

OS  
HILLMAN

How to  
discover  
why  
**God**  
made you



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## **Why God Made Me?**

I will never forget the first time a board member said to me, “Os, I think you know what your natural gifts and talents are, but I do not think you know why God made you.”

I was taken aback by the phrase, “why God made you.” I have heard people talk about purpose and destiny, “but why God made me” had a little different meaning to it. Could one really know this?

I pursued her comment and before I knew it we scheduled a full day for her to walk me through a simple process that has been very beneficial to me, even to this day, now fifteen years later. Later I discovered an unusual verse in Revelation that confirms this truth.

*“And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it”* (Rev 2:17). Each of us has a name in Heaven that uniquely fits us.

However, before I get into this process with you, let’s start from where most people start from – understanding God’s purpose for your life.

## **What the Bible Says About Your Purpose**

The Bible says you were created and set apart by God: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart” (Jer 1:5).\_God created you and set you apart for a purpose. “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” (Jer 29:11).

God has pre-ordained the works you are to do while you live on the earth. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”(Ephesians 2:10). If you are going to discover how God wants to use your life and work, you must know why you were created. If you start trying to determine your purpose in life before understanding why you were created, you will inevitably get hung up on the *things you do* as the basis for fulfillment in your life, which will only lead to frustration and disappointment.

Most people in society seek to find meaning and purpose from the following things:

- Achievements - performance and achievement is where many find their value
- Relationships –they believe meaning in life is based upon the kind of relationships they have

- Children- some believe purpose is found in having children
- Acquiring money/things –some find meaning in acquiring money and material things
- Recognition from others –some find meaning from what others think of them
- Work/careers –some derive their purpose and identity from their work/careers
- Play hard - some believe they must work hard to be able to play, which is their ultimate goal in life

Without purpose, life has no meaning. Isaiah tells us that “I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my labor and strength in vain and for nothing” (Isaiah 49:4). Most people lack purpose and meaning because they have no relationship with God. “May He grant you according to your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your purpose” (Psalm 20:4). Finding your purpose begins with God...” everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him” (Colossians 1:16 MSG)

## **God Chose You**

First and foremost, God created you to know Him and to have an intimate relationship with Him. In fact, God says that if a man is going to boast about anything in life, “boast about this: that he understands and knows me” (Jer. 9:23). The Bible encourages us to seek God first. “But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt 6:33). Yet we know God chose us first. He is the initiator. We respond to His invitation. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you” (John 15:15-17).

Mankind’s relationship with God was lost in the Garden when Adam and Eve sinned. Jesus’ death on the cross, however, allows us to restore this relationship with God and to have intimate fellowship with Him.

The apostle Paul came to understand this when he said, “I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself” (Phil. 3:10, *THE MESSAGE*).

Establishing this relationship with God is vital to understanding your purpose. If you don’t have this relationship with God, you will seek to fulfill your purpose out of wrong motives, such as fear, insecurity, pride, money, relationships, guilt or unresolved anger. God’s desire is for you to be motivated out of love for Him and to desire to worship Him in all that you do. As you develop your relationship with God, He will begin to reveal His

purpose for your life. “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord” (Jer. 29:11).

Your purpose in life is chosen by God. It is not negotiable. God had a plan in mind when He allowed your spirit, which was in heaven, to come into flesh and blood and be born on earth. “The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me” (Ps. 138:8). There is no changing God’s purpose for your life, but you may not necessarily fulfill it because there is free will involved in that process.

Psalms tells us that “I have an assigned portion (purpose and destiny) .LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance” (Ps 16:5-6).

He tells us that He has even decided when we would live on earth and where we would live.

*“He has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries” (Acts 17:26).*

The Bible says “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). That is why someone can be a successful preacher and fall into sin and still have fruit from their preaching. Our gifts and calling are irrevocable. However, God will eventually deal with the sin of anyone who continues to misrepresent Him.

Oswald Chambers explains another dimension of calling in his Sept 29 *Utmost for His Highest*

We are inclined to forget the deeply spiritual and supernatural touch of God. If you are able to tell exactly where you were when you received the call of God and can explain all about it, I question whether you have truly been called. The call of God does not come like that; it is much more supernatural. The realization of the call in a person’s life may come like a clap of thunder or it may dawn gradually. But however quickly or slowly this awareness comes, it is always accompanied with an undercurrent of the supernatural—something that is inexpressible and produces a “glow.” At any moment the sudden awareness of this incalculable, supernatural, surprising call that has taken hold of your life may break through—“I chose you . . .” (John 15:16). The call of God has nothing to do with salvation and sanctification. You are not called to preach the gospel because you are sanctified; the call to preach the gospel is infinitely different. Paul describes it as a compulsion that was placed upon him.

If you have ignored, and thereby removed, the great supernatural call of God in your life, take a review of your circumstances. See where you have put your own ideas of service or your particular abilities ahead of the call of God. Paul said, “. . . woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” He had become aware of the call of God, and his compulsion to “preach the gospel” was so strong that nothing else was any longer even a competitor for his strength.

If a man or woman is called of God, it doesn't matter how difficult the circumstances may be. God orchestrates every force at work for His purpose in the end. If you will agree with God's purpose, He will bring not only your conscious level but also all the deeper levels of your life, which you yourself cannot reach, into perfect harmony.<sup>1</sup>

## **Your Purpose is Not Always Tied to What You Do.**

While you may not *fulfill* the purpose for which you were made, you still *have a purpose* that God intends for you to fulfill. This is your blueprint from God. In the same way that He had a specific purpose in mind for Jesus when He sent Him to the earth, He has a specific purpose in mind for your life.

This doesn't mean, however, that there is one highly specific niche for you to fill and that if you miss it, too bad. It is my belief that you can achieve your purpose in many different and creative ways. This should take the pressure off. You won't throw your entire life off course by choosing the wrong college, job or mate. God is much bigger than any miscalculation or disobedience on your part. "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me" (Ps. 138:8). Isn't that comforting to know?

Defining your purpose will help you to determine the activities that you should be involved in. Like Jesus, He did not involve Himself in activities that contradicted His purpose on earth. Jesus' purpose was to do the will of the Father, and He never did anything contrary to that purpose. His specific assignment that was derived from His purpose on earth was

- 1) To be payment for the sins of mankind (John 3:16).
- 2) To defeat the work of the devil (1 John 3:8).
- 3) To bring glory to His Father and do His will (John 5:30).

In the same way, your purpose should always be to do the will of the Father. From your relationship with Jesus and the Father you will derive your assignments on earth.

Oswald Chambers said "Jesus never measured His life by how or where He was of the greatest use. God places His saints where they will bring the most glory to Him, and we are totally incapable of judging where that may be."

## **Joining God in His Work**

Several years ago, Henry Blackaby wrote a popular Bible study, *Experiencing God*, in which he described how one of the core principles is to join God where He is already

working in order to find His purpose for your life. When you involve yourself in activities contrary to this purpose, you

- begin to live a life of sweat and toil that leads to slavery instead of reaching the Promised Land of His rest
- get off course from achieving the intended destiny for your life
- produce dead works instead of the fruit of obedience rooted in your purpose
- potentially lose your reward because you are involved in activity God never orchestrated.

Each of us must ask *why* we are involved in an activity. Is it a God-activity, or just a good activity? Remember, Jesus only did something if He saw the Father doing it—and He was able to see what His Father was doing because of His intimate relationship with Him.

## **Discovering My Purpose**

I discovered my purpose late in life. I grew up thinking that my destiny was to be the next Jack Nicklaus.

I started playing golf when I was 11 years old, and my dad encouraged me greatly in this area. I eventually became a very good junior player and even received a golf scholarship to the University of South Carolina. I thought I was well on my way to becoming a professional golfer on the PGA Tour; but when I finished school and turned pro, I quickly grew frustrated and disillusioned with my inability to get to a level to play competitively as a professional.

Our family had always been a church-going family, but we knew little of the concept of walking in a personal relationship with God. However, when I was 14, my dad was killed in an airplane crash, and this accident ultimately led my mom to a more intimate relationship with God. Through her influence and that of a pastor, I became a Christian in 1974.

As the years went by, I decided that golf was no longer the profession I felt God wanted me to be in. I made a career change into sales and marketing, but after being in various jobs for six years, I found myself longing to grow more in the Lord and serve Him in a greater capacity.

I was involved in starting a church with two other men who were seeking to be used by God, and this led me to begin thinking about whether I was really “sold out” for God and needed to go to seminary. “Perhaps I am really called to be a pastor,” I thought to



myself. I decided to take a leave of absence from my job and go to a three-month Bible study course at a retreat center in California. I then decided to move to Atlanta to serve as an assistant pastor, only to have the position removed after three months. This caused me to go back into the business world. In hindsight, I see that this was the hand of God.

Through it all, I learned that I was never cut out to be a pastor or to have a “vocational ministry”; I was designed to be in business. On the other hand, I could not help but think of myself as a “second-class” Christian who was not quite sold out to the purposes of God. I don’t believe that anyone was saying this to me; it was more implied by the Christian culture around me.

### **Why God Made Os Hillman**

In 2002, I met a woman named Brenda who specialized in working with executives in career transition. She had a keen understanding of how to help people understand their core purpose in life from God’s perspective, and she challenged me to go through this process. The goal at the end of the day was to create a five-to-seven word statement that defined my God-given purpose.

During this process we identified my core strengths that most represented me, such as teaching, networking, shepherding, communicating and writing. All of these were attributes of my life.

### **Os Hillman’s List of Core Attributes**

(4 most important marked in bold)

#### **Natural Gifts**

- Networker
- **Teacher**
- Athlete
- Marketer
- Planner
- Promoter
- Leader
- Communicator
- Organizer
- Golf instructor
- Father
- Mentor
- Sales/Marketing positions
- Ad Agency owner
- Vocational ministry
- **Articulator**

- **Shepherd** to others
- **Transformational** leader

Once we listed all my characteristics, gifts and talents, we narrowed these down to the four that most represented me at my core. My top four core characteristics are most representative of my DNA.

We then word-smithed these four attributes into a statement. The core reason God created Os Hillman was to *articulate and shepherd foundational ideas that could lead to transformation.*

The interesting thing is that my core purpose had been modeled even before my salvation as a teaching golf professional, a business consultant and an advertising agency owner. I had “articulated and shepherded” ideas in each of these arenas. I could articulate and shepherd you to be a better golfer or better business. Today God is doing this in a spiritual way through writing, mentoring and leading a movement to help people understand their work as a calling.

It is important that your statement be unique to you. It should not be too generic. For instance, “God made me to love God and others.” That is too generic; this could be said of everyone.

## **Divine Circumstances**

Sometimes God uses divine circumstances to give you a clue about your future. Even my unusual name, Os, turned out to be significant to my discovery of my purpose.

I am a third generation business owner. My real name is Omar Smallwood Hillman III. Quite a mouthful. My parents put the “O” and the “S” together to call me Os. No one in my family knows where the name “Omar” came from. It is strange for someone growing up in southern United States to have a middle-eastern name like “Omar”. But no one in my family knows the history of how I acquired that name. We only know that “Smallwood” was the name of the doctor who delivered my grandfather.

During my character development season, one of my mentors challenged me to find out more about the meaning of “Omar”. He felt it was important for me to know as I tried to figure out God’s call for my life. He felt it had something to do with my future. At this time in my life I was studying about the life of Esau and how he despised his birthright for porridge. I was using this story as an analogy for those in the workplace who were despising their birthrights for money and position.

It was also during this time I went away for a weekend to fast and pray. It was during that fast God spoke to me in my spirit that I would “lead a marketplace movement.” I had no idea what that really meant at the time. At that time I was a humbled and financially broke businessman. I had never written a book. Years later this would be

confirmed through others and even the national media. I would write over fifteen books and travel to twenty-five nations to teach men and women in the marketplace how to experience God in their working life.

Throughout the Bible, we find that names were given as an indication of God's purpose for an individual. In some cases, names were altered to represent a significant change, as in Abram to Abraham, Saul to Paul, Jacob to Israel, or Sarai to Sarah.

When I looked up the name "Omar," I discovered that it was Arabic for "first son" and "disciple," Hebrew for "gifted speaker" and German for "famous." In the Bible, Omar was a grandson of Esau (see Gen. 36:15), and another meaning of his name means "eloquent." Esau, as you will remember, had forfeited his birthright for a bowl of porridge.

I was the first and only son of my parents. . . . I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. . . . I felt that God was calling me to public speaking. The puzzle pieces were beginning to come together.

Apparently, my Joseph Process included becoming a steward of God's resources for God's people in the workplace. Part of my job would be to help other descendants of Esau *recover their birthrights*, even though they may have sold their birthright for earthly pleasure and prestige or remained in Egypt as slaves and orphans instead of to the Promised Land.

To make sure that I was an instrument fully yielded to His purposes, God took me through a painful seven year season of character development where I experienced many painful losses. However, what God was doing was letting me revisit wounds in order to be healed and equipped for my future assignment. Part of that process was Satan's attempt to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Today I am not the same man I was in the 90s. God has delivered, healed and matured me. What I overcame was now being used as payback to the enemy of my soul who tried to use this process to steal, kill and destroy my life. It was now being used to free others from the same hindrances I had to overcome.

Someone once said, "God uses enlarged trials to produce enlarged saints so He can put them in enlarged places!" Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land they had to pass through the desert. They had to trust God for their daily manna. The desert and character developing season is only a stage in your life. When God has accomplished what He wants, He will bring you out. He has given you a mission to fulfill that can only be fulfilled after you have spent an adequate time of preparation in the desert.

Don't fear the desert, for it is there that you will hear God's voice as never before. The word "desert" in Hebrew means "to speak". It is there that you will have the idols of your life removed. It is there that you will begin to experience the reality of a living God as never before.

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her,  
Will bring her into the wilderness,  
And speak comfort to her.  
I will give her her vineyards from there,  
And the Valley of Achor (trouble) as a door of hope;  
She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth,  
As in the day when she came up  
from the land of Egypt" (Hosea 2: 14-15).

## Understanding Your Anointing

In addition to understanding your purpose, you also need to understand the anointing that is on your life. We read about God's anointing in Scripture: "As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him" (1 John 2:27).

Anointing is a gift that functions easily when it is operating in you to the benefit of others and the kingdom of God. In his book *Anointing: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, R. T. Kendall explains it this way:

The best way I have been able to describe [an anointing] is that it is when our gift functions easily. It comes with ease. It seems natural. No *working it up* is needed. It is either there or it isn't. If one has to work it up one has probably gone outside one's anointing. If one goes outside one's anointing the result is often fatigue—that is, weariness or spiritual lethargy that has been described as "dying inside."<sup>1</sup>

One area in which I have a God-given anointing is networking. I have never sought to develop such an anointing, but I sure know a *lot* of people. Despite being an introvert, God has connected me with people all around the world. Many times people call me about something and my natural response is, "Oh, you need to contact so-and so. He can help you with that."

Where do you move naturally in your life? What do you do that you don't have to work at? Chances are, that is your anointing. God wants you to walk in the anointing He has given to you for His glory.

## **Being Promoted Beyond Your Anointing**

Understanding your anointing will also enable you to know when you are moving in a direction away from that which God has intended for your life. R. T. Kendall explains how many believers often find themselves lured into accepting promotions and assignments outside of their anointing—a concept known as the “Peter Principle”:

The way the Peter Principle works is this. A person who has been a first rate typist or secretary may find themselves in management. As long as they were typing letters, taking dictation, or answering the telephone they were superb. They coped with ease. But a vacancy at a higher level came along and they applied for and got the job. They now have to make hard decisions, handle people under them, and find that they are under stress. They are not cut out for this after all—but try to stick it out.

They have been promoted to the level at which they are not able to function with ease. They should have stayed with their old job. But no. They are determined to make it work. Few people will admit they have been promoted to the level of their incompetence.<sup>2</sup>

I have seen this principle happen a lot over the years. In my ministry, I have some key intercessors that support me personally. One time, I made the decision to put one of these individuals into the role of coordinating prayer for an event because she was an awesome intercessor that had a keen ability to hear God. However, I soon discovered that she was a poor networker and organizer. I had placed her in a role in which her anointing did not lay. That was a good lesson for me.

## **My Weakness, His Strength**

There is a paradox between these two concepts that cannot be ignored. Sometimes, God will place you in situations in which you have no natural gifting. In these cases, God puts you there to experience His power in order to accomplish your tasks. This is a season of character building.

Joseph went through a thirteen year season of character building and preparation. It was hardly an “assignment” that matched his purpose. But the process to fulfill his primary assignment included this painful process.

Many people are drafted into their larger story assignment because of a conflict or crisis. Consider Martin Luther, the Apostle Paul, David, William Wilberforce, Martin Luther King – the list could go on. In each case they were thrust into a circumstance not of their choosing that led to their ultimate assignment in life that was rooted in their purpose. You cannot force that timetable. It is up to God when that time is just right.

## **God Works through Weakness Instead of Your Natural Gift**

Sometimes God uses our weaknesses to manifest His presence through our weaknesses and later they become our strength. I am not a natural public speaker. I am generally a shy and reserved person. In a group of people, I will usually be the one to speak the least.

But when you give me a topic that I am passionate about, such as helping people find God's calling for their lives, I will talk your head off. I was never one to speak in public, but because the message is more important than my comfort level, God began to empower me to speak publicly about the message He had placed in my heart. He has taught me how to be a good speaker by trial and error.

God often moves us beyond our natural gifting and allows us to receive things through our obedience to Him. Oswald Chambers provides some valuable insight on this when he states, "The call of God only becomes clear as we obey, never as we weigh the pros and cons and try to reason it out. The call is God's idea, not our idea; and only on looking back over the path of obedience do we realize what God's idea has been all along."<sup>3</sup>

God often has to get us into a position to accept a call from Him. For many of us, this requires some sort of motivation for us to seek God. More often than not, this motivation comes through some calamity or crisis. When a crisis takes place in our lives, we begin to seek God for relief and answers. Over time, this process encourages us to seek God's face (in a personal relationship) instead of merely His hand of provision or solution to our problem.

## **Many Jobs**

I believe most of us will experience many jobs and experiences on our way to discovering the purpose or destiny for which God made us. For some of us, that destiny will not be an event or a specific thing, but a process over our lifetime. However, although you may have a similar experience to mine, you also may be someone who starts out in the right place for your calling.

The apostle Paul makes an interesting statement that indicates that most of us will remain in the very jobs in which we came to know the Lord. He writes, "Usually a person should keep on with the work he was doing when God called him" (1 Cor. 7:20, *TLB*). God has uniquely gifted you to perform a work in and through the workplace. And in most cases, He wants you to remain in that place to fulfill His purposes through your workplace calling.



Purpose is derived from several complex factors experienced over an extended time period over one's life. Coming to know God through Jesus personally is the most important first step one can make toward discovering one's purpose.

Next, learning about your aptitudes helps to reveal your gifts, talents and passions. It helps You understand your natural inclinations.

Next, for many leaders God takes them through a season of character building that often has little to do with their gifts, but is a vital step to helping them develop the character that God requires for the assignment He has for them.

Leaders often have a circumstance that usher them into the larger story of their life. Abraham had a dream and vision, Jacob had a dream, Paul was blinded by God on the Damascus Road, David was thrust into an encounter with Goliath, Martin Luther had a crisis of theology, Martin Luther King was thrust into the civil rights movement at age 26. There is usually some type of "kairos" moment or crisis of belief in the life of one in whom God has placed an *extraordinary* call upon them. We don't all have an extraordinary call that may affect the masses, but we are all called.

God often uses mentors to help his sons and daughters in the path He desires to take. Moses mentored Joshua, Paul mentored Timothy, Elijah mentored Elisha, and Jesus mentored the disciples. I have had several mentors in my journey and cannot tell you how important those mentors have been to my life.

## **Age for Calling and Purpose**

Calling and purpose is not always revealed at a certain age. The age of maturity was 30 in the Jewish culture. Joseph, Jesus, and David all began their core assignments at age 30, although God called them into their assignment earlier. Joseph and David went through their character developing stage before they entered into their assignment.

For these leaders this was also their time of convergence. Convergence is when God's circumstances, your heart, your talent, your influence, and your social capital converge to maturity.

Others got their assignment much later in life.

- Methuselah-oldest man recorder in the Bible at 969
- Adam lived to 930
- Enoch was 365 when taken to heaven
- Noah built ark at age 500 +
- Abraham was initially called at age 75. He was 100 when Isaac was born
- Moses began his assignment at 80
- Joshua succeeded Moses at 80 and died at age 110
- John wrote Revelation in his 90s

The Bible reveals when many of God's change agents discovered their purpose and subsequent assignments.

### **Isaiah**

"The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned" (Isaiah 50:4; Isa 61).

### **David**

"And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and that his kingdom had been highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel" (1 Chron. 14:2).

Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel"' (2 Sam 7:8).

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers. . . (Acts 13:36).

### **Paul**



“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:16).

### **Jesus**

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do” (Jn 17:4).

### **John the Baptist**

John the Baptist was described by God as the greatest prophet of them all, even though he never performed one miracle. I believe the reason Jesus said this was because he fulfilled his purpose as Jesus’ forerunner perfectly.

### **Abraham**

God’s ultimate assignment for our lives often comes with “great horror and darkness” as in the case of Abraham. Satan wants to thwart the purposes of God in you. God then reveals his future to him.

“Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years” (Gen 15:12-16).

### **Moses**

And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:7-10).

### **Beware of Other’s Well-Meaning Counsel**

When God calls you to walk down a certain path, He gives you, and only you, the grace for that assignment. Do not let others sway you out of sympathy or reasoning. This is an important truth to embrace. Your calling is unique to you. Do not compare yourself to others or listen to counsel based on natural reasoning.

Peter began to compare his circumstance to John. Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” <sup>21</sup> Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what *about* this man?”

Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.” Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? (John 21:20-23).

**Now It’s Your Turn**

Take time with your spouse or close friend to complete this exercise.

**What are Your Natural Gifts ?**

(list yours)

**Step 1: Now begin to create your own list.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2: Narrow your list  
Choose 4 key words**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3: Create your purpose statement**

*Wordsmith into a phrase.*

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**Summary**

- God created you uniquely “you.”
- He created you for a specific purpose and work
- He called you to Someone, then something
- Your name is written on a while stone in heaven

- Discovering your purpose is a process over time. Your actual assignment may be different at different times of your life, but your core purpose will remain constant.

### **Paul Potts, Mobile Phone Salesman**

Several years ago England's version of American Idol featured a contestant named Paul Potts. The chubby blue collar looking man with crooked teeth stepped onto the stage. The judges had already sized him up in their minds until a voice came out of that man that did not seem to fit. He sang opera like a seasoned professional. The audience cried in awe and excitement and so did the judges. Even Simon Cow said, "So you work at Carphone Warehouse and you did that. I wasn't expecting that! You were fantastic!"

Paul went on to win the competition. He is now a famous opera singer. There is nothing wrong with being a mobile phone salesman. However, Paul's larger story was the gift of singing. Life experience and lack of opportunity never allowed his gift to be displayed.



## Your Life Is Multi-faceted

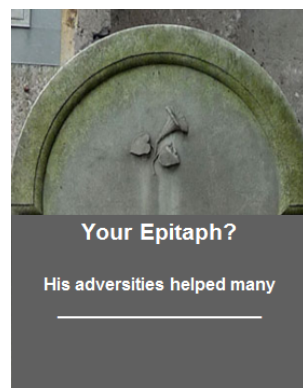
Once you understand why God made you and understand His purpose and calling, you will realize God's call upon your life is multi-dimensional. Your life consists of your relationships with God, your family, your work, your community, your country and your world.

Not everyone has an "extraordinary" call, but we are all called. Some assignments are big and visible to others, while other calls might be hidden and seen by only a few. I believe God's reward is the same for both. It is all about fulfilling God's purpose for *you*. And, it is vital that we understand that God works through the mundane and the ordinary as much as the extraordinary. "We are given to an incredible overestimation of the extraordinary at the expense of the ordinary," said Einar Billing.

Oswald Chambers said, "The things Jesus did were the most menial of everyday tasks, and this is an indication that it takes all of God's power in me to accomplish even the most common tasks in His way. Can I use a towel as He did? Towels, dishes, sandals, and all the other ordinary things in our lives reveal what we are made of more quickly than anything else. It takes God Almighty Incarnate in us to do the most menial duty as it ought to be done."

## Your Epitaph?

We all need to live our life to an audience of One. We need to fulfill God's purpose for our life. Once you identify your purpose it is helpful to write the epitaph of your life. What might others say if you fulfilled your complete purpose on earth once you are gone? What would you write on your tombstone? I believe mine will say "His adversities helped many."



"Faithful is He Who calls you, and He will do it" (2 Thess 5:24).

## **Suggested Resources on Calling**

[www.TGIFBookstore.com](http://www.TGIFBookstore.com)

*The 9 to 5 Window* – Os Hillman

*Overcoming Hindrances to Fulfilling Your Destiny* – Os Hillman

*Change Agent* – Os Hillman

*Change Agent Video Course*-[www.ChangeAgentVideoCourse.com](http://www.ChangeAgentVideoCourse.com)

3 Free Videos - [www.3GreatestLies.com](http://www.3GreatestLies.com)

TGIF Today God Is First devotional [www.TGIFTodayGodIsFirst.com](http://www.TGIFTodayGodIsFirst.com)

### **Other books by Os Hillman:**

- [\*Listening to the Father's Heart\*](#)
- [\*Overcoming Hindrances to Fulfilling Your Destiny\*](#)
- [\*Change Agent: Engaging Your Passion to Be the One Who Makes a Difference\*](#)
- [\*Experiencing the Father's Love\*](#)
- [\*The Upside of Adversity\*](#)
- [\*The 9 To 5 Window: How Faith Can Transform The Workplace\*](#)
- [\*Faith@Work: What Every Pastor and Church Leader Should Know\*](#)
- [\*TGIF Today God Is First Daily devotionals, I & II\*](#)
- [\*TGIF Bible Study\*](#)
- [\*Faith and Work: Do They Mix?\*](#)
- [\*The Purposes of Money\*](#)
- [\*Making Godly Decisions\*](#)
- [\*Adversity and Pain: The Gifts Nobody Wants\*](#)
- [\*Are You A Biblical Worker?\*](#)

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### **About Os Hillman**

Os Hillman is president of Marketplace Leaders, an organization whose purpose is to help men and women discover and fulfill God's complete purposes through their work and to view their work as ministry.

Os is an internationally recognized speaker on the subject of faith at work. He is the author of [15 books](#) and a daily email devotional called [TGIF Today God Is First](#) which has over a quarter of a million daily subscribers worldwide. Os' new book is [Change Agent](#). Os developed and teaches a 20 -part Change Agent Intensive weekend training program based on his book, Change Agent, which is now available as a DVD video course. Os also gives leadership to a new initiative called [The Change Agent Network](#). Os has been featured on CNBC, NBC, LA Times, New York Times, and many other national media as a spokesperson on faith at work.

Os is also president of Aslan, Inc. which provides a leading online Christian bookstore to serve the “faith-at-work” movement called [www.TGIFbookstore.com](http://www.TGIFbookstore.com) to serve the needs of Christians in their workplace calling.

Os serves as Visiting Instructor at Regent’s School of Undergraduate Studies ([www.Regent.edu](http://www.Regent.edu)), attended the University of South Carolina and Calvary Chapel Bible School, a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, California.

<sup>1</sup> <http://utmost.org/>, Sept 29

Endnotes

1AR. T. Kendall, *The Anointing: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1999), p. 12.

2AR. T. Kendall, *The Anointing: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1999), p. 12.

3My Utmost for His Highest: An Updated Edition in Today's Language, ed. by James Reimann (Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 1992), September 29<sup>th</sup>