HOW TO FULFILL **GOD'S PURPOSE** FOR YOUR LIFE

GREGORY DICKOW

HOW TO FULFILL **GOD'S PURPOSE** FOR YOUR LIFE

GREGORY DICKOW

How to Fulfill God's Purpose for Your Life

©2014 by Gregory Dickow Ministries.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever—graphic, electronic, or mechanical—without written permission, except in the case of reprints in the context of reviews.

Printed in the United States of America

For information, please write:

Gregory Dickow Ministries

P.O. Box 7000

Chicago, IL 60680

You can visit us online at

www.gregorydickow.com

ISBN 13: 978-1-932833-25-6

Third Printing, 2019

Table of Contents

The Desire

Be Transformed

Float Like a Butterfly!

Gateway to God's Purpose

Your Future is Bright!

Perfect Peace!

Salvation

As You Go Forward

THE DESIRE

Chapter One

Why is it that we all have such a strong desire to change, to improve, to become better? It's because every Christian wants more than anything to experience God's perfect will, His purpose, and His plan for their life.

I love the verse in Jeremiah 29:11, where God says, *"I know the THOUGHTS I think toward you. Thoughts of peace,*

not evil, to give you a future and a hope." (NKJV). Yet, I noticed that in the New International Version, God says, "I know the PLANS I have for you . . . plans to prosper you . . ." One version uses "THOUGHTS." while the other uses "PLANS." So I asked, "Lord, is it thoughts or is it plans?" And I believe God spoke to me and said, "It's not one or the other: it's one that leads to the other. It's My thoughts that lead to My plans." God is trying to tell us that these two things

go hand in hand. When we understand God's thoughts, then we begin to experience God's plan. It's His thoughts that lead to His plan and purpose for our lives.

You see your thought life is the gateway to your destiny. The main gateway to God's plan for your life starts with God's thoughts for your life, which are found in His Word. Renewing your mind to God's way of thinking leads, guides, and carries you into God's plan. So, join me on the amazing journey of transformation through the renewing of your mind; and instead of trying to find the perfect will of God, expect the perfect will of God to find YOU!

BE TRANSFORMED

Chapter Two

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." To "be transformed," describes what is done TO YOU. It literally means to be changed from the inside out.

As Christians, we're working so hard to change; yet God says this is not some-

thing done BY us, but rather something that is done TO us. I call it the "gift of change." We renew our minds, and then He transforms us. This word "transformed" comes from the Greek word: "metamorphoo." You can easily understand where the word "metamorphosis" stems from. It literally means: to change into another form. God transforms us into something else as we meditate on His Word. We see a picture of this transformation in the caterpillar and the butterfly. We will look at this metaphor more closely in a moment.

Good News: You don't have to try to bring yourself into God's perfect plan or purpose for your life. *God brings it into you*—what a demonstration of God's grace! In fact, if we read on into Romans 12:3, I love what the Message translation says at the end of this verse—tying in this thought so beautifully well"... No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him." (Romans 12:3, Message

FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY!

Chapter Three

We can learn a lot from the simplicity of the caterpillar. Just watch what the little guy does: he ultimately spends his time spinning a cocoon around himself because he will never reach his destiny by foot! So he eats and eats from the leaf that he was born onto. Then he spins the cocoon and gets in it! Then he rests inside of the cocoon he just spun. The Creator takes it from there. Inside of the comfort and protection and miracle power of the cocoon, God in His awe and wonder transforms that little fella into one of His most beautiful and limitless creations! It's that simple! He could only crawl before, but now he can fly!

That's the same miracle of transformation that brings us into God's purpose for our lives. In fact, some caterpillars actually walk around with tiny wings hidden inside their bodies, even though you could never tell by looking at them. The caterpillar was always created to fly, but in the natural sense, there was just NO WAY that could happen. That's why we can't live in the "natural." God has called us to be transformed supernaturally!

What a marvelous picture of our lives. It may look like all you can do is crawl, and you don't seem to be getting any closer to your destiny or God's purpose for your life. For that matter, it feels like you are just spinning your wheels. Well, since we are going to spin something, we might as well spin a cocoon!

Instead of striving to change, let's get in that cocoon! Instead of trying to fly in our current condition as a caterpillar, *(we know how that story ends if we try to jump off the cliff with no wings!)*, let's be transformed! There are little wings inside of each born-again child of God ready to spring forth as we rest in our own spiritual *"cocoon."* What is our cocoon? The Bible—the Word of God. As we renew our minds change the way we think—we are miraculously transformed by God.

We don't have to strive and struggle to sprout wings. As we wrap our minds and wrap our mindsets with God's way of thinking, the miracle of transformation begins to take place. We don't change ourselves, we simply renew our minds, and He changes us! But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Notice in this verse that AS WE LOOK INTO THE MIRROR—we are being transformed into the same image that we are looking at!

The *"mirror"* is the Word of God, according to James 1:25.

I teach people that we don't read our Bible to see what we are doing wrong and what we are trying to become, but instead, we look into the Bible to see who we ALREADY ARE INSIDE. We may not look like it on the outside vet, but that's what we look like on the inside. Inside vour born-again spirit, vou look just like Jesus, but your mind doesn't know it yet. That's why we are looking into Scripture as the mirror of our true reflection. As we begin to see ourselves the way God says and the way God sees, that actually starts to conform us into that very image in our everyday lives.

We've all heard the question from the classic movie, *Snow White: "Mirror Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"* I like to turn that into how we should look at Scripture:

"Mirror Mirror in God's Book, tell me how I truly look!" God's Word is the true picture of what you really look like, i.e., more than a conqueror, ruling and reigning with Him, a king, and a priest before God, the head and not the tail, and blessed coming in and going out, etc.

This is the miracle of transformation. It takes place as we meditate on God's Word and His way of thinking.

Gregory Dickow Ministries – 23

GATEWAY TO GOD'S PURPOSE

Chapter Four

God's thoughts are the gateway to God's purpose. The main gateway into God's plan for your life starts with God's thoughts for your life. Every Christian wants more than anything to experience God's purpose and God's plan for his life. It's one thing to desire God's plan for your life, it's another thing to *experience* God's plan for your life. Many Christians aren't experiencing God's plan because they're not experiencing God's way of thinking. Renewing your mind to God's way of thinking leads, guides, and carries you into God's plan.

For example, you may have always thought, *"If I love God more, He will bless me."* But the truth is, the Scripture says that He blesses us because HE LOVES US. "... He turned the curse into a blessing because the Lord your God loved you!" (Deuteronomy 23:5)

There are hundreds of other examples where our thinking needs to change to experience the renewing of our mind. As that happens, thought by thought, we are transformed, and we find ourselves flying into God's perfect will for our lives.

Gregory Dickow Ministries – 27

YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

Chapter Five

Your thought life is also the gateway to God's future to your life. The devil might have given you a horrible past, but God gives you a really great future. *"I know the thoughts I have for you—to give you a future and to give you a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11) Notice this example of *"cause and effect"* in the Bible. The "effect" or the result is a great future and a great hope. The "cause" is: thinking God's thoughts.

WE DON'T HAVE TO FIND THE WILL OF GOD. IT WILL FIND US!

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove the good, acceptable & perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

You can't force yourself into the perfect will of God. It's done TO YOU. As you renew your mind, you end up living in the will of God. You don't have to find it. It will find you!

God gives us three stages of His will for our lives: the good will, the acceptable will, and the perfect will of God. We don't start out in the PERFECT will. It's progressive. As we renew our minds to healing promises in Scripture, we will begin to BELIEVE it's God's will to heal us. That's GOOD. As we pray and meditate on these promises, we begin to see healing in our bodies. That's ACCEPTABLE. As we continue to meditate on these scriptures and renew our minds further, we start to see healing in our emotions, our families, and our finances. That's PERFECT or complete. Do you see the progression? This is the same principle in any area of our lives. It's not all at once. So don't get discouraged if you don't see the complete or perfect will of God in some area

of your life. Continue to eat the leaves of God's Word, like the caterpillar, and surround your thought life with the cocoon of scriptures. You will soon sprout wings, and be flying into God's purpose for your life before you know it!

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR THINKING, IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

It's been said: Your thoughts shape your decisions. Your decisions shape your actions. Your actions shape your habits. Your habits shape your character. And your character shapes your destiny. You don't have to focus on changing all of those things individually, because they're all connected to the root. Changing your thinking produces the domino effect that shapes God's great destiny and purpose for your life

PERFECT PEACE!

Chapter Six

Your thought life is also the gateway to God's PEACE in your life. There is no real peace on the outside of our lives until there is peace on the inside. God's thoughts produce God's peace.

The definition of peace comes from the Hebrew word, *"shalom."* It means completeness, wholeness, harmony, fulfillment, and satisfaction—nothing missing and nothing broken. It also refers to an undamaged and unhindered relationship with God & others.

How do we attain peace?

"You Lord will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You. (Isaiah 26:3)

Notice, God is the one who keeps us in peace. Our part is to keep our thought life rooted in His way of thinking. God and His Word are inseparable. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God. And the Word was God."

But, we can't read the Bible as a devotional, though there's nothing wrong with devotions. But, we have to read it in a way that helps us truly identify wrong ways of thinking and decide to reverse them systematically. I have a whole system of thinking God's way called, *"FASTING FROM WRONG THINKING."*

In it, I take you step by step into revolutionizing your life by revolutionizing your thoughts. You can identify where your thinking doesn't line up with God's Word and see it change right before your eyes. For more information on that or for a copy of the Fast From Wrong Thinking devotional, visit fastfromwrongthinking.com.

Notice also, in Isaiah 26:3, that God describes PERFECT peace. This is the perfect will and perfect purpose of God for our lives. It describes a life of wholeness, satisfaction, and fulfillment, where nothing is missing in your life. Everything lost is restored. It is a place where nothing is broken in your life. Everything broken is restored. That is perfect peace. It describes a relationship with God and people that are healthy, growing, and unhindered. That's perfect peace. And it comes from a mind that is renewed to God's way of thinking.

No matter what your life looks like right now, no matter how slow your caterpillar feet might be taking you, something supernatural is happening in you from the INSIDE OUT. You are being transformed through your thought life. You are sprouting wings that take you into the unlimited potential that you were created for.

Your thought life is the gateway to God's plan for your life.

Your thought life is the gateway to God's perfect future for your life. Your thought life is the gateway to God's perfect peace for your life.

As you embrace this truth and continue to let God's Word wash away old unbiblical ways of thinking, you will find yourself right in the middle of God's will. You won't have to search for it or strive for it. It will track you down. It will find you. And it will carry you into a life beyond anything you could have hoped for, imagined, or dreamed!

Gregory Dickow Ministries – 41

SALVATION

Your New Life Begins with God's Love

"This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God—but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God."

-1 John 4:10b MSG

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A RELIGION. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND YOU.

God loves you deeply and wants a personal relationship with you! The Love of Jesus Christ will sweep away your sin, loneliness, pain, and fear. He wants you to spend eternity in Heaven with Him, and the rest of your life on this earth walking with Him. If you would like to begin a new life—beyond your wildest dreams and be born again—pray the following prayer, and believe in your heart that God answers!

"Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead. His blood washes away my past, my sins; and prepares me for eternity. I receive Your forgiveness and accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I am Yours, in Jesus' name. Amen!" If you have prayed this prayer, we would love to hear from you. Please call us at 847-645-9700, or simply email us at prayer@changinglives.org.

AS YOU GO FORWARD

Next Steps

As a believer, I encourage you to step out in faith and live every day as if it were your first day living for God. I also encourage you to do the following three things:

1. Read your Bible. The Bible has the answer to every problem that you could ever face. As you read and study, know that you have the same promises that God gave Abraham, David and all of the great men and women in the Bible. You will find out exactly who you are and what you mean to Him. You will find out that He will never leave you or forsake you! You will be filled with strength and wisdom.

Get planted in church. By now you understand the power that comes from the church family. You don't need to go to church to get into heaven, but you DO need to become equipped to fulfill God's will for your life. In Luke 4:16, we

find it was Jesus' custom to go to church every week. If the Son of God made it His custom, how much more should we?

3. Tell Somebody. One of the most rewarding things I have ever found in my life is the opportunity to share with others what God has done for me. You don't have to be a preacher. Just tell someone your simple story of God's love and plant the seed of the gospel in someone's life. You will be blessed, and so will they!

Well, what a journey you've just begun! And it is just that—a journey. Remember, the power of a new life is a process. It begins the moment you are born again. but it continues through our lives. We all face storms and trials, and we have an enemy, the devil, trying to stop our progress. But God has given us the tools and weapons to resist the enemy and be victorious in our journey. Build your life on these foundations and you will not fail!

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock."

-Matthew 7:25

Gregory Dickow Ministries & Life Changers International Church Mission Statement

"Introducing people to the real Jesus; empowering them to rise to their true worth & purpose; and changing mindsets that change the world."

OTHER BOOKS AVAILABLE BY PASTOR GREGORY DICKOW

- Breaking the Power of Inferiority
- Fast From Wrong Thinking
- · From the Inside Out
- How to Never be Hurt Again
- More Than Amazing Grace
- So Loved
- The Power to Change Today
- Thinking Forward
- Winning the Battle of the Mind

AUDIO SERIES AVAILABLE BY PASTOR GREGORY DICKOW

- Breaking the Power of Shame
- Command Your Day
- Fearless Living
- Healing the Father Fracture
- Identity
- Living in the State of Grace: Relocating to the Best Place on Earth
- Love Thyself
- Mastering Your Emotions
- Radical Acceptance
- The End of Religion
- The Holy Spirit, Our Healer
- Visions & Dreams

You can order these and many other life-changing materials by calling toll-free **1-888-438-5433**. For more information about Gregory Dickow Ministries, please visit **www.gregorydickow.com**.

For over twenty-five years, Gregory Dickow has helped millions of people find healing, hope, and transformation through the love and grace of Jesus Christ. His revolutionary breakthrough teaching, *Fast from Wrong Thinking*, has become a global movement, bringing effortless change and miracles.

As founder and senior pastor, he has led the multi-site Life Changers International Church into a worldwide ministry through online streaming and television. As a prolific author and conference speaker, Gregory Dickow is leading a hurting generation into emotional health and healing. He created Chicago's top-ranked Christian talk show, *Ask the Pastor,* and hosts the popular television program, *Power to Change Today,* reaching millions of households worldwide.



GREGORYDICKOW

MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 7000 Chicago, IL 60680 1-888-438-5433 gregorydickow.com Gregory Dickow Ministries

