



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

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Isaiah 60:1

## Message Notes

*Arise* ..... *To Surrender!*

*Isaiah 60*<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy;

"Arise" literally means to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ !

Why?

"Shine!" literally means to \_\_\_\_\_ !

How?

"Your \_\_\_\_\_ has come and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ upon You!"

Glory is \_\_\_\_\_ !

**"God is literally calling His people to get up and become light as a result of His light shining on them. In this transformational process God's glory will rise so brightly upon the lives of His transformed people that the world will be magnetically drawn to Him and His transforming light."**

**John 8**<sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Matthew 5**<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**John 12**<sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

**ARISE is a an intentional call to action for Point of Grace to be transformed as individuals and as a church body, to literally "become light" and "shine" for God's glory in key areas of personal and church life. Part One of ARISE will call Point of Grace to surrender to God's transforming work in the area of financial giving.**

The First Movement in ARISE is \_\_\_\_\_ !

**Galatians 2**<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

# A Personal and Small Group Experience

## Getting in Step with God's Purpose

One of the most revered statements of purpose in the church's history states: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." We find this purpose stated and illustrated over and over again in the Scriptures.

- David wrote: "*Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together*" (Ps 34:3).
- And he wrote of His own commitment to glorify God: "*I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever*" (Ps 86:12).
- Paul encouraged us to honor God in every thought, word, and deed: "*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*" (Col 3:17).

Doing something "in the name of Jesus" means we do it in His will and for His glory.

But glorifying God is not meant to be a laborious, joyless task. As we respond to His greatness and grace, our hearts delight in Him. David described his single-minded focus: "*One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple*" (Ps 27:4).

As we know and love God, our hearts are filled with His purpose and presence. We delight in following Him, and as David stated, we find Him to be beautiful. Our obedience, then, is not forced or reluctant; it is a glad response to the One who loves us so much and has bought us with a price. We love, give, and serve from hearts that overflow with love for God. Pastor and author John Piper conducted an exhaustive study of the love of God and our response of love in serving others. He concluded, "Love is the overflow of joy in God which gladly meets the needs of others." Our love for others is simply a response to God's love for us.

## GOD'S LOVE FOR US

Paul wrote: "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Rom 5:8)

And in one of the most beloved passages in the Bible, we are reminded of the price God paid to show that love: "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*" John 3:16

It is only because of God's love that we can experience eternal life. We go through life without true purpose until we accept the gift of eternal life. We cannot touch eternity in any form or fashion until we receive the gift of eternity — which can only come through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as our sacrifice—"He so loved the world that He gave . . ." Loving and giving go hand in hand — one is incomplete without the other. God's love is foundational to finding purpose in life.

## OUR LOVE FOR GOD

### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Jesus was asked, "Which is the most important commandment in the Law?" Look up Mark 12:29-31 for Jesus' answer to this question.

In this passage Jesus made it clear that the most important commandment is to love God with all that we are. God's ultimate purpose for our lives is to know Him and to love Him. Our relationship with God is to be alive, growing and passionate. The better we get to know God, the more we grow to love Him.

As we love God with all that we are, He becomes our number one priority. We begin to seek Him above all else. We gain proper perspective about what's really important, and we want to give of ourselves to Him and for His glory.

**Q. What does it mean to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?**

**Q. What are some daily evidences of a person who loves God with all that he or she is?**

**Q. In what ways does loving God help us to have true purpose in life?**

# OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

Jesus didn't stop with the command to love God. He knew that our love for God would spill over into love for others. Read Mark 12:31. In the second greatest commandment, Jesus calls us to love others as we love ourselves. This is a tremendous challenge.

**Q. What are some things that show our love for ourselves? Our love for others?**

**Q. What are some ways we can determine which is more apparent in our lives—love for self or love for others?**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*

When Jesus Christ was on earth, He did not seek self-exaltation. He did not seek to be served, but came to serve and give. It was His love for God that motivated his love for others. True love is not about feelings; true love demands action. Jesus actively showed His love by serving and giving Himself to others. He calls us to actively love others; He calls us to follow His example of serving and giving.

**Q. What are some reasons we tend to focus more on being served than on serving others?**

**Q. How could Jesus' example of serving and giving be reflected in your life and mine this week? This month? This year?**

## EXPECT A TRANSFORMATION

Read Romans 8:28-29.

Knowing God is foundational to having purpose in life. Apart from a relationship with Him, life has no meaningful purpose. Life is reduced to inward boredom and hopelessness. We manufacture temporary highs and invent thrills to deal with the emptiness that lack of purpose brings. Those who know God are the ones who find purpose and meaning. Knowing God calls us to respond to Him. Knowing God demands an active response that includes trusting Him, relying totally on His provision, worshiping and praising Him, and giving obediently to His work. Our relationship with God begins as we surrender our will and submit to His. His will for us is laid out in His Word. *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son..." Romans 8:29*

Our relationship with God deepens when we understand that His will is for us to be conformed to the image of His Son. So everything that happens in our life is His way of conforming us to that image. He allows things to happen in our life so He can reveal Himself to us more fully. So, our purpose is to glorify Him by responding to what God has entrusted to us by trusting and obeying. As we develop our relationship with God by loving Him and loving others we will experience a life with purpose.

**LOVING GOD + LOVING OTHERS = A LIFE WITH PURPOSE**

## PURPOSEFUL LIVING—WHAT IS IT?

**WHAT IT'S NOT** — *"It's not just temporal; it's more than living for the moment."*

The life of a disciple is not an easy one. It is comforting to say that we are living for Christ, but what do our lives really portray? Many times we tend to find purpose in areas that are not eternal. We seek out substitutes that may meet temporary needs/desires at the expense of God's eternal purpose.

**Some Substitutes We Put in Place of Purposeful Living:**

- **Possessions.** The Bible elaborates on the topic of money. It talks about earning, spending, saving, giving, investing, and even wasting money. It never comes close to suggesting that money will bring ultimate security. Martin Luther astutely observed that

there are three conversions necessary: "the conversion of the heart, mind, and purse." God desires that our purpose is in Him — not in our worldly treasure. God desires that we love him, not our possessions. Peter Marshall said, "Forbid it, Lord, that our roots become too firmly attached to this earth, that we should fall in love with things." (See Matthew 6:24)

- **Positions.** Some people are driven to achieve so they can have positions or status above other people. This, they assume, will give them true fulfillment, but it can't fill the hole in their hearts that only God can fill. (See Romans 12:3 and Galatians 1:10)
- **Pleasure.** Many of us seek personal pleasure as life's ultimate purpose. Our focus tends to be on the here and now — not on eternal things. As believers in Christ, we are called to live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ Jesus who died for us. God wants us to focus on a more noble purpose than self-fulfillment. His desire is that we set our minds on things above, not on earthly things. (See Colossians 3:1-3)
- **People.** God has ordained the family, and He wants us to love our family sacrificially. However, He does not want anyone or anything to take priority in our lives over Him. (See Matthew 11:37-38)

### **WHAT IT IS — "It is living life with an eternal purpose."**

Read Galatians 2:20 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

God made us and designed us to have an eternal purpose. Ultimately our purpose and goal is to worship Him for eternity. However, as we are on this journey toward eternity, God wants to use us to touch eternity with Him. This task is impossible in our own strength. It is only when we learn to die to self and give ourselves completely to the Lord that we experience purposeful living.

**Q. What would it mean for me to die to self and live for Christ?**

**Q. What are some ways God uses us to touch eternity?**

## **A PRAYER RESPONSE**

The message on Sunday called us to a life of surrender to Jesus Christ. In this study we are led to surrender our life's purpose to God and let Him be the definer of our lives. Life does become profoundly simple in His hands doesn't it, "Love God and Love Others". As you prepare to close in prayer it would be great if each member of the group could share:

- A fear you have about truly having a surrendered life to Jesus in all aspects,
- A specific area of life where you know it is hard for you to surrender daily,
- A blessing you see from growing in "surrendering" life to God. (ex. less worry, less controlling etc.)

It is important that these things that are shared get prayed for particularly. If you don't have another model to use as a group you may try "praying for the person on your right". That way each person gets to be prayed for and each person is privileged to pray for another person. God is loved when we surrender our needs to Him and others are loved when we pray for them.

### **Scripture & Meditation Guide for February 22-27**

#### **Helpful Hints:**

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on "words and phrases" which grab your heart's attention.
- 4) Ask God, "What do You want me to hear?" "Why this word at this time?" "How are You inviting me to respond?"
- 5) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!  
*Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him*

*These verses will remind you of God's incredible call of becoming light because of His light in our lives!*

- Monday: Isaiah 60:1-5**  
**Tuesday: Ephesians 5:8-14**  
**Wednesday: John 12:20-36**  
**Thursday: Matthew 5:13-16**  
**Friday: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11**  
**Saturday: 1 John 1:5-7**