

This week Pastor Ron brings us the message entitled "What Are You Looking for in Life?"

Do you remember the old U2 song, "I still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For?" Although that sentiment may seem blasphemous to many Christians, the truth is that everyone (Christians included) can have times where they feel something's missing. For some, it may be a certain level of success and material prosperity, for others it may be finding a mate, and still others may be looking for that calling on their lives that gives them purpose. But is there something else, something more basic and essential than all of these things?

The main things people are looking for are security and significance. These were the attributes of Adam and Eve during their time in the garden. They were living in paradise, without fear, protected by God himself, and significant in that they were made in the likeness of God, above all other beasts and living things. After the fall, security and significance became their greatest needs. Since that time, man has been continuously searching to find the security and significance that Adam and Eve had. As someone born into sin, it is your separation from God that has taken away your ability to experience these things. How do you get it back? By making it your goal to honor God with your life, you will find the security you experience liberating and the significance motivating.

Using the letters of the word "GOAL," there are four things you need to have in order to have the life you truly desire. The first is Gifts. As a Christ follower, you have been given spiritual gifts, which come to you as soon as you receive Jesus as your Lord. Find out what your spiritual gifts are and use them as God leads. By doing this, you will produce spiritual fruit.

The next thing you need is Opportunities. Nehemiah had the opportunity to leave the service of the king of Persia to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. God caused Nehemiah to have favor with the king, and he was sent back and allowed to rebuild the city. Nehemiah was willing to follow God's lead and made the most of the opportunity he was given.

The third thing you need is Action. Unlike Nehemiah who acted when he needed to, Jonah ran from the chance to serve the God as he was instructed. For this he suffered three days in the belly of the great fish. Jonah eventually heeded God's call to go to Nineveh and proclaim His judgment upon them. You can avoid unnecessary hardship and pain when you obey the Lord's leading.

Which brings us to the final thing you need: God's Leading—often Christians are impatient and act impulsively, thereby missing out on God's opportunity for them. Do you remember how Peter rebuked Jesus when He said He must suffer and die? Peter spoke foolishly and was chastised by Jesus because he failed to wait for God's leading. Wait for God's leading when you are unsure of what to do, and then, when God leads, act with confidence and authority.

Now that you have a better idea of what it takes to experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give you, what are you looking for in life?