

*While still in the womb,
one twin said to the other:
"Is there really life after birth?
Is life in the womb all there is?"*



28th January 2024 | Message Transcript

You were called to a life of purpose.

Intro |

It seems appropriate, on the occasion of the baptism of twins, to start with a little story about a conversation that occurred between twins while still growing in the womb.

One exclaimed to the other, "Isn't it great that we were conceived?"

Looking at the umbilical cord one exclaimed, "How great is our mother's love that she shares her own life with us!"

One said, "We are changing every day, I wonder what it means?"

"It means our stay in this world is drawing to an end," said the other.

"But I don't want to go!" said the one. "I want to stay here always!"

"Aw, we have no choice," said the other. "But, maybe there's life after birth."

"Oh, but how can there be?" whined the first. "We will shed our life cord. And how is life possible without it? Besides, we've never seen evidence of life after birth. I mean, there's evidence all around us of others who were here before us, but none of them returned to tell us that there's life after birth. Oh, this is the end... If conception ends at birth, what is the purpose of life in the womb? It's meaningless... Maybe there's no mother after all!"

"But there has to be," said the other. "How else did we get here? How do we remain alive?"

"Have you ever seen our mother?" asked the first. "Maybe she only lives in our minds. Maybe we just made her up because the idea made us feel good."

And so, for the months that followed, the days of the one who doubted the existence of their mother, were filled with deep questioning and fear.

Finally, the moment of birth arrived. When the twins passed from their old world to the next, their eyes were opened.

They both peered into the bright light and what they saw exceeded their fondest dreams and wildest imaginings.

While they lay tenderly cradled in their mother's arms, their gaze settled on the one who had carried them from the moment of conception.

And they realised, this was the purpose for their creation.

It is a beautiful story, isn't it!

It is obvious, of course, the story is a parable with a double meaning.

There are many who travel through life doubting the existence of the One who conceived them, doubting the One who carries us while we live in this physical world.

Without a knowledge of their Creator, their lives are filled with questions, fear and the purpose for their existence, illusive.

Yet others look around and conclude, 'surely there has to be something more'.

Just like the story, when life in the womb draws to a close, they learned the womb was not the place they were created to dwell in permanently. Their time in the womb was just for a moment. They were created for a greater purpose, for a bigger world, for a world which lasts much longer.

We too were created for a greater purpose, for a bigger world, for a dwelling place which lasts forever.

Yet how do we discover this greater purpose?

Well our Creator wrote to us saying,

"Because you didn't create yourself, there is no way you can discover your purpose by looking within yourself – only your Creator can tell you what you were created for." (Romans 8:2 The Message)

And our Creator told us what our purpose in life was.

"It's in Jesus Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Jesus and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone." (Ephesians 1:11 The Message)

So, we find our purpose by looking at God's big purpose, and this is discovered through a relationship with his Son, Jesus Christ. (see Ephesians 1:11)

Point 1 | Our purpose in life is not found in looking within ourselves. Rather our purpose is found by stepping into God's great purpose and finding our meaning in life through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

What difference does it make knowing that our lives have purpose and meaning?

When we step into God's bigger purpose, we step into a bigger, freer, more joyous life. Our life has new focus. Our priorities are refined and simplified.

Our motivations and goals are clearer.

But most of all, we learn that our life here on earth is not the 'be all and end of it all'. This life is not what life is all about!

We realise our life here on earth is preparation for our eternal life.

Point 2 | Our life here on earth is preparation for eternity. Living life in the light of eternity will completely alter our priorities, our values and how we invest our time and resources.

Remember the twins? What were they doing for the nine months in the womb? Their time in the womb was a season of preparation for their life on earth.

In the same way, our life on earth is a season of preparation for our life with our heavenly Father and His Son for eternity.

Eternity is what we were ultimately created for.

When you grasp the truth that there is more to life than just the here and now, and you begin to see that life is a preparation for eternity, you'll begin to live your life very differently.

You'll start living your life 'in the light of eternity'.

Instead of focussing on building an earthly legacy – your focus will be on building an eternal legacy.

Instead of storing up earthly riches and possessions – your focus will be on investing and storing up heavenly treasures.

Instead of spending time on activities and projects that will ultimately pass away – you'll devote your attention to relationships and endeavours which will last forever.

Yes, when you recognise this life is preparation for the next, it will revolutionize how you live your life.

Application | Am I regarding my life as preparation for eternity?

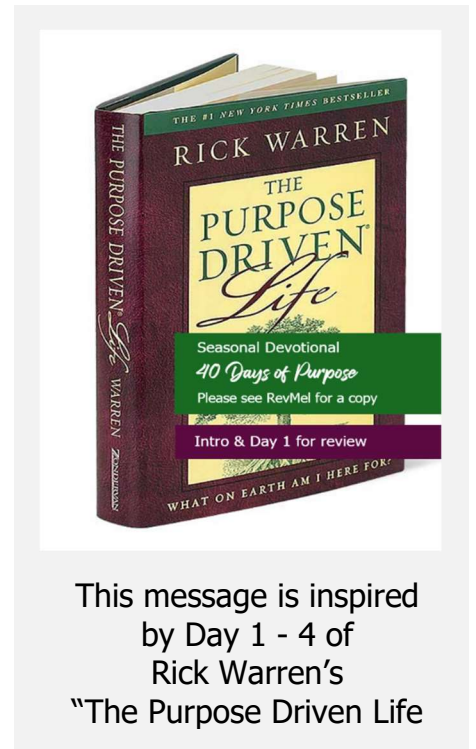
Last week I celebrated with friends and family the life of Gerald George. He was a faithful parishioner who also spent many a weekend mowing the lawns of the church.

Funerals are occasions where we are confronted with the certainty that our 'day of passage into the next life' will come. For those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ, we call this their 'promotion to glory'.

Given the certainty of our delivery date ... and the truth that we were made to live forever, I'd like to leave you with some questions to ponder:

- How are you using your time to prepare for your forever life?
- How much of your time is spent on things which have little to no eternal significance?
- When you encounter others, are you seizing every opportunity to pave the way for them to share in the eternal life that you have been granted?

As Matthew Henry once said, "It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our final day."



This message is inspired
by Day 1 - 4 of
Rick Warren's
"The Purpose Driven Life"