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A publication for the families and friends of Asbury United Methodist Church

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK: Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Discovering Your Purpose and Reaching Your Fullest Potential by Taffi Dollar

Many Christians feel that discovering their God-given purpose and achieving their God-given potential is impossible. However, in **Luke 18:27**, Jesus gave us a powerful truth about impossibilities. He stated, “What is impossible with men is possible with God” (Amplified Bible). Sometimes we cannot see how we can discover the unknown concerning our lives; however, with God *all* things are possible.

One of the first steps to discovering our purpose and reaching our fullest potential is to become acquainted with God’s Word. He created us— therefore, knowing His Word helps us to understand His original plans and purposes. Through His Word, God will lead you to the place where He has already predestined for you to be **Romans 8: 28-30 NIV And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.** Further, Ephesians 2:10, in the *Amplified Bible* states: “For we are God’s [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].” Additionally, when you lack wisdom, you can ask Him for it **James 1:5-8 NIV If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.** . He has also given you the gift of the Holy Spirit to help you where you are weak **Romans 8:26-27 NIV In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of**

God. Through His Word, you will receive the wisdom and guidance you need to accomplish all that God has created you to do.

Another step in discovering our purpose and potential is to understand that God is no respecter of persons **Acts 10:34-35 NIV Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.** Many people become intimidated when they hear stories of how ministers found their calling (or purpose) in life. However, knowing one’s purpose is not reserved for those preaching in the pulpits. As a minister of the Gospel, I didn’t always know exactly what I was supposed to do. I had to ask God for guidance and direction. He will speak to anyone who seeks His guidance. Therefore, we all have an equal opportunity to be successful in the kingdom of God, and to know our purpose. **Ecclesiastes 9:11** states, “*The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, neither is bread to the wise nor riches to men of intelligence and understanding nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all*” (*Amplified Bible*). We all have a particular race to run, and we all have an equal opportunity to be successful in our race.

You may have been told you were a mistake, but you are not. Even if you were not planned by your parents, you are not a mistake in God’s eyes. He already had a plan and purpose for your life before you were formed in your mother’s womb I want to encourage you to make spending time with God a priority so that you can learn to hear His voice clearly. He will speak a specific Word that will reveal his purpose and plan for your life. As a result, you will have success and find yourself living the good life He desires for you. Remember, all things are possible with God.

“Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God--
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I’ll trust in God’s unchanging
Word Till soul and body sever,
For, though all things shall pass away,
HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!” — Martin Luther