



Failure To Launch!
Hebrews 5:12-14
Life Purpose

Hebrews 4:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

NKJV

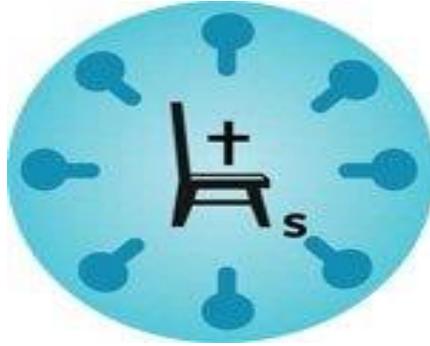
What are the characteristics of a baby?

- They covet the things of this world
- They struggle with self-doubt
- They are self-centered



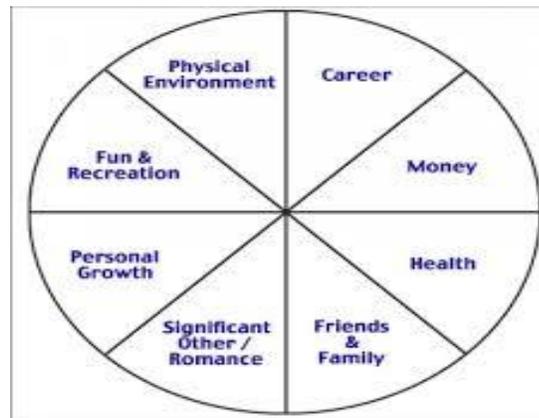
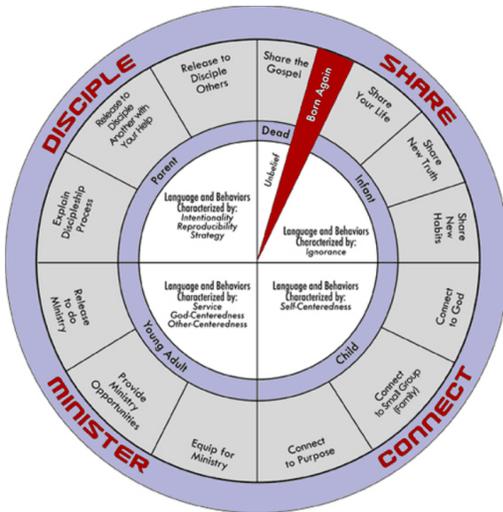
To be self-centered means your life purpose is to serve yourself; your needs, your wants, and your desires. Your commitment to serve yourself directs your emotions, decisions, actions, attitudes, words, and motives.

Babies are self-centered and so are all babes in Christ.



After we are saved, discipleship can help us change our life purpose from serving our self to serving Christ in every area of our life. (We show how this change occurs by using the discipleship wheel.)

Wheel of Maturity
Real Life Discipleship Training Manual



It is God's will for us to become Christ-centered in every area of our life rather than self-centered.

Philippians 2:3-9

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

NKJV

To be Christ-centered means your life purpose is to serve Christ and His glory rather than your own self-interest.

Paul said it this way...

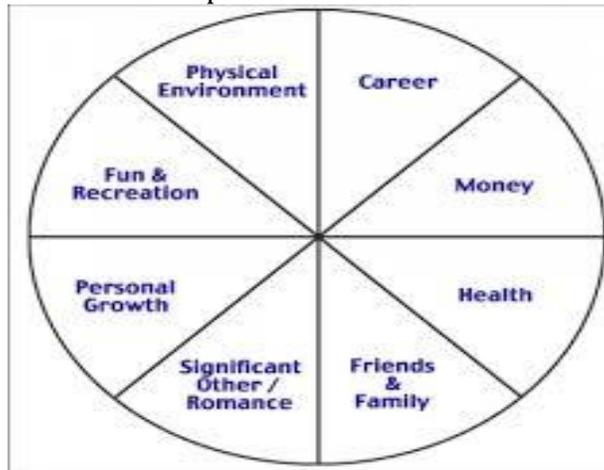
[1 Cor. 10:31](#)

[31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. NKJV](#)

When you have a Christ centered purpose in an area of your life, Christ directs your emotions, decisions, actions, attitudes, words, and motives.

When we are saved, there are immediate changes in our standing with God and our personal identity. (Romans 5:1; John 3:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:17).

This change is symbolized in water baptism.



But as new believers we are not aware how much our life purpose is to serve ourselves in specific areas of our life. We are not aware until we face certain situations or circumstances or trials and the Holy Spirit convicts us.

Change in life purpose in every area of our life has to occur progressively. This is called spiritual growth and it occurs by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[2 Peter 3:17-18](#)

[17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.](#)

[To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.](#)

[NKJV](#)

The Holy Spirit uses circumstances, His Word, and His church to make us aware that we are being self-centered. He then prompts us to change our purpose to serving Christ in every area of our life.

Jesus said it this way...

[Matthew 16:24-25](#)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

NKJV

Paul said it this way about himself.

1 Cor. 15:31

31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

NKJV

For me, after I was saved, this progression of dying to my self-interest occurred this way.

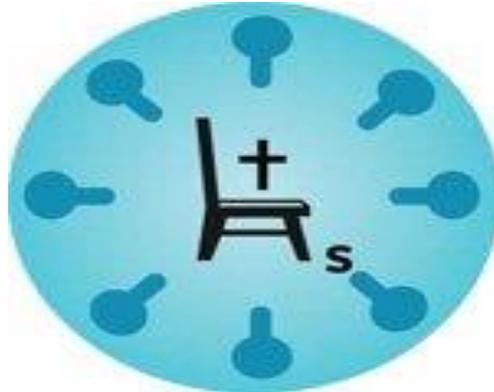
- Career
- Basketball
- Academics
- Friendships
- Dating relationships
- Music
- My relationship with my father
- Marriage
- Money
- Church
- Denomination
- Children

When we are saved Paul said we are set free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2).

But this change does not mean that we lose our freedom of choice. We can choose to remain self-centered babes in Christ. This is what occurred in the people who received the letter of Hebrews. They should have been teachers but because they resisted the Holy Spirit they were still babes and still self-centered. They needed someone to constantly re-teach them the elementary things of the faith.

If we resist the Holy Spirit in an area of our life and refuse to change our life purpose to serving Christ, it normally will lead to frustration and it will always lead to undesirable consequences.

If we yield to the Holy Spirit in every area of our life and change our life purpose to serving Christ, it will lead to the fruit of the Spirit and Christ will be glorified in us. We will experience what Christ called the abundant life. (John 10:10).



Why should we make it our life purpose to put off our self-interests and glorify Jesus Christ?

- By Him the worlds were created
- By Him all things hold together
- By Him we are saved from our sin
- By Him we can know the invisible God
- By Him we can learn how to really live
- By Him all men will be judged

If your goal is to be like anyone other than Jesus Christ, you have got the wrong hero!

Will you receive the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from your sins?

Will you make it your life purpose to deny your self-interests in every area of your life and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

Will you begin to die daily to serving yourself and put on the Lord Jesus Christ?