/AIDS.**
- **He also leads the Purpose Driven Network of churches, a global coalition of congregations in 162 countries. More than 400,000 ministers and priests have been trained worldwide.**
- **Almost 157,000 church leaders subscribe to the Ministry ToolBox, his weekly newsletter.**
- **His book, The Purpose Driven Church is listed in "100 Christian Books That Changed the 20th Century." Forbes magazine called it "the best book on entrepreneurship, management, and leadership in print."**

# Rick Warren Background Cont'd

- His six books are known for explaining theology in understandable ways and have been translated into more than 50 languages. Dr. Warren says he teaches theology without using theological terms and telling people it is theology.
- His latest book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, has sold 25 million copies and is the best-selling hardback book in American history, according to *Publisher's Weekly*.
- As philanthropists, Rick and Kay Warren give away 90 percent of their income through three foundations: Acts of Mercy, which serves those infected and affected by AIDS; Equipping the Church, which trains church leaders in developing countries; and The Global PEACE Fund, which fights poverty, disease, and illiteracy.

# Rick Warren Background Cont'd

- **Rick Warren gave the Invocation (prayer) at the inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20, 2009**
- **Rick Warren has been invited to speak at the United Nations, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the African Union, the Council on Foreign Relations, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, TIME's Global Health Summit, and numerous congresses around the world.**
- **TIME magazine named him one of "15 World Leaders Who Mattered Most in 2004" and in 2005 one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World." Also, in 2005 U.S. News & World Report named him one of "America's 25 Best Leaders."**



# Rick Warren Background Cont'd

## Rick Warren Believes:

- The Bible is the Inerrant Word of God
- In Creationism
- “First and foremost I am an Evangelist...”

# "THINGS THAT MATTER"



# **Saddleback Church**

- **Saddleback Church is a Baptist evangelical Christian megachurch located in Lake Forest, California, situated in southern Orange County, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.**
- **The church has several campuses in California and around the world. Weekly church attendance averages over 22,000 people in 2017. The senior pastor is Rick Warren.**

**Source: Wikipedia**

**In his ministry, Rick Warren and Saddleback Church started the P.E.A.C.E plan:**

**Plant churches that promote reconciliation**

**Equip leaders**

**Assist the poor**

**Care for the sick**

**Educate the next generation**

**Rick Warren's stated intention in launching the P E A C E (or PEACE) Plan is to involve every Christian and every church in every nation in the task of serving people in the areas of the greatest global needs. The tag-line is 'Ordinary people empowered by God making a difference together wherever they are'.**

**Source: Wikipedia**













## **Saddleback Church in a Land of Plenty**

**Excerpt from “I Visited Six U.S. Megachurches – Here’s What I Learned” - Justin Brierly, British writer on Christian topics**

**Our kids still remember the day we visited Saddleback in California. There was dancing, drama and singing. There were video games, themed play parks and an indoor aquarium and reptile display. They even came away with branded water bottles. But Saddleback isn’t a theme park, it’s a church.**

**Saddleback is one of the USA’s 1,600 megachurches – defined as a church with more than 2,000 people in weekly attendance.**

# Saddleback Church in a Land of Plenty

Excerpt from “I Visited Six U.S. Megachurches – Here’s What I Learned” - Justin Brierly, British writer on Christian topics

Pastor David Chrzan, Saddleback’s chief of staff, kindly agreed to answer my questions. **As we toured the state-of-the-art youth facility, he explained how the play areas are themed around specific Bible stories – there’s even a stream of water which, at the touch of a button, divides down the middle in Red Sea style, for children to pass through.**

The pastor is only too aware of both the benefits and challenges of being such a large and well-resourced church. **He is used to critics comparing Saddleback with the Disneyland resort a few miles away. So are they pandering to a consumerist approach? No, says Chrzan, explaining the long term goals in mind when they attract newcomers through their impressive facilities.**

## Saddleback Church in a Land of Plenty – Cont'd

Excerpt from “I Visited Six U.S. Megachurches – Here’s What I Learned” - Justin Brierly, British writer on Christian topics

**“In the last twelve years alone, we’ve had over 25,000 of our members pay their own way to go to another country to share their faith or do some mission activity,”** explained Chrzan. “They care for the sick, assist the poor, educate the next generation, or plant a church. I would say that’s an incredible expression of discipleship. To get people to where they are now, this is part of what we believed it took.”

**The Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising  
Your Message & Mission (1995)**

Purpose Driven Church - Wiki

***The Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message & Mission*** is a 1995 book by [Rick Warren](#), founder and senior [pastor](#) of [Saddleback Church](#) in [Lake Forest, California](#), United States.

The book is targeted to pastors and church leaders and advises them to base their ministry on God's purposes, not their own ideas of ministry, hence the term "Purpose Driven". Warren suggests that these purposes are [Worship](#), [Fellowship](#), [Discipleship](#), [Ministry](#) and [Mission](#) and that they are derived from the [Great Commandment](#) (*Matthew 22:37–40*) and the [Great Commission](#) (*Matthew 28:19–20*). <sup>[1]</sup>

Warren writes that every church is driven by something. Tradition, finances, programs, personalities, events, seekers and even buildings can each be the controlling force in a church. But he believes that in order for a church to be healthy it must be built around the five [New Testament](#) purposes given to the church by [Jesus](#). "The issue is church health, not [church growth](#)!" declares Warren. "If your church is healthy, growth will occur naturally. Healthy, consistent growth is the result of balancing the five [biblical](#) purposes of the church."

He proposes that church leaders ask of themselves, "What is our purpose?", "Why do we do what we do?", "What should we be doing?", and "How will you do that?". In this book Warren provides a guide to answer these questions on how to do church. He further suggests that following the principles he outlines in the book will enable a church to grow. <sup>[2]</sup>

The author emphasizes an intentional people-building process. He says, "If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church."

The teaching of *The Purpose Driven Church* was derived from Warren's own experience in leading [Saddleback Church](#) from its founding in 1980 to over 10,000 in worship attendance in its first fifteen years, becoming one of the fastest growing churches in America during this time. <sup>[3]</sup>

## The Purpose Driven Church – Cont'd

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Warren suggests that these purposes are **Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission** and that they are derived from the Great Commandment (*Matthew 22:37–40*) and the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19–20*).



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**Source: Wikipedia**

# **Views on a Purpose Driven Retirement**

## **Pastor Rick Warren is Prepared for a Purpose Driven Retirement - Forbes March 2013**

**You might wonder how much the Pastor of a mega-church with more than 20,000 attendees pockets from the weekly offering basket. Do those funds translate into homes, cars, personal aircraft, yachts, or even a luxury brand of wristwatch? Not that a Pastor shouldn't enjoy a little of the American dream, especially if he's the man who founded Saddleback church in 1980 and built up his worldwide following one family at a time. The same spiritual leader who has written the second most translated book in the world (second only to the Holy Bible) and one that's been on the *New York Times* best-seller for nearly four straight years. This is, after all, a man who networks with the leaders of the free world, Presidents and presidential hopefuls and assorted dignitaries, while helping combat AIDS through personal relationships with rock music superstars such as Bono.**

## **Pastor Rick Warren is Prepared for a Purpose Driven Retirement - Forbes March 2013 – Cont'd**

**This mighty man of the cloth is Pastor Rick Warren; a man who, in a world seemingly consumed by greed and material possessions, practices what he preaches in defiance of the temptation to feather his own nest; relying instead on Scripture and time-tested money-management principles to guide his personal and financial life. “I drive a 12 year old Ford, have lived in the same house for the last 22 years, bought my watch at Wal-Mart, and I don’t own a boat or a jet,” says Warren.**

# **Pastor Rick Warren is Prepared for a Purpose Driven Retirement - Forbes March 2013 – Cont'd**

Pastor Rick preaches a good retirement sermon with both his actions and his lips. **“I think the key is to give people models of staying productive; not simply lounging around living a self-centered life. Do you really think God wants to leave you for another 20 years on earth just to live for yourself?”**

At Saddleback, they use a program called the P.E.A.C.E plan to help keep new as well as existing retirees on the right path

**Plant churches that promote reconciliation**

**Equip leaders**

**Assist the poor**

**Care for the sick**

**Educate the next generation**

**“In the last 10 years I have sent out over 20,000 members to 196 nations,” he said. “That’s every nation in the world to do PEACE related work ... no church has sent out more people.”**

**As you might expect, when asked what was the best investment he ever made he responded without hesitation, “Investing in reading the word of God on a daily basis, because all of the wisdom for life is contained in the Book ... wisdom for finances, for relationships, for personal health, for your business, for your family.”**

**“As a pastor I have stood at the bedside of literally thousands of people as they took their last breath. I have never once had somebody at their dying moment say, ‘Bring me my bowling trophy, I want to see it one more time; bring me my certificate, my college degree so I can look at it one more time; bring me the nice gold watch I got for 30 years of service at my company.’ Nobody ever says that; they say, ‘Bring me the people that I love.’ In the closing moments of their life, what people want are those they love the most around them. We all eventually figure out that life is all about love. I just hope people learn that sooner.”**

**Rick Warren and Billy Graham**



## **'Billy Was My Hero.' Pastor Rick Warren Remembers His Mentor Billy Graham – Time, Feb. 2018**

**After Billy Graham, Rick Warren may be the most famous, living evangelical in the world.**

**The day Graham died at age 99, Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, and the author of the bestselling *The Purpose Driven Life*, shared his memories of America's most famous evangelist with TIME.**

**“Billy was my hero and my model,” Warren says. “It would be hard to overestimate Billy Graham’s influence on my life and ministry.”**

**Warren admired Graham from an early age. He read his first Graham book *Peace With God* when he was in the 6th grade. At 17, he heard Graham speak for the first time at the Oakland California crusade. While still in high school, Warren began to speak to youth groups and churches. “Growing up in a Baptist home, Billy Graham was our pope,” Warren said.**

## 'Billy Was My Hero.' Pastor Rick Warren Remembers His Mentor Billy Graham – Time, Feb. 2018

Warren first met Graham personally when he was 20. By then, Warren had preached at more than 120 youth crusades on the west coast. Graham noticed, and took an interest in the young preacher. “That began a mentoring relationship with him, very close, for the next 40 years,” Warren recalls.

Like most in his generation of evangelicals, Warren looked to Graham to learn how to preach. **“As I grew older, it really was his character more than even his preaching that became a model for me, his integrity, his humility, his generosity,” Warren says. “I wanted these things in my life.”**

Graham invited a college-age Warren to teach thousands of Christian leaders at one of his evangelism conferences in Amsterdam after Warren wrote his first book on how to study the Bible. “I thought, I didn’t feel good about my writing, but if Billy Graham thinks it’s okay, it must be okay,” Warren remembers. *“Purpose Driven Life* may have never been written if I hadn’t had that encouragement.”

# 'Billy Was My Hero.' Pastor Rick Warren Remembers His Mentor Billy Graham – Time, Feb. 2018

Once Warren flew to Graham's home in North Carolina after Graham asked him for an update on his PEACE Plan, a global initiative for churches to change things like poverty and disease in their local communities. **“He said, ‘Rick this is the greatest vision I’ve ever heard, I just wish I was around long enough to see it happen’,”** Warren remembers. **“I’m sure I wasn’t the only one who received that kind of encouragement.”**

Today, Warren says that some of his most valuable possessions are the personal cards and notes Graham would send him over the years. “One he wrote to me, I think it was the first time I was interviewed on the Larry King show on CNN,” Warren says. “It is framed in my office, between a note from Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa.”

# 'Billy Was My Hero.' Pastor Rick Warren Remembers His Mentor Billy Graham – Time, Feb. 2018

When Warren prayed at President Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009, Graham sent him the hat he had worn to pray at inaugurations past, with a handwritten note. "He said, Rick, I wore this hat to all the inaugurations I've prayed at. You are the man now, I love you like a son in the Lord, God bless you, I'm all for you, Billy," Warren recalls. He wore Graham's hat on the inaugural dais.

On American evangelicalism's civil war over President Donald Trump, with Graham's son Franklin standing by the commander-in-chief, Warren has stayed largely quiet. "I'm not on the record on anything about the President but I have very strong opinions about that guy," he says.

Warren attributes much of his approach to his mentor. "By not getting involved in partisan politics, he ministered to politicians clearly," Warren says. "He knew what it meant to be a bridge builder and a unifier, rather than a divider."

## **'Billy Was My Hero.' Pastor Rick Warren Remembers His Mentor Billy Graham – Time, Feb. 2018**

**For now, Warren is focused on building evangelical momentum behind the scenes to combat racism, to support immigrants, and to speak out on sexual abuse and harassment.**

**“He taught me to avoid the flatterers, ignore the critics, ignore the cheers and the jeers on the sideline, just keep focused on your purpose,” Warren says. “That humility allowed him to learn from anybody. I’ve adopted that.”**

**If there is a Bible passage that comes to mind about Graham, Warren says it is in the New Testament book of Acts: “David served God’s purpose in his generation, and then he died,” it reads.**

**Every Christian must serve God in his or her own time, Warren says, learning to serve God’s eternal causes in a changing world.**

**“That is what Billy did,” says Warren. “And then, he died. To me, that would be a great thing to have on your tombstone.”**

**Death of Youngest Child, Matthew Warren, by  
Suicide at Age 27 in April 2013**









**“The day I prayed would never happen...happened.” – Rick Warren**

**If you have had a personal tragedy (such as Matthew Warren’s taking his life) which you had prayed to God for another outcome, how did that tragedy affect your faith in God (question it, deepen it, no change)?**

# **Rick and Kay Warren's Faith Journey Following Matthew's Suicide**

# **Interview of Rick Warren about Matthew's Suicide – Premier Christianity Magazine**

**When Matthew died, I took a four month grief sabbatical. I did not preach, I did not teach, so I spent eight hours a day alone with Jesus. I'm not the same man I used to be. I've got the same personality, the same flaws, but I'm just not the same guy I was. You can't spend four months alone in reflection, in the Bible, with scripture and with Jesus and it not change you, deepen you and sensitize you to the pain of other people.**

**When things happen to you, they become part of your life message. It doesn't replace my life message, it just adds to the mosaic. It's another piece that's been added.**

## **Interview of Rick Warren about Matthew's Suicide – Premier Christianity Magazine – Cont'd**

*Looking back, is it possible to begin to see purpose in your pain?*

I saw it from day one. In fact, we can't handle pain unless we understand there is a purpose. **The gospel doesn't offer painless life on this earth, but it does offer us meaning, which makes pain bearable.** The first stage was shock, which is a human emotion. Sometimes I'd be sitting at home at night, expecting him to walk in through the door and watch TV with us, as he often did. Then it went to sorrow, which is a godly emotion. The Bible says, "Jesus wept." The only reason you are able to grieve is because God grieves. The Bible makes it very clear; we were made in his image.

## Interview of Rick Warren about Matthew's Suicide – Premier Christianity Magazine – Cont'd

The third phase is what I call struggle. All the "why" questions. The biggest one for me is, "Why didn't you answer the prayer I prayed every day for 27 years?" The prayer I prayed more than any other prayer went unanswered. But explanations never comfort. What you need in tragedy is not an explanation, you need the presence of God. Then you come to the stage of surrender. Surrender is when you say I'd rather live and walk with God and have my questions unanswered than have all my questions answered and not walk with God.

*Has this shaken your faith in any way then?*

Not at all. Piers Morgan asked (we finally did one interview, and we chose CNN because we knew it would go worldwide) whether I ever doubted God or his existence. I said, "No, I never did, but I doubted his wisdom."



 CBS  
THIS  
MORNING







## **Mom finds new calling after son's suicide – CNN May 13, 2016**

**(CNN) One of the worst nightmares a parent can experience is outliving a child.**

**Kay Warren knows this all too well. Her son Matthew died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in April 2013.**

**However, in the aftermath of the unthinkable, Warren's biggest heartbreak became her greatest calling.**

**In 1980, along with her husband, Rick, Warren co-founded Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. Since then, Saddleback has grown to become one of the largest churches in the United States. With 12 locations in California and four internationally, thousands of members and more than 200 ministries, the church's reach and community are extensive.**

**Matthew was born and raised amid this backdrop. He was diagnosed with clinical depression at age 7.**

**Warren candidly says her son suffered for a long time because she and her husband had a tough time understanding and accepting the diagnosis. His illness, however, was not asymptomatic.**

**"There are signs that show a child is struggling," she recalls. "Somehow, we missed it."**

## **Mom finds new calling after son's suicide – Cont'd**

**According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in five teens ages 13-18 live with a serious mental illness. Despite this high rate, Warren says the faith community has traditionally treated the subject as taboo.**

**She characterizes this as a "tragic misunderstanding" and says this has led many to think of those struggling with mental health as being weak, having a character flaw or lacking spiritual faith.**

**"Mental illness is an illness. When you start to understand that, you can start to fix the stigma. When someone is courageous enough to start talking about it, then it opens the doors for treatment and healing."**

## **Mom finds new calling after son's suicide – Cont'd**

**Warren believes religious leaders need to play a bigger role in addressing mental health issues. After Matthew's death, Warren and her husband pushed to bring mental health to the forefront of Saddleback's ministries. Now it is a major part of the church's care initiative.**

**She says once her husband started discussing the issue at the church, "it gave many the courage to come forward."**

**"I have so many people come up to me and whisper in my ear, 'I live with depression.' Nobody should have to whisper about their lives at church. That is the one safe place."**

## **Mom finds new calling after son's suicide – Cont'd**

**Today, Warren travels across the country to speak about her experience and advocate early treatment and intervention. She credits her faith for giving her the strength to discuss Matthew and hopes her talks will offer hope to people who are going through a dark period.**

**"I really can't even count in the last 2½ years how many people have come up to me and said Matthew's suicide has caused them to decide not to take their lives," she says.**

**"They watched our family and saw the devastation that we've experienced. Some have said to me, 'I don't care how bad it gets. I can't do that to my mom and dad, my wife or my kids.' And then there are those that have lost someone to suicide, but our story of resilience and hope has given them the courage to get out of bed."**

**She says her son's suicide has been the hardest journey of her life.**

**"When everything in my body is telling me to stay in my room and curl up in despair, it is God that has carried me and continues to carry me."**

**Kay Warren and Her Book, Choose Joy  
(Published in 2012)**



**Prior video on Choosing Joy created in May 2014...one year after Matthew's death**

**Joy is (at 1:32):**

- **The settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life.**
- **The quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright.**
- **The determined choice to praise God in every situation.**



## **Wrap-up: Things to Consider from Today's Lesson:**

- **Rick Warren is a dedicated Evangelist for Christ who lives what he believes.**
- **Faith and Personal Tragedy – One couple's (Rick and Kay Warren) grappling with their faith and ultimately trusting in "God's presence" in their lives through the act of "Surrender".**

**"Surrender is when you say I'd rather live and walk with God and have my questions unanswered than have all my questions answered and not walk with God." – Rick Warren**

# **Rick Warren – Evangelist Extraordinaire**

## **Part II**

- **Recap of Part I**
- **Rick Warren – Video Examples of His Views and Preaching**
- **Purpose Driven Life – What on Earth am I Here for? (2002)**
- **Purpose Driven Life – Major Sections**
- **Focus in: “You Were Created to Become Like Christ”**

# **Recap of Part I – Rick Warren – Evangelist Extraordinaire**

# **Rick Warren – Video Examples of His Views and Preaching**

"THINGS  
THAT  
MATTER"



# 3 CHOICES TO MANAGE YOUR MIND

Pastor Rick Warren



**Wanna Sample Some More of Rick Warren's Videos?**

**Go to:**

**<https://saddleback.com/watch/the-best-messages/>**

**Purpose Driven Life – What on Earth am I Here for?**  
**(first published in 2002)**

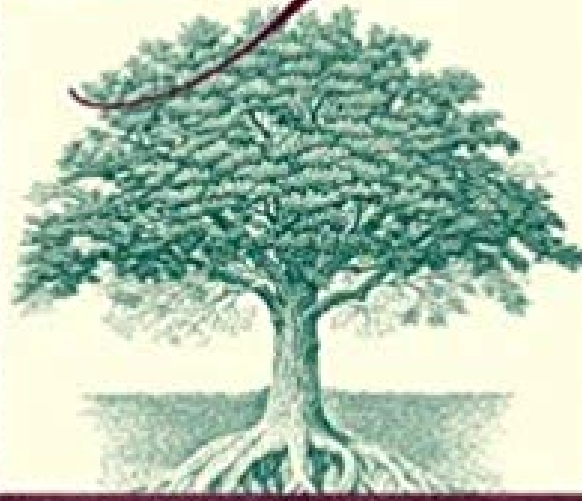


THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

RICK WARREN

THE  
PURPOSE  
DRIVEN<sup>®</sup>

*Life*



WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

# **Purpose Driven Life - Excerpts**

**First Paragraph - “This is more than a book; it is a guide to a *40-day spiritual journey* that will enable you to discover the answer to life’s most important question: What on earth am I here for? By the end of this journey you will know God’s purpose for your life and will understand the big picture – how all the pieces of your life fit together.”**

**The best way to explain God's purpose for your life is to allow the Scripture to speak for itself, so in this book the Bible is quoted extensively, using over a thousand different verses from fifteen English translations and paraphrases.**

# **Purpose Driven Life – Major Sections**

**Suggested to be Read and Pondered Over 40 days at 1 Chapter per day**

- **What on Earth am I Here for?**  
- 7 Chapters
- **PURPOSE #1: You Were Planned for God's Pleasure**  
- 7 Chapters
- **PURPOSE #2: You Were Formed for God's Family**  
- 7 Chapters

## **Purpose Driven Life – Major Sections Cont'd**

- **PURPOSE #3: You Were Created to Become Like Christ**  
- 7 Chapters
- **PURPOSE #4: You Were Shaped for Serving God**  
- 7 Chapters
- **PURPOSE #5: You Were Made for a Mission**  
- 5 Chapters

## Each Chapter finishes with “Thinking about My Purpose”

- **A Point to Ponder**
  - This is a nugget of truth that summarizes a principle of purpose driven living that you can reflect on throughout the day. Paul told Timothy, *“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all of this.”*
- **A Verse to Remember**
  - This is a Bible verse that teaches a truth from the chapter.
- **A Question to Consider**
  - These questions will help you think about the implications of what you have read and how it applies to you personally.

## Appendix – Discussion Questions

p. 11 – “Discussion Questions - I strongly urge you to get one or more friends to join you in reading this book during the next 40 days. A journey is always better when it is *shared*. With a partner or a small reading group you can discuss what you read and bounce ideas off each other. This will help you grow stronger and deeper spiritually. **Real spiritual growth is never an isolated, individualistic pursuit. Maturity is produced through relationships and community.**



**Let's Explore a bit more one of the Five Purposes  
covered in the Book –**

**Purpose 3 – You Were Created to Become Like Christ**

## **Purpose 3 - You Were Created to Become Like Christ**

**Let your roots grow down into Christ and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth.**

Colossians 2:7

**We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created.**

Colossians 1:15

## **Purpose 3 - You Were Created to Become Like Christ**

**God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son...We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.**

Romans 8:29

# You Were Created to Become Like Christ

## Daily Readings – Days 22 to 28

- Day 22 – Created to Become Like Christ
- Day 23 – How We Grow
- Day 24 – Transformed by Truth
- Day 25 – Transformed by Trouble
- Day 26 – Growing Through Temptation
- Day 27 – Defeating Temptation
- Day 28 – It Takes Time

## Excerpts – Day 22 – Created to Become Like Christ

p. 172 – “The desire to be a god shows up every time we try to control our circumstances, our future, and people around us. But as creatures, we will never be the *Creator*. God doesn’t want you to become a god; he wants you to become *godly* – taking on his values, attitudes, and character. The Bible says, “*Take on an entirely new way of life – a God – fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.*”

p. 173 - **God’s ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development.** He wants you to grow up spiritually and become like Christ. Becoming like Christ does not mean losing your personality or becoming a mindless clone. God created your uniqueness, so he certainly doesn’t want to destroy it. Christlike is all about transforming your character, not your personality.

## **Excerpts – Day 22 – Created to Become Like Christ**

**p. 173 – “God wants you to develop the kind of character described in the beatitudes of Jesus, the fruit of the Spirit, Paul’s great chapter on love, and Peter’s list of characteristics of an effective and productive life. Every time you forget that character is one of God’s purposes for your life, you will become frustrated by your circumstances.”**

**p. 174 – It is the Holy Spirit’s job to produce Christlike character in you. The Bible says, *“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.”* The process of changing us to be more like Jesus is called *sanctification*, and it is the third purpose of your life on earth.**

**Mention “the power of the Holy Spirit”, and many people think of miraculous demonstrations and intense emotion. But most of the time the Holy Spirit’s power is released in your life in quiet, unassuming ways that you aren’t even aware of or can’t feel. He often nudges us with *“a gentle whisper”*.**

# Day 22 – Created to Become Like Christ

## Thinking About My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** I was created to become like Christ

**Verse to Remember:** “As the spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory ever more.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Question to Consider:** In what area of my life do I need to ask for the Spirit’s power to be like Christ today?

# Day 23 – How We Grow

## Thinking About My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** It is never too late to start growing.

**Verse to Remember:** “Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of mind. Then you will know the will of God – what is good and pleasing to him and is perfect.”  
Romans 12:2

**Question to Consider:** What is one area where I need to stop thinking *my* way and start thinking *God’s* way?



# Day 24 – Transformed by Truth

## Thinking about My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** The truth transforms me.

**Verse to Remember:** “If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8: 31-32

**Question to Consider:** What has God told me in his Word that I haven't started doing yet?

# Day 25 – Transformed by Trouble

## Thinking about My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** There is a purpose behind every problem.

**Verse to Remember:** “And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

**Question to Consider:** What problem in my life has caused the greatest growth in me?

# Day 26 – Growing Through Temptation

## Thinking about My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** Every temptation is an opportunity to do good.

**Verse to Remember:** “God bless the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12

**Question to Consider:** What Christlike character quality can I develop by defeating the most common temptation I face?

# Day 27 – Defeating Temptation

## Thinking about My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** There is always a way out.

**Words to Remember:** “God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

**Question to Consider:** Who could I ask to be a spiritual partner to help me defeat a persistent temptation by praying for me?

# Day 28 – It Takes Time

## Thinking about My Purpose

**Point to Ponder:** There are no short-cuts to maturity.

**Verse to Remember:** “God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.”

Philippians 1:6

**Question to Consider:** In what area of my spiritual growth do I need to be more patient and persistent?

## **Appendix Discussion Questions: You Were Created to Become Like Christ**

- **How is “*becoming like Christ*” different from the way most people understand “discipleship”?**
- **What are some of the changes you have seen in your life since you became a believer? What have others noticed?**
- **A year from now, how would you like to be more Christlike? What can you do today to move toward that goal?**
- **Where in your spiritual growth are you having to be patient because there seems to be little progress?**
- **How has God used pain or trouble to help you grow?**
- **When are you most vulnerable to temptation? Which of the steps to defeating temptation could help you most?**

## Wrap-up: Things to Consider from Today's Lesson:

Discussed the Book *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

First Paragraph: “This is more than a book; **it is a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable you to discover the answer to life’s most important question: What on earth am I here for?** By the end of this journey you will know God’s purpose for your life and will understand the big picture – how all the pieces of your life fit together.”

Samples of Rick Warren’s preaching available at:

<https://saddleback.com/watch/the-best-messages/>

**FINIS**