

The world has many different ways of telling you what your purpose and destiny are. Listed below are a few ambiguous explanations that I came across via an internet search.

Three definitions of what is Purpose

Definition One: How to discover one's purpose:

1. Take out a blank sheet of paper or open up a word processor where you can type.
2. Write at the top, "What is my true purpose in life?"
3. Write an answer (any answer) that pops into your head. It doesn't have to be a complete sentence. A short phrase is fine.
4. Repeat step 3 until you write the answer that makes you cry. This is your purpose.

Definition Two: What is Your Purpose & What is Your Destiny? The fact is that there is a difference between your purpose and your destiny. Your destiny is your ultimate election. Your purpose is your present call. What did God choose you to do ultimately on this earth? What is your ultimate election? What were you elected to do before you were born? That's what your destiny is. What is your purpose? Your purpose is whatever you are called to do right now at this very moment.

Definition three: Explanation of what is destiny:

"Dreams are like stars...you may never touch them, but if you follow them they will lead you to your destiny."

"I can't control my destiny, I trust my soul, my only goal is just to be. There's only now, there's only here. Give in to love or live in fear. No other path, no other way. No day but today."

"It is in your moments of decision that your destiny is shaped"

Acts 9 1-18

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might

take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

- Paul was convinced he was doing the work of God, by persecuting Christians, that when he heard the voice of Jesus asking him why he was persecuting him he did not understand. Paul discovered a very powerful lesson, when trying to understand one's purpose, that often the 'where' question is critical to understanding the 'why' question. Paul, by going to straight street and by the hands of Ananias, discovered what God would have Paul do with his life. Paul thought he was doing the will of God for his life by persecuting Christian believers, but it was only as the scales were taken off his eyes that purpose truly became understood.

Ephesians 3 8-13

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and

through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

- Paul's mission was to preach the gospel to the gentiles and to make known the secret things of God, which was accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ. God's intent is that through '**the church**' the manifold wisdom of God would be made known to all the earth **according to his eternal purpose**.

By listening to the above descriptions of what purpose and destiny is, one can clearly see they are a million miles away from understanding God's purpose. 'I', 'you', and 'we' are each called to act according to God's eternal purposes in all we do.

Just like with Paul; God is often waiting for us to come to a specific place in life, whereby he can reveal his mystery for our lives. Thank God that Ananias, a man of purpose himself, became an instrument in leading Paul towards him finding, following and finishing his purpose.

What about me?

Romans 12 says, *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

So now we know that God does have a good, pleasing and perfect will for our lives, how can we attain it?

Philippians 3 7-14

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Paul speaks of gaining a righteousness and one that is gained through faith rather than one gained through the law or by the understanding of man.

Paul's goal is to become like Christ in his death, so much so that he aims to not only look heavenward, but somehow attain the resurrection of Christ himself. Paul is determined, in fact he sets his entire focus on becoming like Christ, both in his life and in his work.

If the purpose revealed to us does not transform us into becoming like the one we profess and follow, then we are following the wrong purpose for our lives. It is by becoming more and more like Christ that we see the mysteries of God revealed more and more in our lives, which in turn will and must guide our every choice and decision made. It's not what we do, but who we are becoming, that defines our very lives and destiny.

Colossians 2 2-7

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Paul encourages us to understand that it is through his purpose that others were encouraged and enlarged, as they came to an understanding and deeper knowledge of the mystery of Christ. It was this mystery revealed that helped the early church to discover the full riches and treasure of God and His word, not to mention arm people against false doctrine.

· Conclusion

If we do not understand our destiny and where we are heading in life, then life for us will always seem somewhat of a mystery, thus causing frustration, discontent and helplessness. Our life's goal is to become like Christ, more and more in the everyday of life. One can only find, follow and finish that which has been revealed through Jesus Christ Himself, for here becomes the very reference point in one discovering their very life's purpose.

