

POD Teaching Session 7 Module C

Overall Review and Living a Purpose Filled Life

Learning Objectives:

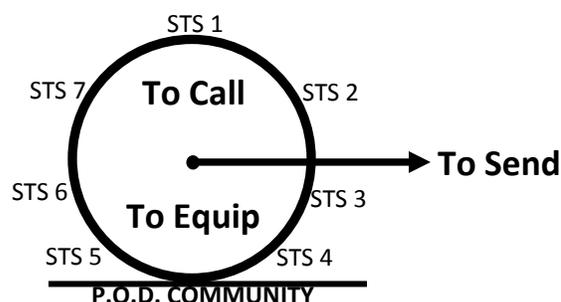
- Remember the purpose of P.O.D. and stay engaged in the process.
- Summarize and remember the equipping moments from each Session.
- Learn how to live a purpose filled life (Mapping Your Future).

Overall purpose for P.O.D.:

STS = Seven Teaching Sessions

Reproducing disciples who experience God's love and transforming power.

Why do I not do what I know I should be doing?
(i.e. live the Spirit empowered Holy life)?



You need spiritual transformation! (To be disciplined and to become a disciple maker 2 Tim2:2). Therefore stay engaged in the P.O.D. transformation process (refer to tab 8 and review the articles "The P.O.D. Transformation Process" and "The Power and Cost of Commitment").

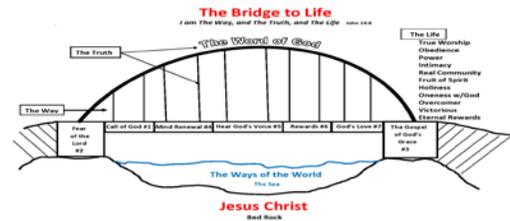
TIPS for Holy living:

- Remember and live out of your true identity ("Christ in you in Christ").
- Know the unholy trinity will oppose you.
- Keep the main thing the main thing by getting your priorities in order.
- Seek God's face (intimacy with God Heb. 11.6).
- Discipline yourself for the sake of godliness (1 Tim 4:7-8).
- Do your P.O.D. homework.
- Humble yourself in the presence of the Lord, remember God is not mocked; He is all knowing, all present and all powerful.
- He will judge without partiality.
- You were created to bring glory to Him and to none other.
- Ask (and it shall be given to you), seek (and you shall find), knock (and it shall be opened to you).
- God does not support "lone eagles" you need the fellowship of other believers for accountability, encouragement, to learn how to relate to others better, and because God has ordained that iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another (POD).



Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him, "If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes."
Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief." NASB95

Remember the “Bridge to Life” Illustration



Session 1: The Call to Holy Living (Is Growth a Decision?)

- The commands of God are not negotiable. They show us how to love (obey), be holy.
- He has commanded us to Go and make disciples as the means to love (the Great Commission and the Great Commandment).
- “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit” (Zech. 4:6) the “P.” (Pneuma) in POD
- You can know God intellectually (Ginosko) and or experientially (Oida). The “O.” (intimacy) in POD
- God has given us everything for life and godliness, i.e. His Spirit, His mind, His power and authority (Dunamis and Exousia). The “D.” (dunamis) in POD
- You are not alone in the call to live an obedient holy life (remember the middle voice).
- Growth is a decision an act of our will as we learn to yield to God’s transforming grace.
- Begin to learn Biblical Greek and Hebrew using the Blue Letter Bible as a resource.
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- _____

Session 2: The Fear of the Lord (The Joy of Fearing God correctly)

- The Fear of the Lord is a great treasure. It is God’s to give.
- It is an essential foundation for Holy Living.
- Why should we fear the Lord?
- What is the Fear of the Lord? What is NOT the Fear of the Lord?
- Write down your own description of the Fear of the Lord
- To be transformed by experiencing the Holy Fear of the Lord.
- How to Gain a Holy Fear of the Lord.
- _____
- _____

Session 3: The Gospel of God’s Grace (Know Your True Identity)

- To gain a more complete understanding of the “Gospel of God’s Grace”.
- Understand God’s three stage plan of salvation (Past, Present, Future).
- Gain a biblical view of man as a tri-unity (Spirit, Soul, and Body).
- Begin to see how we try to get our needs met apart from God.
- Understand more clearly those things that oppose God’s plan (the unholy trinity).
- Identify your brand of flesh (“Yucky” or “USDA” or some combination of the two).
- Remember and live out of your true identity as a child of God.
- Learn the three levels of faith (head knowledge, assent to truth and trust).
- Understand and embrace “Exchanged Life Spirituality”.
- Live as an overcomer by learning to get all your needs met in and through Christ.
- _____
- _____

Session 4: Mind Renewal (Solomon's Temple)

- Develop a clearer understanding of what is the mind.
- The mind is a divine seven-fold conceptual process. Remember Isaiah 11:1-2
- We have the mind of Christ.
- Mind renewal is where the battle lies.
- Recognize Satan's ways to keep us doubled minded.
- View Solomon's Temple as the divine blueprint for our design. (Body, Soul and Spirit).
- Solomon's temple and its furnishings represent the different facets of the seven-fold Spirit of God that produces the Mind of Christ in us which is our key to Holy living.
- Learn the differences between spirit, soul, heart, willpower, and body.
- We saw how those "hidden chambers of our soul" can keep us "double-minded".
- We discussed the inner court rituals that the temple priests exercised in order to be "clean before God". It gives us a pattern as well. Remember the Spirit, the Blood, and the Water (word of God). The Bronze Lavers (Spirit): where we live an examined life in God's presence as he prompts us to confess, repent and forgive. The Holocaust Alter (Blood) where we give over to God everything that is not of faith, all our fears, hurts, resentments, rejections, haunting memories, etc.. Finally the Molten Sea: where we wash ourselves in the Word of God and experience intimate union with God.
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Session 5: Hearing God's Voice (Know His Will)

- We saw how various worldviews, the rational and the mystical, are contrasted and saw when combined it produces a thriving joy filled life with God.
- Understand our five spiritual senses and how they work (our Inner ear, eyes, and emotions of our heart, and the inner mind and inner will.)
- We gained a better understanding of how both sides, right and left, of our brain work and identify our specific preference.
- Key #1: We learned to recognize God's voice as spontaneous thoughts which light upon our minds.
- We looked at the various ways God communicates to us through logos (content/written word) and rhema (spoken) words.
- We learned how to test whether the thoughts are from God or some other sources.
- Key #2: We learned how to quiet ourselves so that we can hear from God.
- Key#3: We looked into how to look for a vision as you pray. Focusing our eyes on Jesus.
- Key# 4: The power of journaling was showing to be the key to writing in faith, believing the flow of thoughts and pictures is from the Lord, knowing that you will be able to test them later. It will serve as a source of remembrance.
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Session 6: Hope/Blessings (God’s Reward Standards)

- We looked at the two perspectives on life. Living with either a temporal or eternal view of life. Are you living for the “dot” or the “line”?
- Recall the basis for human motivation. Motivation revolves around what we “hope for”. Hope basically causes us to behave in certain ways in order to get our needs met.
- Hope always lives in the direction of profit, gain, and the reward of blessings. Remember “The Motivation Matrix” handout. The world’s way or God’s way of getting our needs met.
- We went over in detail the doctrine of eternal rewards and the Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ; its purpose, time, and place.
- We revealed many of the reasons why this doctrine is not being taught in our churches by exposing many of the misconceptions, confusions and false teaching of this doctrine.
- We proclaimed the two kinds of sin by which we will be held accountable. The sin of commission and the sin of omission.
- We looked at the parables of the Laborers, the Talents, and the Minas in order to gain a biblical view on how God will bless us. Reward is based on a large extent upon our “faithfulness to opportunity”.
- We proclaimed several metrics by which God will judge the quality of our works (stewardship, obedience, circumstances, and the great commission). The three tests: Relationships, Motive and Love. Finally we painted a portrait of a life that God rewards (seeking, submitting, self-denial, serving, suffering, sacrifices, and sharing).
- We shared what the Bible says about the nature of eternal rewards. The crowns, the power, the possessions, and pleasures.
- We answered the question; will believers experience shame, guilt, regret, grief and remorse at the Bema seat?
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- _____

Session 7: God’s Love and Finding Your Purpose (Mapping Your Future)

- We discussed the nature and character of God demonstrating that all His attributes work together supporting one another such as: His triune nature, His Sovereignty (Creator), The law and His justice which flows from His Holiness, and His love and wrath for mankind which culminates at the Cross.
- We addressed the number one issue that challenges the Christian faith. If God is good why does He allow evil and suffering especially to those in His family?
- Once again we made the Call to live a holy life before the Lord. The key is to live a purposed filled life and discussed the importance to having a personal “Purpose Statement” not only for you but for your POD group as well. This is your vision, your mission and purpose for living, with which we will now close out this session.
- Remember our activities (behavior) flows out of you we are (our Identity).
- _____
- _____

In summary read the article in the Resource Guide “The Big Picture” by Tom Umberger
Finally, REMEMBER THE REMEMBER CARDS FOR EACH SESSION!

➤ Living a Purpose Filled Life:

Most people do not know the purpose of their existence. Nevertheless, they yearn to live meaningful lives. Many organizations have begun by promising that membership in their group will satisfy this longing for a purposeful life. “Self-actualization,” “Self-renewal,” “Self-confidence,” “Self-aggrandizement” and “Self-help” are all buzz words used by those seeking to sell others on how to fill this void.

This desire to have our lives **count** for something is how God has created us. It is only through the living God that we can learn our reason for existence. Jesus understood His purpose for being in the world, as recorded in John’s gospel:

John 17:4 “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.” NASB95

Paul also had a clear perception of his purpose; once he had met the Savior on the Damascus Road:



Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. NASB95

Just as Jesus and Paul understood their reason for existence, it is our task to understand our purpose as well. While many people have been taught to manage life via a “goals and objectives” model, few have been instructed to give thought to the source of those objectives. **The Scriptures teach that purpose precedes planning.** Yet most people could not state their purpose, relying rather on other people and organizations to provide them with meaning and direction for their lives.

God’s View of Purpose:

The Bible reveals that God’s purpose for His people has three dimensions: that which is ultimate, that which is universal, and that which is unique.

Ultimate Purpose: The book of Revelation and the Old Testament prophets tell us that God has an ultimate purpose which includes the whole created order. We can only catch a glimpse of this ultimate purpose, however, DeVern Fromke in “Ultimate Intention” sums it up well; That God May be All in All (1Cor. 15:28). This is the ultimate realization: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will have glory, honor, and satisfaction, in a world without end.

- **The Father** receives a vast **family** of sons like the first born.
- **The Son** receives a glorious **body** for His expression (that’s us).
- **The Holy Spirit** receives a **temple** of living stones for His eternal abode.

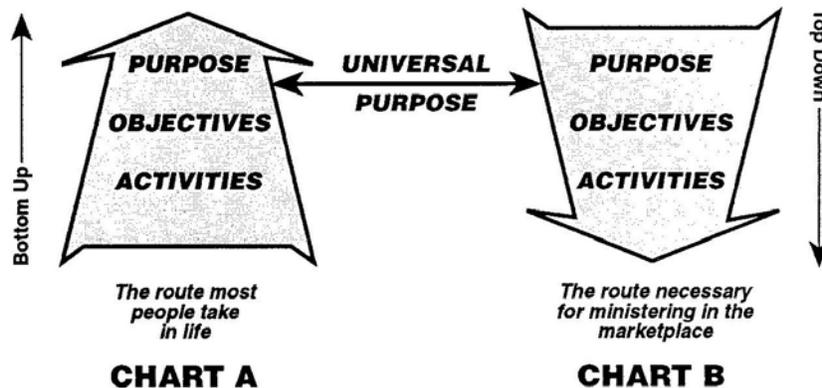
Universal Purpose: God is in the people business. He is calling to Himself a redeemed people who will share eternity with Him. Our purpose, as the people of God, or what we have called His universal Purpose, has four components:

1. To **know** God. (Jeremiah 9:23-24).
2. To **become** Christ like (Romans 8:29).
3. To **understand** the program of God. (Psalm 103:7).
4. To **become involved** in the program of God. (The Great Commandment Mt. 22:36-40; to be complete in Christ. Col. 1:28-29 and the Great Commission Mt. 28:19). Since God is in the people business we participate with Him by becoming involved in the lives of others through evangelism and discipleship. This purpose is identical for all His people; that is, all believers should adopt God's value system of the Word and the worth of people.



In other words: "To know Him and to make Him known"

Unique Purpose: "How do I determine my unique purpose in light of God's universal purpose?" Most Christians develop purpose for their Christian life by allowing their **activities** to define their purpose. This is illustrated in Chart A below. Many never get beyond objectives, while others spend their time confusing activity with achievement. The folly of a strategy such as Chart A is that **people are letting their activities and objectives dictate their purpose**, rather than vice versa. To be effective in any endeavor, people must allow their purpose to dictate their objectives and activities as in Chart B.



God's definition of His universal purpose is the starting point. It is not a question of discovering your purpose, for the God of the Scriptures has made our universal purpose abundantly clear. Rather, it is a question of your **willingness** to see your life in light of God's universal purpose and to commit your life to the personal purpose for which God created you.

As you move from purpose to objectives to activates, you shift from God’s universal purpose to your unique purpose. **Seeing yourself achieve your purpose is unique, this is often referred to as “[vision](#)”.** Vision is the perception of a unique application of universal purpose to an individual’s life. Whereas all believers have the same purpose, all do not have the same vision. So, how do you determine your unique vision (purpose)? By understanding your gifts, skills, history, calling and equipping.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What has God gifted me to do? _____

- What has God called me to do? _____

- In what way am I equipped to do it? Or what do I need to do to become equipped?



In this entire process, the work of the Holy Spirit is mandatory. The pursuit of purpose requires serious prayer and reflection, and sensitivity to God’s leading. **Once you know, beyond a doubt, God’s purpose for your life, you will begin taking bold steps of faith because you are confident you are headed in the right direction.**

Read the Article in the resource guide “The Big Picture” to get a quick summary of God’s plan.

Please go to the link in the Resource Guide for “Mapping Your Future” this is a wonderful resource that will walk you through the steps you should take towards discovering and writing down your unique purpose and developing a concise and concrete action plan that will encourage, motivate and guide your steps toward achieving God’s purpose for your life!

Please watch the video clip: “The Man in the Arena or The Critic”

“Man in the arena or The Critic” by Teddy Roosevelt

“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”



*“If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it: but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man profit, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds.”
Mat. 16:24-27 Jesus Christ*



“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? So, therefore, not one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 14:27-28, 33-35

Now Go and make disciples

THE END, AMEN!

Now watch the video clip from the movie Les Miserable's (filmed in 1978)

View it with this in mind:

- Jean Val jean had just been released from prison after 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread.
- See if you can see yourself in Jean Val jean; a prisoner set free by the grace of God.
- God has given you everything for life and godliness.
- He has bought you for a price.
- Now go and invest what He has given you in honest ways.
- He has set you free and has showed you the way of forgiveness.
- You no longer belong to evil.
- See the godly sorrow and repentance that was created in your heart.

NEXT STEPS:

- Please discuss getting together with your POD partners on an ongoing basis in order to continue the process of being transformed.
- You should consider reviewing in detail one or the recommended books or resources.
- Start developing your personal purpose statement and participate in the development of a purpose statement for your POD community.
- Start identifying, praying for, and encouraging others to participate in POD.
- Remember the transformation process: It encourages you to go through the teaching once again only this time you have the opportunity to invite others to join you (individuals or a small group). This can be a wonderful way to fulfill The Call to “Go and make disciples”.
- Explore ways to introduce the POD teaching into your local church.

- **FINALLY:**

REMEMBER: 1 Cor. 8:1 “Knowledge puffs up but love builds up”. Studying the Bible is important, but the goal is never knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we learn from Him, fellowship with Him, and obey everything He commands us. Love is the goal thru obedient holy living.

APPLICATION NEXT STEPS: As you review this session in your own personal quiet time, with your POD mates and others, ask yourself; What is God saying to me? and How am I going to respond? Begin now to look for opportunities to start sharing what you have learned with others. That is disciple making. Take advantage of the transformative power of prayer, journaling, writing out personal application/next steps, and memorizing key scriptures. Also, be sure to read the articles and one or more of the books mentioned in the resource guide at the end of each of the seven sessions.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS AND MY PERSONAL APPLICATION/NEXT STEPS:

Scripture I will commit to memorize from this session:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.