

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN



Lives are driven by two forces. "Small lives" are often driven to and from by the surface winds of change, petty problems, and disagreeable circumstances. Despair, depression and discouragement overwhelm. On the other hand, there are "great lives," gigantic in stature, which are never moved by the petty blowing of the surface wind. These great lives, with foundations running deep in immovable faith, are controlled by the deep-running movements of a wise, loving and all-powerful God. Let the winds blow? Let them move others around! Despite what happens, these lives remain steady and sure.

— Olden Cook

Passing through a country graveyard, I was struck by the inscription on a tombstone. The stone was by the side of the path where everyone could see it. It had been placed there in memory of a young man who died at the age of seventeen. It was, "Reader, stop and think; I am in eternity! and you are on the brink."
— William Moses Tidwell

CHAPTER 3 — "WHAT DRIVES YOUR LIFE" — SECTION 1

DIGGING DEEPER...

1. The author quotes Ecclesiastes 4:4, "*I observed that the basic motive for success is the driving force of envy and jealousy!*" (LB) Can you think of a verse from Scripture or principle that would set a higher standard and motivation for our diligence? What does it say? Write it out below.
2. If God says Jeremiah 29:11, "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the LORD, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" Why do we feel at times that God has abandoned us? What factors could create this illusion?
3. Acts 17:30 states: "*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."* Answer the two questions that are asked at the end of the chapter: "What did you do with my Son Jesus Christ? What did you do with what I gave you?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. The book describes how people are driven by various "circumstances, values, and emotions..." {p. 27.} The factors identified in the book include: guilt, resentment, anger, fear or materialism. Select one of these factors and write out a paragraph relating the impressions that you have about some one other than yourself who is driven by guilt, resentment, anger, fear or materialism.
2. The author identified these four benefits of purpose-driven living: (1) "meaning to your life," (2) "simplifies your life," (3) "focuses your life" and (5) "prepares you for eternity" (pp. 31-33). After selecting at least one of these topics, write a paragraph describing what you would hope to discover in a purpose driven life.
3. George Bernard Shaw describes how people can be full of themselves while failing to recognize that they are a: "...selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." Can you think of an example to illustrate Shaw's thesis? Describe what you have seen.
3. What do you feel most people's lives are driven by? What has been the driving force in your life?
4. What would my family and friends say is the driving force of my life? What do I want it to be?