

“God’s Purpose for YOU!”  
Dr. Janet Cook, Senior Pastor  
June 5, 2016

© 2016 Prayers Ministries, Inc., dba River of Life Community Church

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

There are two great days in a person’s life -- the day we are born and the day we discover why.

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands” Psalm 138:8 (ESV)

- “The Lord Will Fulfill His Purpose for Me.”

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

- “His Good Purpose”

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

- “The Lord’s Purpose Prevails.”

“I am faithful to those who are faithful to me. I will manifest my grace in your lives, and I will fulfill my purpose in you.” (JKC - May 25, 2016)

Faith to Receive

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him**” Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) (Emphasis added).

- REWARDER – from the root word that means “pay for service” G 3408  
3406 = to give and to restore
- Seek = to search out, crave, worship, seek after carefully

Three Action Steps to Move Forward:

1. Seek the Lord.
2. Praise the Lord.
3. Obey the Lord.

The Adventures of Jonah Fulfilling God’s Purpose

Jonah 1:1-3 “The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.”

The Lord Sent a GREAT WIND!

Jonah 1:4 -5 “Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.”

- Jonah was asleep in rebellion and disobedience against the Purpose of God.

Jonah 1:16-17 “Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him. Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

### 1. Jonah SEEKS GOD!

Jonah 2:1-3 “From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: ‘In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.’”

Jonah 2:6b-8 “But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.”

### 2. Jonah begins to PRAISE GOD!

Jonah 2: 9-10 “But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’ And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”

- Praise = H8426 – Towdah – an extension of the hand, adoration, thanksgiving offering. It comes from the root word H3034 which literally means to extend the hands in worship. To revere or worship with extended hands.

### 3. Jonah OBEYED GOD!

Jonah 3:1-5 “Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.’ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, ‘Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown. The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.’”

- Jonah preached the message God provided for him at the time.
- Jonah preached doom, and the people repented.
- God showed compassion on the wicked but repentant Ninevites and withheld his threatened destruction.
- God is willing to forgive if nations are willing to repent.

### Jesus Made Reconciliation for Sins

Hebrews 2:17 – Jesus is our merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

### We Are Ministers of Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- We are Christ’s ambassadors and we proclaim the Gospel of His Kingdom, The Good News of the Government of God.
- The Message of the Kingdom is “Be reconciled to God!”

2 Corinthians 6:1-3 “As God’s co- workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, ‘In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

Now is the time of God’s Favor.

Now is the day of Salvation.

### Three Action Steps For River of Life Community Church

1. Seek the Lord.
2. Praise the Lord.
3. Obey the Lord.

### God is Working in Us

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

- His Good Purpose is to reconcile people back to God.
- Jesus made reconciliation for all of our sins.
- God will Fulfill His Purpose in us.