Purpose Driven Life

Meagan Good is living out her purpose moving beyond mere survival and success to a life of significance—living on purpose.

5 Benefits of knowing your purpose

* The Big Picture
* Overcomer-Kara Baxter
* Your Personal Mission Statement
* Club Sin Devotional
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B2B Tip:

Worship is a lifestyle. It’s everything you do.

*How do you worship?*

1. **Release** control to God.

2. **Trust** in God with all of your heart. Trust Him in everything. That is release of control.

3. **Live** a holy life. Temptation will come, but don’t slip back into your old way of living just to satisfy your own desires.
To-Do List
10 Action Items in this Issue

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10. Download the B2B mobile app and subscribe!
In life we tend to have a lot that is taking place at the same time and we constantly have choices that we must make. The Webster – Merriam Dictionary defines big picture as: “the entire perspective on a situation or issue —used with the”. Before I looked up this definition in the dictionary I had this in mind. For quite some time I have been reminding friends that we see the fragments, but God sees the whole.

When I was younger, about 7 or 8, my godmother would send me 500 and 1000 piece jigsaw puzzles for gifts. I used to hate those things. The picture on the box looked interesting; however, the task of putting the puzzle together never got completed. The pieces frustrated me because I could not get them all to fit. There were times when I’d force pieces together and this was discouraging because it was clear that they did not fit. On the other hand there was something that was beautiful about pieces coming together that fit. Pieces that fit together looked right and felt right, everything was smooth and flat.

My feelings about puzzles have changed since I was 7 or 8. Today I know that puzzles come together better when I put the border in place first and fill in the rest afterwards. There are a lot of puzzles in life. They work best when we take our time to do them. It is a work of diligence. There are people who do puzzles and glue them to a piece of cardboard and frame them as a reminder of their diligence.
Sometimes you may look around you and think to yourself that you are missing out in life. You may find yourself wanting to rebel against what you know that God wants of you. You may, at times, place your will above the will of God. At times I experience this struggle. A struggle is a good thing because it means that you have not given up. We know that we are not saved by works because Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us:
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

However, our love to God is reflected by our fruit of obedience to Him; in John 14:15 Jesus says these words:
If ye love me, keep my commandments.

We find these words in John 14:23:
Jesus answered and said unto him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our home with him.

I challenge each of us to reflect on our relationship with Christ. Are we spending time with Him? Are we falling in love with Jesus afresh? Let us spend some time thanking Him for His great love for us. You see when we fall in love with Jesus we will do what He wants of us because we understand that we are in a relationship with Him. Love overcomes legalism. God shows us His love by warning us of things that we are to avoid doing because they will only lead to our hurt.

Emeka Buffong keeps three quotations in mind: “God is good!”, "This too will pass", and "The road to success is paved with disappointment." Emeka enjoys writing and wholesome reading. He takes both positive and negative criticism to improve his writing. “Sometimes it hits me that there are many hurting daily in this world that I go days without even thinking about it.” His desire is to become a chaplain and point others to Jesus Christ. “It means more to live Christianity than to talk it, so my desire is to live for Jesus Christ - my Lord and Savior.”

God wants to be the focus of our lives; will you allow Him to be?

About the Writer

Emeka Buffong
From the Publisher: The Purpose Driven Life is far more than just a book; it is a guide to a spiritual journey...

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Once you take this journey, you’ll never be the same again.

LIVE YOUR CALLING

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?
5 benefits of knowing your purpose

1. It will explain the meaning of your life

2. It will simplify your life

3. It will focus your life

4. It will increase your motivation

5. It will prepare you for eternity
A day in the life of actress Meagan Good is more than just films, television, business and press time. It is purpose driven, with God leading her every step of the way. Meagan is influencing an entire generation, teaching them who they are and who Christ is and displaying that it’s cool to love Christ.
B2B: How did you get back to basics in your walk with Christ? In the hustle and bustle of the crazy lifestyle that you’re living with schedules and interview time, how do you find your time, your quiet time with God and how do you get back to basics?

MG: I make it a point every day; I made a commitment about seven years ago now, that I would read my Bible every single day. Hell or high water, no matter what was going on in my life, I made that commitment that that was something I would do. I read a little bit, rather, I read a lot. I felt like keeping that commitment would always keep me connected and so I’ve done that for the past seven years. I’ve missed exactly 12 days and every time I missed a day is because I was doing something I shouldn’t have been doing but every other day I manage to keep and so I just try to make sure that I make time for Him in the morning. First thing I do when I get up is pray, when I get into my car the first song that I listen to has to be gospel, just because I want the first thing that goes in my spirit for the day, that sets me up to be something that’s of God.

Also, my husband and I observe the Sabbath, so Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown, we have that time that we just kind of turn off everything secular, if we watch TV it’s a spiritual documentary or it’s something that would be about God or if we go to the movies it’s going to be like ‘Heaven is For Real’ or ‘God Isn’t Dead’ or something like that so we just try to set out time and make sure that he’s the priority and when I’m on set I always take time to just like, pray to start my day, I pray during lunch and I try to read my word and I just, you know, try to make sure that I always stay in tune and in touch and if I ever feel like I’m kind of not giving him the time that I need to I do it mentally, in my spirit, my spirit gets heavy.

B2B: What is your idea of heaven?

MG: I live everyday like… my intentions, my heart and my questions, always asking my dad, you know, our father, brother, if you know, I’m pleasing him. That’s always the thing in my head and in my heart, am I pleasing him? Am I making him proud of me? And so to me, heaven is, feeling and knowing in my heart and in my spirit that he’s proud of me. There’s nothing greater than that feeling, there’s nothing that means more to me than that feeling and so when I get to heaven that is what I want him to say. I want him to say that you know, I’m proud of you and you may not have done everything perfect and right but you really, really, really did try and you stayed in constant communication and focus with me and you put every day and every energy you have forth towards living up to the purpose that I called you to. That’s what matters to me.

B2B: What do you believe you are here to do and how do you do that in your professional work?

MG: It’s interesting because when I was about, I’d say 15 or 16, little Brandon Hammond, he’s the little boy in Soul Food, his pastor asked me and him to give a sermon. Brandon may have been like 11 or 12 so we were kids. The sermon that I gave was on the talent, how God gives every single one of us a talent and it’s what you do with it and it’s about using it for His glory and it’s about multiplying it and not hiding it in the ground. So very young, I understood that my talent was specifically for Him and when I got about 19 years old, I was kind of struggling, trying to get some work and making that odd transition between being a child actor to being an adult actor and I was just kind of right there in that space where I looked so young, but I was getting older and it was weird.
B2B: What do you believe you are here to do and how do you do that in your professional work? (continued)

MG: Long story short I was getting all these opportunities that I really wanted and I would ask God is this what I’m supposed to be doing, is this who you’ve called to be? Is this the child that you want me to be? I had to sit down and say look, if this is not what you want me to do then I won’t do it. You know that I want to do this more than anything else in this world but if this is not the job that you have for me and if it’s not the way that you want me to move forward, I won’t do it. Once I had that prayer that was the first time that I got confirmation that I am supposed to be an actress and that’s when I started getting clarity that being an actress had nothing to do with being an actress. It had everything to do with using that particular talent to have influence and to build his kingdom and as I’ve gotten older I started to get more clarity about the fact that it literally is just a platform for me to speak about the kingdom, to shed light, to be love, to have an impact on this generation and while I love what I do for a living, creatively it’s extremely satisfying and it’s a lot of fun and I wouldn’t want to do anything else. I thank God every day that what I like to do is connected to who he’s called me to be.

At this stage what I do have clarity on is that he’s given me the mind and the heart to understand this generation and still be a little bit older than them but still be able to have influence and so what I really want to do is I want to help, especially these young women but make an entire generation start to better understand who they are and who Christ is and understand that it’s cool to love Christ.

That’s why I kind of fight hard about certain things like when people get on me about me being sexy. I believe that I was called to be exactly that and it’s not me trying, that’s just who I am. All of that as a part of what’s appealing of another side, another way of looking at God, another way to talk to these kids.

They don’t want to come into the church because of all the judgments or because someone turned them off about it or whatever it is so by me being authentic and me being genuine I believe that me and anybody else who does that God has called specifically for that purpose, it’s going to influence the generation and give them another option instead of all the other influences out there that are influencing them. There’s still more that God is revealing to me almost daily and it’s incredible.

B2B: Can you tell us about the Greater Good Foundation created by you and your sister?

MG: Right now we’re partnered up with another establishment that’s inside the school district and we’re kind of expanding, that is called ‘Hitting The Right Note’ and basically they come in and they teach kids math, science, history, all that stuff with the other arts and so our program is just partnered with theirs and we’re now in the school districts with them. We do Saturday schools, we do after-school programs and so what we do is we’re offering mentoring, we offer helping kids kind of hone in on their talents, the thing they’re excited about how their talent can be directly connected to their purpose, we help them find values, self-love, we just get them excited about what they’re good at and also teach them that a lot of kids you know they, a lot of kids are just book smart and they learn a certain kind of way, well I wasn’t that kid. I learnt better through the arts and unfortunately there was nothing
available like that for me as a kid so I often didn’t feel very smart and I often felt that I couldn’t learn the way the other kids did and that kind of made me, you know, kind of shy away from school and that’s why I didn’t go to college and all that so what we want to teach kids is, ‘no, you are smart and you are beautiful and you are talented, there’s a way to learn all the things via the things that you are excited about. So that’s the first branch and then after that we’re going to start literally our non-profit programs and pamper parties and you know doing a lot of stuff especially with young women, just kind of pour into them and teach them about God in a way that’s not aggressive or forceful, but just loving, leading by example and helping them, figure out who they’re supposed to be.

B2B: What gives you hope in the next generation?

MG: As they start to accumulate things, could be material things or actions that the culture is influencing them to do, I find that there’s an emptiness associated with it and there’s a disappointment associated with the gratification. The gratification doesn’t last very long, there’s an insecurity that builds every time you do something that you’re not supposed to do and I believe that this generation is looking for something else. A lot of them are starting to find something else and just need the boldness to declare it. I feel like people are really starting to be ready and the ones that aren’t are influenced by the ones that are and the ones that are bold. So my prayer is that I can help them see from someone who has managed to have all those nice things and it still hasn’t given me peace, it still doesn’t make me sleep better at nights, it still doesn’t make you feel full in your heart and your spirit or just feel like life is worth living. I hope that I can make being Christian look cool to them and make people see that it’s not as narrow as some people may make it. Loving God looks a lot of different ways but one thing’s for sure is that it’s genuinely loving God. So that’s my prayer and I believe it will happen, I believe it’s starting to happen. It’s evident, when you walk into the offices of Bossip and you do an interview and you walk out, it’s just like “yeah we’re Christians, we actually grew up Seventh-day Adventist like your husband.” It started to spread here in Hollywood, which I think is huge because what happens here in Hollywood goes out to the rest of the world and affects the rest of the world and the perception and the mentality, the influence, all that so it’s important for Christians to be here and it’s important for them to be bold here and it’s important for them to impact everything they can.

B2B: How do you continue to demonstrate the virtues of a relationship when the world promotes the opposite of what God wants marriage to be?

MG: You know it’s interesting, I don’t really care what the world says. When I did care I ended up broken, sad, crying, disappointed, empty, regretful. So the world, their opinion really doesn’t matter to me beyond hurting my feelings every once in a while and then I get over it.

What I found was obvious, when you look for God and when you put in prayers and when you’re truly connected to Him you’re always filled up and you’re always full or you’re just a prayer away from getting back in the pocket and I’m not influenced by the industry. I’m not influenced by anything that it has to offer because I’ve seen what it has to offer, it doesn’t have anything to offer. I’ve seen the things that I could buy, the things I could accomplish, the awards that I could win and all those things and they really don’t matter to me at all. And so I’m thankful for that, I’m thankful that God showed me those things far beyond because now there’s no pursuit of them.
**MG:** When it comes to marriage, one of the things I know for sure is that God told me that that was my husband. So whenever I have those moments where I’m really aggravated with him, I can stand on the fact that I know for a fact that God told me that’s my husband so I never have to second guess that and I never have to wonder if I made a bad choice or if I made the wrong decision, that just doesn’t creep into my head. Also, our purpose and our destinies are connected, what we want to accomplish in the world and what we want to do for God means the same to both of us so we constantly sharpen each other and build each other up. I think that’s important in marriage. You can get married to someone who doesn’t share that with you, but I don’t think it’s a good idea because then how can you come together; the whole point of being married is a partnership.

In terms of all the other things from my understanding, sometimes you feel like you’re in love, other times you feel like you aren’t. Sometimes you feel like you’re attracted to the person, sometimes you feel like you aren’t. I personally haven’t experienced that yet but I can’t say that it will never happen. What I do know is that what we have is so much bigger than any feeling that we have on any given day. That we’re so committed to the partnership that it goes beyond our human feelings which always are all across the board because that’s just who we are, we’re humans. It goes right down to the soul and the commitment that we made in front of God, to be partners and that commitment is to make each other better human beings, to help each other get to heaven, to help each other be all that God’s created us to be from the womb and when you look at marriage that way the other stuff can’t even rival it or compete with it.

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**What would you like to say to the readers of B2B Mag?**

**Let’s build each other up!**

I’ve come to experience a lot more criticism in the last two years since me and DeVon got married and it’s very interesting for me because I got saved when I was 12 and I got baptized when I was 19. Many people don’t know that throughout this whole entire journey, despite what they’ve read in the blogs or characters that I’ve played or however people have kind of put me in the box they’ve chosen to put me in or kind of judge me, the criticism has been so harsh and I’m ok with that. I would never tell anybody what to think or how to feel but what I will say is, why disagree with it? And that doesn’t really matter so, what’s important is that we lift each other up and that if we want to correct someone, let’s correct them and let’s not tear down the people who are really trying to put God into the world and make it visible to whoever they can. I may not be perfect and I may make mistakes but I am going out there every day and I am speaking about God and I’m trying to encourage people and trying to show people who He is and I’m trying to, every interview that I do and every effort, with every breath that I breathe is about glorifying God.
Create a Personal Mission Statement

Mission statements turn your vision into action. As you do any serious goal setting or personal/business planning, you should sit down and write out a personal mission statement. This says in concrete terms who you are, what’s important to you, and what you want to accomplish in life. Once you know who you are and what you want, you can then write out a second mission statement for your business or organization.

- Keep it simple, clear and brief. The best mission statements tend to be 3 to 5 sentences long.
- Your mission statement should touch upon what you want to focus on and who you want to become as a person (character) in this part of your life. Think about specific actions, behaviors, habits and qualities that would have a significant positive impact in this part of your life over the next one to three years.
- Make sure your mission statement is positive. Instead of saying what you don’t want to do or don’t want to be, say what you do want to do or become. Find the positive alternatives to any negative statements.
- Include positive behaviors, character traits and values that you consider particularly important and want to develop further.
- Think about how your actions, habits, behavior and character traits in this area affect the important relationships in your life.
- Create a mission statement that will guide you in your day-to-day actions and decisions. Make it a part of your everyday life.
- Think about how your mission affects the other areas of your life. Is it consistent with your other personal mission statements? Will it conflict with or contradict something else? Is it balanced?
- Make it emotional. Including an emotional payoff in your mission statement infuses it with passion and will make it even more compelling, inspiring and energizing.

As you do any serious goal setting or personal planning, you should sit down and write out a personal mission statement. This says in concrete terms who you are, what’s important to you, and what you want to accomplish in life. Need help? We have some samples for you.

“My mission is to provide service, products and benefits with integrity and honesty to the medical community. I will look for opportunities to help hurting individuals and assist other professionals in a win-win manner. I will not knowingly harm or take advantage of anyone. I will use my knowledge and abilities in organizing and structuring in ways that provide income and pleasure for my family and blessings to those around me.”

“My mission is to exercise my creativity and innovative ideas by developing songs, books and products that change lives and society for the better. I will use my talents and abilities consistently. I will not hide them simply because they will not always be immediately recognized. I want all of my work to be a product of God’s inspiration and a blessing to the world. I will be loyal to family, friends and God.”

"MY MISSION IN LIFE IS NOT MERELY TO SURVIVE, BUT TO THRIVE; AND TO DO SO WITH SOME PASSION, SOME COMPASSION, SOME HUMOR, AND SOME STYLE." - MAYA ANGELOU
She was always happy and she smiled all the time. She was smart and had a very vivid imagination. She loved meeting new people and making new friends. She was brave and fearless. She got excited about even the smallest, seemingly insignificant things and she woke up every morning ready for a new adventure. Everything seemed to be almost perfect….but then life happened…..and that little girl almost lost her life. This is a story about how God saved her, healed her, restored her, and loved her back into the person she was created to be.

When I was little, life just made sense. I grew up in a home with two parents who loved me very much. My mother stayed home with me and I credit her for making me into the awesome little kid that I was. I’ve heard the stories, seen the pictures, even caught a few minutes of a video once. I don’t remember actually being that little girl, but I do remember what it felt like to be her. The best way to describe it all is to say that I was truly free. I was free to learn any and everything I wanted to learn. I was free to say what was on my mind and to be creative. I didn’t have to worry about what I looked like or who didn’t like me or what people thought. All I knew was that my mommy and daddy loved me, Jesus did, too, and that they all thought I was special. It wasn’t until I got a little older that things began to change. Even my own parents didn’t understand when I slipped into a state of depression….they had no idea how much life had hurt me.

I’ve been bullied and mistreated in Christian environments while people who had the power to help just stood by and watched. Not even a prayer was offered. I’ve been told that I think I’m “all that” but I’m not and I needed to be put in my place. I was mistreated and used by adults who were jealous of my parents when I was still in elementary school. I wasn’t even old enough to understand what was going on. I’ve had my heart broken more times than I can count by so-called friends and supposed-to-be lovers. I didn’t fit into “girl world” in high school and friends didn’t come so easily anymore, so I learned to depend only on myself and I pushed myself to be the best at everything as a way to compensate for the loneliness I experienced. Being the best came with tons of pressure to STAY the best because there were people just waiting for me to fail. What little self-esteem I had was shattered once I got out of high school and I realized that I couldn’t be the best at everything anymore and that my entire identity was tied up in what I could do…so I had no idea who I really was. Depression set in because it was easier to be numb, to sleep, to just exist than it was to be emotionally present. Emotions meant pain. Emotions meant fear. Love became a four-letter word that I didn’t even understand anymore. Even when I learned what it was supposed to be, I didn’t believe in it and I lost all hope that I’d ever experience it. I felt entirely inadequate. I knew I’d never be good enough to be able to deserve what I wanted and I knew I wasn’t one of those people who others gave that stuff away to freely. At that point, it occurred to me often that it would be easiest to just fall asleep and never wake up. One Sabbath, I heard a sermon and felt convicted to surrender my life to God, for real. Not because people said I was supposed to, but because I felt I no longer had anything to lose. I said, “God, do what you want with me. I just want peace and joy. Whatever you do to me can’t be worse than what I’ve done to myself.” It’s the best decision I’ve ever made.
God set me on a journey the day I decided I would live for Him. It has been a long, hard road full of really, really tough lessons that have made me face the very worst parts of who and what I am. I've made a lot of mistakes and I've fallen more times than I can count. Despite everything, God never gave up on me. I can now look back on who I was and what I went through and see how all of it was preparation for my destiny. God worked all of the bad and all of the good in my favor. I've learned a lot about humility, self-acceptance, trust, patience, and most importantly, what it truly means to love. It's God's love for me that has helped me the most. We say, “Jesus loves me,” but so few really know what that means. It means that He knows me intimately and wants to give me the opportunity to know Him in the same way. It means that He only even does things to help me grow and realize my full potential. He's honest with me, but not in a way that is mean or rude or inconsiderate. He listens to me and encourages me and He cares about the littlest things. He's patient with me in my growth and He has never given me more than HE can bear.

One of the lessons that has resonated with me the most is this idea that I read once in a devotional thought: “God can only be as big in your life as you allow Him to be.” I hadn't even thought about it, but I realized that God was not limited because of Himself, He was limited in my life because of ME. I decided right then to allow God room to be as big as He wanted to be for me. When I say that God is GREATER, LIMITLESS, and truly above and beyond anything I could even hope to ask or think of? Yeah, it's no joke. Just being at peace and finally having joy and happiness is a miracle in itself. Him teaching me to be content at His feet and to not worry or care in the way that the world around me does. Him revealing His plan and purpose for me and then watching the doors open and the opportunities appear literally out of nowhere. Him speaking to the deepest desires of my heart. I couldn't even begin to tell of everything that He's done, but here are just a few things: He rekindled my desire for law school, got me into a really good school, then provided a way for me to go there for free with money left over. He allowed me to get an internship for the summer with a really amazing firm perfectly tailored to my beliefs and personality that fully provides for all of my needs. I love to sing but I've always been afraid to do it in public. He removed the fear and re-purposed my gift into something solely devoted to glorifying Him. Then, He provided no only opportunities to share that gift and bring others into worship with Him, but also opportunities to write and record my own music and use it to uplift and encourage those around me. I don't believe in pipe dreams, but that's something I've secretly wanted to do since I was a little girl and God even spoke life into that dream. He gave me a car and worked it out so that there where no hassles or glitches. He's given me more than enough to provide for my needs and even my wants. He's been a friend and a partner when I was lonely, then He brought some truly amazing people into my life and taught me to trust and depend on people again. He showed me that I am good enough exactly the way that I am because I belong to Him. He showed me that love isn't just a word, it's an action, and there are people out there who can and will love you because Jesus loved them first. He freed me and restored the little girl that was lost so long ago.

I'm happy now. I wake up everyday to a new adventure. I'm making friends and enjoying meeting new people. I'm (almost) fearless and I'm learning to be brave again. I give freely and love truly and I get excited about the littlest, most insignificant things because now I'm able to see God's hand in them. God is amazing. He's able. He's GREATER and I'd do and give anything for Him because He's already given and done everything for me. He can do the same for you if you let Him. Give Him a chance….what do you have to lose? :)
Don't be a slave to your past. Follow God, forgive people (including yourself), and choose to pursue purpose. There is nothing worse than a soul that chooses to stay stagnant in a comfort zone of pain, all while God is attempting to take them to a place of peace, love, joy, and happiness.

-Broderick Walton
As your conscience has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, you have seen something of the evil of sin, of its power, its guilt, its woe; and you look upon it with abhorrence. You feel that sin has separated you from God, that you are in bondage to the power of evil. The more you struggle to escape, the more you realize your helplessness. Your motives are impure; your heart is unclean. You see that your life has been filled with selfishness and sin. You long to be forgiven, to be cleansed, to be set free. Harmony with God, likeness to Him—what can you do to obtain it? – {SC 49.1}

It is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by your own efforts, to secure it. But God offers it to you as a gift, “without money and without price.” Isaiah 55:1. It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it. The Lord says, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.” Ezekiel 36:26. – {SC 49.2}
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