

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com). Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,

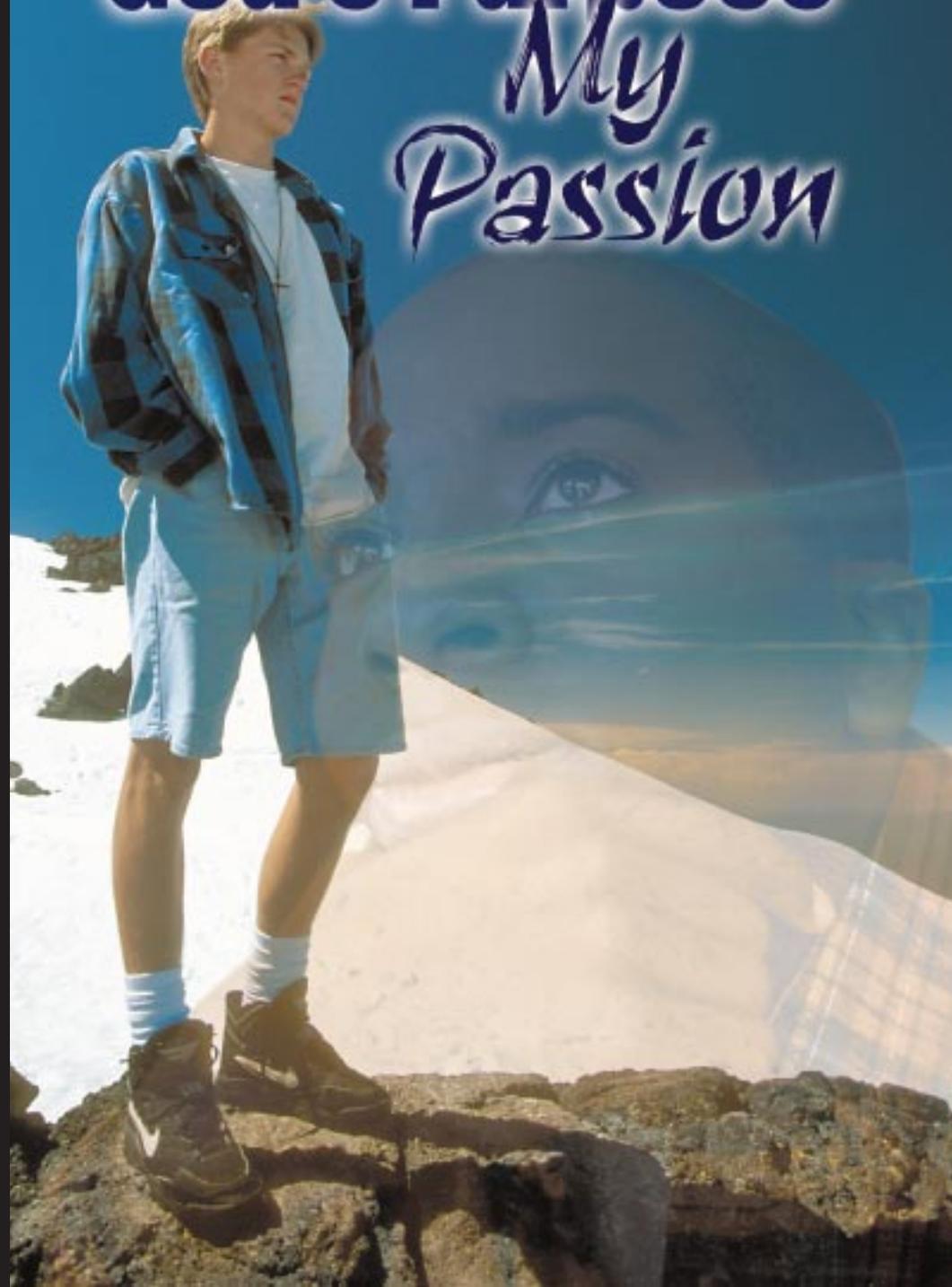


**An Outreach of Celebration Ministries**

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# God's Purpose *My* Passion





Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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# God's Purpose *My Passion*

Most Christians usually fall into one of three groups when it comes to finding God's will for their lives. Many are spiritually lazy—they want someone to give them a formula to follow or three easy steps that will automatically reveal God's plan for them. Others are so fearful of making a mistake or missing God's will that they are afraid to make a move in any direction. Then there are those who are ready to do whatever it takes to find God's will for their lives but just don't know where to begin.

If you fall into the first group, you need to know there are no formulas or steps to follow. If you are in the second group, you need to know God never wants finding His will for your life be a burden or a cause for anxiety. For those in the third group, hold on, you're closer than you think because God has given you a great promise in Jeremiah 29:11-14. These verses say, “I say this because I know what I am planning for you,” says the Lord. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Then you will call My name. You will come to Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will search for Me. And when you search for Me with all your heart, you will find Me. I will let you find Me,” says the Lord.

God will not reveal Himself or His plans to a half-hearted seeker. If you will seek Him and His purpose for your life with all your heart, God promises you will find it. It doesn't matter how

old you are, how many mistakes you have made, or detours you have taken, it is never too late to find out what God's purpose is for your life. You can still fulfill the destiny for which you were born.

If you will seek Him and His purpose for your life with all your heart, God promises you will find it.

Thousands of years ago God used a man named Mordecai to deliver an important message to a young queen named Esther. He said, “And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” If you are a Christian, the Bible says, “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.” You have been born again into a royal family and the message God delivered to Esther is the same word He

has for you today. You have been born at this specific point in history; you have come into your royal position in Christ for such a time as this. You have a destiny.

Perhaps you feel because you have no unusual gifts or abilities this doesn't apply to you, but that isn't true. If you will look throughout the Scriptures, you will find the people God used were not superhuman. They were ordinary, even obscure people, who simply believed God had a purpose for their lives, who had the faith to believe God would empower them to live out that purpose and were willing to be obedient to Him. This sense of purpose they had gave them a conviction which sustained them throughout their lives.

# God has a specific purpose and a destiny for your life that only you can fulfill.

If you have been saved, you are special because your Father is the King of Kings and He has not only made you part of His royal family, He has made you His ambassador here on earth. You have been chosen by Almighty God, and He has commissioned you and given you a divine purpose for your life. The time in which you live is significant and your life is significant. God has a specific purpose and a destiny for your life that only you can fulfill. God wants you to find your place in history. He wants you to discover and live out His plan for your life. You must believe this and you must catch a vision for what God has for you. Your life will never be any greater than your vision.

Finding and fulfilling God's purpose for your life will energize, strengthen, and satisfy you like nothing else can. Jesus said in John 4:34, "My food is to do what the One who sent me wants Me to do and to finish His work." Doing what God sent Him to do is what gave Jesus His enthusiasm for life and was His motivation to keep on keeping on.

Without this sense of purpose life will be bor-

ing and will lack joy and excitement. Most teenagers today know nothing of real happiness and contentment because they are bored stiff. If you are bored with life, it is the result of being outside of God's will for your life. But you don't have to live your life bored, frustrated, anxious, and confused—you have a purpose to fulfill.

There are some fundamentals of the Christian life that are God's will for all His kids. They are simple and they are not out of reach. You may be trying to get into "God's Will For My Life 401" when you haven't passed "God's Will For My Life 101." If you are not being obedient to do God's will in the basics or the prerequisites of the Christian life, then you will never find and fulfill God purpose for your life.

II Peter 1:2-8 is Christianity 101 and gives the basics which are God's will for all His kids. God promises with these character qualities in your life there is no way you can fail to achieve the purpose for which you were created. These verses say, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness; knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to

brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Your faith in Christ; your salvation experience, is where you start. Peter says in these verses that you should first add goodness to your faith. This is the most important quality because goodness is an inner purity of the heart that produces the desire for a clear conscience. Goodness means that the most important thing in life for you is keeping your relationship with God and your relationships with others right. It is allowing the Holy Spirit daily to shine His search light into every area of your heart and show you anything in your life that is keeping you from having right relationships.

When goodness is firmly established in your heart, then Peter says to add knowledge to that goodness. Do not ever get the two reversed because without a pure heart knowledge can become a weapon. God wants you to have a strong mind and the only way to do that is to exercise it. He says in Romans 12:2 not to conform to the world's way of thinking but to have your life transformed by the "renewing of your mind." In other words, study, meditate on, and memorize God's Word. Be inquisitive and ask questions as you read and study. Be informed about the issues of the day in which you live and know what God has to say about those issues. Take every opportunity to discuss spiritual things and the Word of God with other Christians who are older, wiser, and more knowledgeable. Be a reader and a thinker, and take the time to digest the material that you read.

Next Peter tells you to add self-control to knowledge. Goodness has to do with your heart, knowledge has to do with your mind, and self-control has to do with your will. Most Christians mistakenly believe that having self-control means resisting what is wrong—that self-control is all about willpower. But that definition puts the emphasis on the wrong thing. Self-control is about wanting what is right so badly that resisting what is wrong is natural. It is loving what God loves and hating what He hates. When you spend all your time focusing on what you shouldn't be doing, it will make you want to do it even more. But when you make your focus what is good and right, then your desires will follow. Self-control should include what you think about, what you say, and what you do.

You are instructed next to add perseverance to self-control. When you persevere, you will hold on during difficult or painful times to what is right and true and not give in to feelings and emotions. The mature Christian does not live or make decisions based on feelings. Emotions are God-given but He never intended that they be the guiding force in our lives. Perseverance means that you quietly, consistently, steadily keep "keeping on," in spite of your circumstances or opposition.

Then you are to add godliness to perseverance. Godliness is "God-likeness." You will become like those with whom you spend the most time. The way you become like God is to spend time with Him. Communication is vital to any healthy relationship and prayer is the way you communicate with God.



**M**ake sure you have a quiet time set aside each day to spend with God. The more time you spend talking to Him and listening to Him; the more comfortable you will feel with Him. Become a person of prayer and you will develop an intimate relationship with God. You can also get to know Him through the pages of the love letter He has written to you. The Bible is that love letter and it will reveal the nature and character of God to you. The more you learn of Him; the more you will love Him and want to be like Him.

Peter tells you next to add brotherly kindness to your godliness. Don't be discouraged or overwhelmed as the list gets longer. Remember Peter told you in verse 2 that you have been given everything you need to develop these characteristics in your life. The Holy Spirit's power and God's grace are at work within you to produce the qualities God wants you to have. The order in which these are given is very significant. Kindness will come easily when you have made godliness a priority in your life. Being "God-like" will enable you to see others through His eyes, to hear with His ears, and to feel with His heart. God is a forgiving, gentle, tender, compassionate God, who is full, the Bible says, of loving kindness. Your life is to be a reflection of these attributes, as well.

Then lastly, Peter says to add love to your brotherly kindness. The love he is talking about is what the Bible calls agape love. This is the unconditional love with which you are loved by God. This is pure, true love that always does what is best for the other person.

It can be accompanied by strong feelings, but it isn't based on feelings. It is a choice—a commitment to keep on loving, regardless of your feelings. God's love loves the unlovely and the unlovable, and He wants you to love the same way.

This is Christianity 101—these are the basics of the Christian life. These characteristics are God's will for all Christians and until you are serious about mastering the fundamentals of the Christian life, you will never go any further in finding God's purpose for your life. Major on these and your life will be transformed. This is His will for you—this is where you start.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **BE TRANSFORMED** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

The Bible contains a secret for you when you are ready to move ahead toward finding God's purpose for your life. Jesus gave it to us in His Sermon on the Mount. It is found in Matthew 7:7-11: "Ask, and God will give it to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you. Yes, everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And everyone who knocks will have the door opened. If your children ask for bread, which of you would give them a stone? Or if your children ask for a fish, would you give them a

snake? Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask Him."

In the Greek language, the words "ask," "search," and "knocks" are in the tense which is the present continuous mode. In other words we are to continue asking, continue searching, and continue knocking until God gives us the answer. The secret for finding God's purpose for your life is to ask and keep asking! God has promised He will answer every sincere, persistent request. You can't follow God casually or seek His will half-heartedly, and expect Him to reveal Himself to you. You will never find God's will for your life until you are passionate about it. God will never answer until He knows that you are ready to do whatever He says.

God will answer you, but, you must be able to recognize His voice when He does. The secret to knowing the voice of God is knowing God. When you really get to know Him, you will know His voice. God will speak, not in a booming voice, or by writing it in the sky. He will speak to you in your mind and God is always specific, clear, and definite when He

speaks. God is never condemning, and He gently leads and never drives. Most importantly, God's voice will **NEVER** violate His Word. God's will for your life never, under any circumstances, violates His purpose, His principles, or His priorities.

God will also speak to you through His Word or through the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life. Another way God often answers you or confirms what He has shown you is through the counsel of others. This should first come through your parents but if this is not possible then through other mature, godly people like relatives, friends, pastors or teachers. Proverbs 15:22 says, "Plans fail without good advice, but they succeed with the advice of others." You need people in your life whom you respect, and who care about you and your welfare.

Never seek counsel from someone who agrees with everything you do. Make sure the people you go to for counsel are older, wiser, and more experienced than yourself. Look to people who have long, solid track records in the area where you are trying to make your decision. You need counselors who can be advisors, fact-givers, and emotional balancers.

You will never find God's will for your life until you are **passionate** about it.

# Obedience to God and to His Word, regardless of your feelings, ...

If you feel strongly about a decision you are about to make but refuse to seek counsel about your decision because you are afraid you won't like what you hear, then you are making a big mistake and being a fool.

Even after you have found God's purpose for your life and you're traveling down that Destiny Road, there may be times when you will hit a bump and run off the road. Sometimes you will be able to steer right back onto the road, but at other times you may find yourself stuck in the mud. When this occurs it will be easy to get discouraged and depressed. If you understand why this happens and where the bumps are, you can steer clear of them.

Here are the two biggest bumps to watch out for:

## 1. Sin

When you willingly choose to sin, there are going to be consequences to pay. One of the consequences is you lose your sense of purpose and direction. This usually happens when you decide you know what is best for you better than God does. For example, you may have a need in your life that isn't being met quite as quickly as you think it should, so instead of trusting God to meet that need in His time and in His way, you take matters into your own hands. This takes God off the throne of your heart and puts you there. Trying to play god in your own life is sin and will cause you to run off of Destiny Road and into the mud.

You can also fall into sin when you start making decisions in life based on your feelings and not on the facts and promises of God's Word. The moment you make your feelings the object of

your trust instead of God's Word, you have opened yourself up to all kinds of wrong thinking and rationalizations. Feelings are highly unreliable and not to be trusted, yet the society in which you live has become very accustomed to living according to feelings. If you aren't careful, you, too, will allow your emotions to determine your direction in life. When you do this, how you feel becomes your compass and your god, and that is sin. Obedience to God and to His Word, regardless of your feelings, is the only way to get back on Destiny Road and stay there.

## 2. Disappointment

There is probably nothing that will bring more testing in your life than believing you are on the right road, that you have found God's purpose for your life, and to see things seemingly fall apart before your eyes. You need to understand that at times like these it may have been God Himself who put the roadblock in your life. He may have caused you to brake so quickly that you actually skidded off the road you were traveling and now you just don't understand what God is doing in your life. It is easy at times like these to get hurt, disappointed, and angry with God. These are the times when you must make a choice to hold on to the sovereignty of God like never before.

You need to understand that God pushes the "pause" button in your life for many different reasons. You may have some character issues that need work or a lesson that you need to learn before you can go any further down the road. There could be something ahead you are totally unprepared for which would

permanently wreck your life, so God wants to get you in shape for that challenge before you move on. There may be areas of weakness in your life you know nothing about that need attention. You must also accept the fact that God does things according to His timetable, not yours. So what to you may look like a trial or a delay is really God protecting you and perfecting His purpose and plan for your life.

If you are stuck in the mud on the side of Destiny Road because of sin, then agree with God now about your sin and repent. You will always find that genuine repentance will immediately put you back on the Destiny Road once again. If God has seemingly brought your journey to a halt, then you must accept that He is up to something good in your life and trust Him, even if you don't understand.

People who find God's purpose and destiny for their lives, all have one thing in common: They have passion—passion for God and passion for life. Let's look at both.

## 1. Passion for God

You must be passionate about your relationship with God. He must be your all in all, and seeking His Kingdom and His righteousness

must be the consuming fire of your life. God must be your reason for living and serving Him must be your highest joy. Someone has said that Christians must have a "magnificent obsession" for Christ. Paul said it this way, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His suffering..." (Philippians 3:10) Nothing can be more important in your life than knowing God and giving yourself whole-heartedly to Him.

The chorus that says, "I give You my heart, I give You my soul, I live for You alone. Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake, Lord have Your way in me" describes this kind of passion. The real answer to the question, "How do I find God's will for my life" is this: It isn't your life! You will only discover God's purpose for you when you come to grips with the fact that "You are not your own, you have been bought with a price." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) It isn't, "I have a plan and God you are invited to go along for the ride." It's "I am totally yours, Lord. You are my passion and my life. Whatever you want is OK with me."

... is the only way to get back on Destiny Road and stay there.



## 2. Passion in Life

Do you know your passion in life? How has God bent, shaped, and gifted you? Have you discovered what brings you pleasure and joy? Someone has said that if you will find your passion you will never work a day in your life. This is very true because when you are passionate about what you do, work then is not just a job, it is a joy. There are millions of people each day who get up and go to jobs they hate because they are not working in the area of their passion. What could be more defeating and depressing than to do that for 30 or 40 years?

Too many times a Christian will have the mistaken idea that there is no way God's will for their life could involve something they actually enjoy and are good at. Satan tricked us into believing that God's will is something that will make us miserable. Nothing could be further from the truth. God has designed and created you with certain interests, abilities, and talents. He did this, not by accident, but because these were to all be a part of His purpose for your life.

The apostle Paul realized his destiny in life was to preach the gospel—that was his passion, so He made tents to finance his ministry. During the time Paul spent making tents, I'm sure he was also sharing his faith one-on-one with the other tent-makers and merchants as he worked. I wonder how many of them came to saving faith in Christ while Paul was wearing his "tent making hat" instead of his "preacher hat?"

You must understand there are no small or insignificant people in the body of Christ, and there are no small or insignificant jobs in the Kingdom. Whatever God has called and gifted you to do, do with excellence knowing the destiny you are fulfilling, whether as a plumber or President, whether as a homemaker or CEO, whether as a famous evangelist or a "doorkeeper in the house of the Lord," are equally important to God.

You see, the attitude of your heart is much more important to God than what you do or where you go in life. The person who is a passionate, whole-hearted seeker of God and His will for their life is just as pleasing and precious to God as the person who has found and is living out God's plan for their life. If you will learn to rest in that truth, it will take the anxiety out of finding God's will for your life. Remember, being a whole-hearted seeker of God is His real purpose for your life.

Right this moment you may be feeling as if you have gotten so far away from God's will for your life there is no way you could ever recover what you have lost. You may be like so many Christians who believe that they only get one shot at God's best in their life, and if they messed up and missed it, they are doomed for a life of regrets and settling for second best.

The good news is that loss is not the emphasis of the Bible. God never dwells on what has been lost, but rather on new beginnings.

God's message for you will always be one of forgiveness, of restoration, and grace. God can resurrect His purpose for your life, if you will allow Him to. God will never write you off or give up on you. He is, and will always be, the God of second chances. Your Heavenly Father is in the business of salvaging lives. This doesn't mean He will always take away all the consequences of your sin, but He will repair and restore your life and put you back on the course He has set out for you.

The great apostle Paul, sinned, made mistakes, took detours along the way, and went through many hard times but he came to the end of his life being able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God" (II Timothy 4:6-8). Paul finished the race God had set out for him to run. Paul found and fulfilled the reason for which he was put on this earth and as a result found meaning and purpose in life.

Finding and living out God's purpose for your life is not a one time experience. It will involve staying in tune with God and dependence on Him every day for direction. Staying on course will be a lot like crossing a huge lake in

*...there are no small or insignificant people in the body of Christ, and there are no small or insignificant jobs in the Kingdom.*

a power boat during a storm. To do this you would line the bow of your boat up with the particular harbor you are trying to reach. You desperately want to reach your destination, but the wind and the waves keep slapping the side of your boat, knocking you off course.

Unless you are constantly making the necessary course corrections, you won't make your destination. If you only make a course correction occasionally during your crossing, you will end up a long way from where you wanted to be. Making the necessary corrections more often will put you closer to the harbor, but to miss it two degrees is still to miss it.

Spiritually, you may be off course by only two degrees, and right now that doesn't seem significant. But if you are looking at an entire lifetime, the farther you go down the road of life, the farther off you will be from where God wants you to be. If you are going to come to the end of your life being the person God wants you to be, you must continually be evaluating your life daily to see if there are "course corrections" you need to make. Zig Ziglar has said, "What you get by reaching your destination isn't as important as what you become by reaching that destination."