



Living Out God's Vision!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 20, Friday, August 25th —Discover Purpose

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26 ESV

Over the years, I have volunteered in various ways for my church and my community—when asked. I guess I don't think of these little volunteer jobs as my purpose, because I still pray—*Father, what are my spiritual gifts? What is my purpose?* Do you have the same questions? Are you praying for God to reveal your spiritual purpose?

It doesn't matter if we have volunteered at our church for years or if we are new Christians learning about service, it's not always easy to know our purpose. To help discover purpose, there are good resources available at CtK—the spiritual gift assessment reveals spiritual gifts based on our answers to a survey, and the growth track classes showcase many opportunities just waiting for us to join. It is also a good idea to stay in prayer as we ask God to lead the way.

As we identify our gifts and then consider opportunities to serve, perhaps, we will be slightly disappointed. I know that has been my thought a few times. I want to use my gifts to serve, but sometimes I wonder how my simple service glorifies God. Confession—I've always wanted to do something extraordinary for my church and for God, but instead, my service feels very humble and small.

Then, while reading the above passage, I thought about what it means to take up the cross and follow Jesus in today's world. I realized that all service, whether humble or extraordinary, glorifies God. Anything and everything we do for our church and our community takes up the cross because it's God's church and God's community. Anything and everything we give to God is our purpose. Service is about lifting up others. Service isn't about doing something extraordinary. Service is serving God and that privilege is both humbling and extraordinary!

What shall we give in return for our soul? Anything and everything!

Father, we come to you with a humble spirit and an extraordinary desire to serve you in your church and in your community. Thank you for your love, patience, and guidance as we discover our purpose. It is our desire to take up your cross and humbly serve you. Thank you, Father, thank you for everything. Amen.

Linda Algire

