

# Seeking Closer Approach to God's Purpose through Self Assessment

*Part 2 of 2*

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# Self Assessment for the Future

- Done periodically
- Evaluate understanding of your assignment
- Relative to generalized understanding
- Of God's purpose
- Evaluate your performance
- Modify personal performance objectives
- To approach closer to God's purpose

# Self Assessment for the Future cont'd

- We discuss understanding
- Of God's purpose for humankind
- And how we can evaluate performance
- Against his purpose
- Setting personal performance objectives
- Is better done individually

# God's Purpose for Humankind

- His plan [Genesis 1:26]
  - Create mankind in our image and likeness
  - To govern over all earth inhabitants
- His instruction [Genesis 1:28]
  - Be fruitful and multiply
  - Fill the earth and subdue it
  - Govern over all earth inhabitants

# Fill the Earth and Subdue It

- Unlimited authority under God
- Over the earth and inhabitants
  - Occupy and take ownership
  - Seek and implement effective uses
  - Provide for the needs
  - In the image of God
- Collective and individual responsibilities
- God's provider assistant

# God's Provider Assistant

- God positions a person (or multiple persons)
- To provide for any need that exists
- Parable of the Good Samaritan
- What we “must do to inherit eternal life”  
[Luke 10:25–37]
- Recognize the need
- Do what you can to provide for it
- For self, other individuals, or community
- Free or for a fee

# Free Service

- Consistent with God's purpose
- Matthew 25:31–40 & 41–46
- Defines individual responsibilities
  - Provide for basic need and earn blessing
  - Deny basic need and earn punishment
  - Independent
  - Of feeling or action of any other person

# For Fee Service

- Consistent with God's purpose
- Earn profit as your reward
- Also may earn blessing
- Dependent on other people
- Parable of talents
  - Increasing value
  - Through enterprise (for-fee service)
- Jacob-Laban interactions: labor and wages



# Provider Assistant Responsibilities

- Recognize needs placed on your path
- Do what you can to provide for the need
- Free or for a fee
- In the image of God

# Provider Assistant Tools

- Parable of the talents
  - God grants capabilities to each person
  - Deploy your capabilities
  - Rewarded if you grow/diversify
    - Grow – increase your value
    - Diversify – increase variety of deployment
  - Punished if you choose stagnation
- Challenge yourself

# Self Assessment

- Assess your use of what God has given you
- To accomplish his purpose for you
- Only possible if you grow spiritually
- Sermon [HERE](#) identifies foundation principles of spiritual growth
- Based on 2 Peter 1:3–11
- And four requirements for spiritual growth
- Based on Hebrews 10:22–25

# Principles of Spiritual Growth (1)

- Relationship with God increases our effectiveness in life [2 Peter 1:3–4]

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

“ ... ”  
...

# Principles of Spiritual Growth (2)

- Spiritual growth is “a coming to God and continuing with God” [2 Peter 1:5–9]

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

“ ... ”  
...

# Principles of Spiritual Growth (3)

- Spiritual growth only occurs by staying connected with God [2 Peter 1:10–11]

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# Requirements for Spiritual Growth

- Personal devotion [Hebrews 10:22]  
“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart...”
  
- Unwavering resolve [Hebrews 10:23]  
“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful”

# Requirements for Spiritual Growth cont'd

- Meaningful connection [Hebrews 10:24]

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

- Faithful fellowship [Hebrews 10:25]

“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—  
...”



# Self Assessment

- Identify your capabilities
  - Things you can do as well as others
  - Things you can do better than others
  - Things you can do efficiently
- Identify how you use your capabilities
  - Current or previous use
  - Potential uses you would like to develop

# Self Assessment cont'd

- What are your options for
  - Improving your output?
  - Gaining more control of your output?
  - Helping your associates to improve?
  - Motivating related activities?
  - Using your activities to minister to others?
- For profit? Free-service?
- For family? For others?

# What We Learned

- Self assessment by Paul
- Self assessment by Joshua
- Each declared successful completion
- Of his assignment
- As part of a farewell message
- Encouraged recipients of his work
- To remain steadfast
- And guard what they accomplished

# What We Learned cont'd

- Periodic self assessment
- To examine understanding
- Of personal assignment and capabilities
- Relative to God's purpose for people
- Determine things we can do
- To approach closer to God's purpose
- We need to grow spiritually
- To use periodic self assessment to bring ourselves closer to God's purpose