



*“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

What if God made us? What if? Ok, what if you are reading this discussion on Spiritual Gifts because you have questions. I will assume you believe in God. Each of us, from time to time, have pondered our spot in church or Christianity. Then the questions fly. Why is that man a preacher? If I could just play music like her? Do I have gifts like them?

Am I important to God, the church, or the world? Yes, the world too! Each person like Billy Graham and Mother Teresa began as little boys and girls looking at their priest, pastor, or worship leader. They wondered in their beds at night if (they too) were special like them. Somewhere in their childhood someone spoke these words to them Genesis 1:27 *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”* Those words are not just pondered by children but adults too. Each one of us sits at church and ponders why they are not like those on the stage. We have all wondered. These same adults ask themselves in the mirror why? Why do I feel less than them?

The answer is simple really. I do believe we are supposed to question our existence. Why are we really here? I talk to a lot of people who don't believe in God. They ask the same questions. Imagine someone on a journey to find themselves. They reject God. To them, religion is a myth. Yet, they find comfort in the Big Bang Theory. When pressed on why they exist, I commonly here the same line. We live and we die. Humans are just a random act of chance by evolution.

Deep down we all know it's not true. We were built for more. Who would honestly accept they are not special but just a random act?

The trouble is in the question. Why do humans question their existence if we were random? Maybe it was a mistake of nature? Why indeed should we question our place in space and time if we were not made for a purpose? So, for you and me, (together) we believe in God. We agree that God made us. That's cool, but what sets us apart from unbelievers? It's verses like Colossians 1:16 "*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*" Look at the last verse "*and for him.*" For who? It's Jesus of course. This verse can rock your boat. The divine Trinity consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made us for a reason.

We make a pot from clay. We make a car from ore in the ground. Humans know how to make things. One person said recently "*it's amazing that everything on earth is made from the same atoms. The same chemicals and matter. Broken down we are made with all the same material God used to make trees and the oceans.*" There is a common bond that creation shares. That bond is that we all matter. We are all cut from the same cloth. Look at Psalm 139:13 "*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*" The ocean has its place and purpose. So does your pastor and worship leader. So, do you! How do I know that? We were all made from the same stuff for a specific reason.

Ephesians 2:10 "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*"

Jeremiah 29:11 "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"

I could pound you with verse after verse telling you the story of how much God loves you. That God made you. He has a plan for you. Yet, let's just slow down and look at the verses I've mentioned already.

Genesis 1:27 *"God made you."*

Colossians 1:16 *"he created "all" things."*

Psalms 139:13 *"God knit you together in your mother's womb."*

And, finally these last two verses

Ephesians 2:10 *"We were created in Christ Jesus for good works."*

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you."*

The Bible is many things to many people. Who says it's boring? Who believes it's irrelevant today? Yet, each one of these verses and plenty more tell a different story about God and his word. He made you for a purpose. The Bible uses words like "all" and "we" because we are made for a reason. The idea of a Bible study is to give you better understanding of God's word. These verses are written so that you will have better understanding of God's intent. He made your pastor with a purpose in mind. He made the president and nurses with intent to lead and heal. Take a gander at another person God made with intent. Why did God make them all? Now, go look in your mirror. Why did God make that person and what was the reason? It's you!

Who tells you that you are worthless? For me, I am my worst enemy. The one person who should defend me is my mirror. If I can't love that guy then who would? If I can't love that guy then who can I love? That is why the gospel story is so real. If God loved his only Son and was willing to sacrifice him for each of us, then he really, really, must love us. Would you sacrifice yourself for another's sins? Let's end today with another verse to ponder for the next week.

Luke 12:24 *“Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!*

How much more valuable are YOU indeed! See you next week!