

INTENTIONAL LIVING

“If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time” (Zig Ziglar)

So true! If we live with no real/meaningful sense of direction we will spend our years in unproductive, wasteful activities. Nobody intends to live a meaningless life, but many end up doing just that because there is no thought given to the direction of their life.

What if we live with a specific purpose in mind? Will our lives have a greater positive impact on our families and our world?

Will our lives matter? Will our story be significant?
The answer for each of us can be YES!

Regardless of age, gender, race, economic level, or where you’re from, you can live a life of significance.

“To be significant, all you have to do is make a difference with others wherever you are, with whatever you have, day by day.”

-John Maxwell, Intentional Living, pg. 4

The story of Ruth illustrates this point in a powerful way.

-Ruth 1:3-18

Speaking from a practical point of view, how do we live a life that makes a difference in the world? Maxwell says we must live with intentionality.

In other words, we must have a purpose for every day that we live.

“When you intentionally use your everyday life to bring about positive changes in the lives of others, you begin to live a life that matters”.

-J. Maxwell, Intentional Living, pg.4

The example of Peter and John in Acts 3-4.

-an ordinary day at the temple that changed the life of a lame man

Let’s think about living with intentionality in another way. When you see the wrongs in this world and say “Something needs to be done about that”, and you do nothing yourself, you are living an **Un**intentional life.

People who live intentionally get involved and do things to try to improve the conditions in the world. Albert Einstein said:

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”

Why do most people do nothing? Why are most people unwilling to get involved in the lives of others who are struggling?

- It may be because most of us look at all of the problems around us and we become overwhelmed and think there is nothing we can do to make a difference.
 - Elijah syndrome –I’m the only one left
- It may be because we’re afraid getting involved will cost us time and money that we’d rather spend on ourselves

The parable of the Good Samaritan –Lk.10

- 2/3rds of the people who saw the plight of the man who had been beaten, robbed, and left to die on the side of the road chose to pass by
- One man chose to get involved. He was living with intentionality.

Maxwell says, “A passive life does not become a meaningful life.” (pg.6)

So, don’t be passive in your life. There are some among us today who have not obeyed God to be redeemed by the blood of Christ. What are you waiting for? You will never live a life of significance if you remain in your sins.

There are some among us who barely have a spiritual pulse. Jesus would tell you to repent before He removes your lampstand.

Don’t be passive with your life, but live in a way that you can honestly say to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil.2:21).

And for as long as you live in the flesh, live your life in a way that is beneficial to the world around you and leading to the glory of God (Phil.2:23-26).

That is the lesson for today. The invitation of God is now offered to any who will come to Him for salvation or to be restored through your repentance and His forgiveness.