

# WRITING YOUR LIFE MISSION STATEMENT



Our sovereign Father appointed the year of your birth. He has already destined the year of your death. However, He has given each man the awesome and wonderful privilege of determining his dash. The dash represents the span of each man's life before his

Creator God. Many men are like the main character of *Forest Gump* - the feather. They float around helter skelter blown by the winds of fate, allowing their world or culture to direct their life rather than determining it before God. Although some men have a mission statement for their work or organization to provide focus and productivity, the vast majority of God's men have never clearly defined with a single statement the reason for their existence.

On the tombstone below fill in the top blank with the year you were born. Then fill in the bottom blank with this current year. Will you continue to dash through life or will you develop a mission statement in order to put life into your dash?

Each of us has experienced the thrill and exhilaration of slipping into place the last piece of a 500 piece jig-saw puzzle. You recall the frustrating hours sifting through the seemingly unrelated pieces as you stare relentlessly at the picture on the box top. You watch the disassociated mess become a beautiful replica of the picture on the box. You are encouraged with purpose and resolve to keep going because you can see the final product. But can you imagine trying to put the puzzle together without the picture on the box? And how long would it be before you gave up if all you were given was a bag of 500 pieces with no glimpse of the big picture on the box?

Because many of us do not have a life purpose statement from God we do not have the big picture of His purpose for our lives. We are working fast and furious trying to put together the seemingly unrelated pieces of our lives. We often become frustrated because we have lost sight of the big picture. We become discouraged and weary when buried by the many unrelated pieces of life without a daily glimpse of God's box top as described in Scripture. Having a Life Mission Statement gives us a solid wall against which we can throw our decisions, opportunities and priorities to see what sticks. It helps us to evaluate our lives to see if we are really getting it done and hitting the mark.

Here are a few questions to help you bring God's picture of your life into focus.

1. Am I willing to be a faithful finisher?
2. Can I be significant without being important?
3. What does God want me to be and do in this season of my life?
4. What do I want to be remembered for? What do I want on my tombstone?
5. What is really important to me?
6. What is really important to God?
7. To what can I give the remaining years of my life that will outlive me?
8. If I knew that I could not fail, what would I be doing for the Lord?
9. How can my wife and I serve the Lord together?
10. If my life were absolutely perfect, what would it look like?
11. What am I really good at and how can I improve it as an investment in God's Kingdom?
12. What are my passions and goals?
13. What experiences/lessons must I give away to the next generation of young leaders?
14. Can God still use me significantly in spite of past failures and mistakes?
15. How can I pursue a calling from God and not just settle for a career?
16. How can I leave a legacy and not just a lineage?
17. Am I willing to take the risk to become a successful failure?

18. How can I finish my life faithfully in order to honor God?
19. Why has God allowed me to live on earth for another year instead of taking me to be with Him in Heaven?
20. What have I most learned that I desire to pass on to the next generation?
21. Do I now live to work or work to live?

## Steps To Develop Your Life Mission Statement

(adapted from Patrick Morley's *Man In The Mirror*)

1. Pray! Ask God to show you why He called you to Himself before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-5). Ask Him to give you the motivation to persevere through this process that demands focused attention and extended time alone before the Lord to quietly reflect on His purpose for your life.
2. Search the Scriptures for a verse, passage or person which will help you capture a sense of God's purpose for your life. Make sure that you pick a verse or passage big enough to last a lifetime. Look through the list of passages at the end of this section to stimulate your thinking.
3. Write a Life Mission Statement.
4. Present it to your wife and a few friends who love you and know you well to get their input and suggestions.
5. Depend on the Lord alone to give you the power, passion, and discipline to live it out daily.
6. Live it with abandonment and a glad, reckless joy! Luke 9:23-25 *If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?*
7. Your Life Mission Statement is not cast in cement. It is flexible as you grow in the Lord and hear His desires for your life. If this is your first attempt at a Life Mission Statement,

don't become frustrated as it is hard work. It is far better to get something down which can grow and change as you mature in the Lord than to have nothing at all. If you already have a Life Mission Statement, this is a great opportunity for you to evaluate, refine it and deepen your commitment to living it out.

8. Perhaps having a single Life Mission Statement is frustrating because it is too vague or general and seems to exclude some important areas of your life. If this is the case we suggest having a separate statement for your family, your work and/or your ministry in addition to a personal Life Mission statement.

## Sample Life Mission Statements

Bill Bright's Life Mission Statement was to "accomplish the Great Commission in my lifetime."

The passion of Leighton Ford's life and ministry is to "develop the next generation of Christian leaders by helping them to become more like Christ in order to lead more people to Christ."

Steven Covey's life mission is to "live with integrity and to make a difference in the lives of others."



Perry's Life Mission Statement is taken from Exodus 33:11 which says, "*Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.*" Since 1974 the mission that has directed and motivated his life is 'to daily know, abide with and speak to God face to face just as a man speaks with his friends.'

Perry has also formed his ministry mission statement in the same manner. It is taken from Colossians 1:27-29 where the Apostle Paul says, "*Christ in you the hope of glory. And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*"

Perry has modified these words to form His vocational mission statement which reads, 'My life's work is to help every man that the Lord puts before me to become so ***focused*** on Christ that he is ***living*** out the priorities of Christ.'

David's Life Mission Statement is taken from John 17:3. *"Now this is eternal life; that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent."* His life is defined in terms of one relationship...knowing God! So the mission God has given him is to simply "stay close to Jesus!"

David's work mission statement is taken from Philippians 1:25 *"I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith."* His life's work is to "encourage men towards growth and joy in their relationship with God."

## Possible Life Mission Verses

Is there one Bible verse or passage that encapsulates the focus of your life? Perhaps the following will stimulate your thinking.

1 Cor. 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

Col. 3:17,24-25 *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

Matt. 6:33 *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.*

II Tim. 2:1-2 *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

Phil. 3:7-14 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from*

*God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ.*

John 3:30 *He must increase and I must decrease.*

Phil. 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

Phil. 2:3-4 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Luke 5:10 *Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.*

Col. 1:28-29 *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

1 Tim. 1:5 *But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

Heb. 12:1-3 *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.*

Rom. 12:1-2 *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

John 14:15,21 *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.*

Ps. 46:10 *Cease striving and know that I am God.*

Ps. 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.*

**Ps. 37:3-5 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. Rest in the Lord.**

**Josh. 1:7-9 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**

**Josh. 24:15 Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**

**Matt. 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

**Mic. 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?**

**1 Chr. 16:8-11 Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.**

**II Chr. 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.**

What are some possible life verses for your?

## **Writing Your Life Mission Statement**

Using Scripture as a guideline reflect on the following open ended questions and prayerfully jot down your thoughts.

The primary desires of God for my life are

The character qualities I most desire in my life are

The primary desires/passions of my heart are

**As a man I most want to accomplish**

**My mission as an employee/employer is to**

**My mission as a husband is to**

**My mission as a committed church member is to**

**As a father my mission is to**

**Now, based on your reflection and the inspiration of the Scriptures under the Spirit's guidance, try to summarize your mission in single line.**

**MY MISSION IN LIFE IS TO ...**