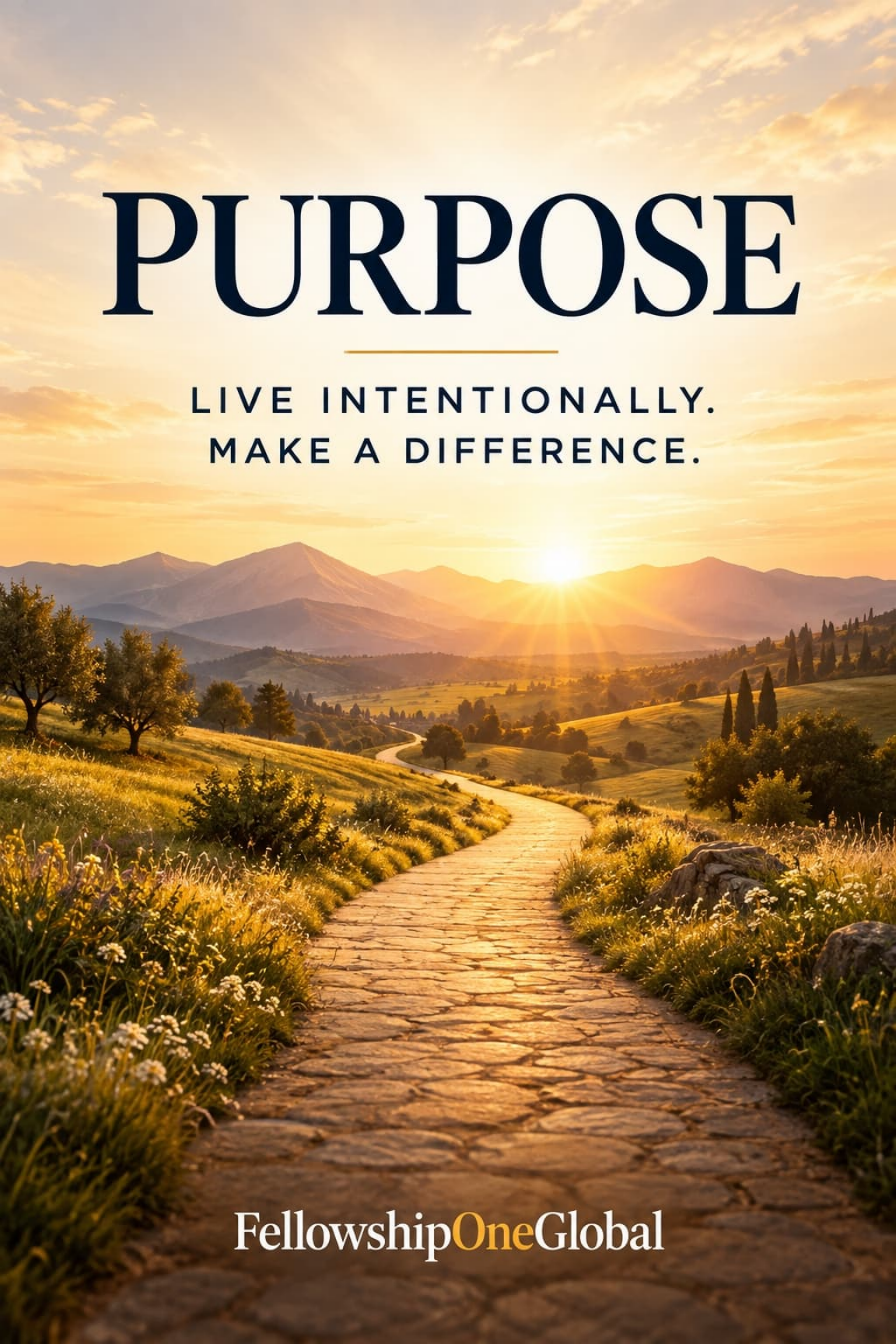

PURPOSE
LIVE INTENTIONALLY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
FellowshipOneGlobal

PURPOSE

Finding Direction, Using What You Have and Making Your Life Count

Pastor Funso

Published by FellowshipOneGlobal

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This book is written for general spiritual growth, personal development and practical reflection. It is not a substitute for professional medical, legal, financial or psychological advice.

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Dedication

For the person who has been asking, quietly or loudly,

“What am I really here to do?”

May these pages help you recognise what God has placed in your care and find the courage to use it well.

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Purpose Is Closer Than You Think

Perhaps you thought life would look different by now.

You may be doing many of the things you once hoped to do. You have responsibilities, people who depend on you and days that fill up quickly. Yet when everything becomes quiet, you sometimes wonder whether the life you are living is the one you meant to build. You are grateful for what you have. You can still feel unsure about where you are going.

Or perhaps something has changed. The work that used to give you satisfaction no longer does. Your children need you differently. A plan has fallen apart, and you cannot see what comes after it. You look at your life and realise that the answer which helped you five years ago no longer answers the question you are asking today.

I want to make room for that question without making you feel that you should be ashamed of asking it.

There is already enough pressure around purpose. We hear people speak confidently about what they were born to do, then compare their certainty with our private doubts. We begin to think that we are late, that we have missed a turning or that God has given everyone else instructions we somehow failed to receive. Even a good opportunity can become frightening when we expect it to explain our entire future.

You do not need to approach this book carrying that pressure. I am not going to ask you to reduce your life to one impressive sentence. A person’s life contains more than a job, a gift or a public achievement. You may be able to describe your work very clearly and still need to think about the way you live when

you come home. You may have no recognised position and still be giving something deeply important to the people around you.

Consider a parent sitting beside a child who has had a difficult day at school. The conversation may be slow. The child may not have much to say at first. Nothing about that evening looks like an achievement from the outside. But the parent’s patience helps the child feel safe enough to speak. That matters. So does the colleague who takes time to explain something without making another person feel foolish. These moments deserve a place in our understanding of a useful life.

Of course, there are ambitions that deserve your attention too. You may want to study, change your work, start something or develop an ability you have left untouched. Caring about those possibilities does not make you ungrateful. The challenge is learning how to pursue them while staying honest about your responsibilities and the person you are becoming.

That is why we will spend time on character as well as direction. It is possible to achieve what you wanted and discover that the pursuit has changed you in ways you do not like. You may become less patient with the people you love, less able to rest or too willing to excuse behaviour you once knew was wrong. A worthwhile goal should not keep you from examining its cost.

We will also look at what you already have, the work your gifts require and the habits that shape your days. Later, we will consider disappointment, relationships and the place of money in a meaningful life. Some decisions call for courage. Others call for a limit, a conversation or the willingness to change a plan. You will not need every part of the book in the same way, but I hope you will find room to think honestly rather than rush towards a conclusion.

Our faith belongs in that conversation. For a Christian, purpose is connected to our relationship with God and the way we treat people. Prayer helps us bring our motives and uncertainties before him. Scripture gives us wisdom to examine how we live. Neither should become a way of avoiding facts we need to face. You can trust God and ask a practical question. You can believe that he is at work in your life and admit that you do not yet understand what is happening.

If disappointment has brought you here, I hope you will not feel pushed to turn it into a lesson before you are ready. There are experiences that hurt, and they need to be acknowledged honestly. You do not have to make a painful story sound beautiful for your life to have a future. We will come to that carefully when we discuss the seasons that do not follow our plans.

Read at a pace that allows you to recognise your own life in the discussion. When a question stays with you, give it some time. You might write down what you are noticing or talk with someone who knows you well. The reflections are there to help you respond, not to give you another set of tasks at which to succeed or fail.

By the end of this book, I hope you will be better able to recognise a contribution worth making, understand what it asks of you and choose how to move forward responsibly. You may still have questions. That is all right. A clearer understanding of your life does not require you to predict everything that comes next.

For now, begin where you are. Bring your real circumstances into these pages, including the parts you would rather have resolved already. We will start with a familiar difficulty: waiting for purpose to become so obvious that beginning no longer feels uncertain.