



## Part 9 – My Story

March 10, 2019

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### Five Purposes for both life and the church

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### Parts of a story

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**Psalm 139:13-16, NLT** – *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

*“It’s not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It’s far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born **by** his purpose and **for** his purpose.”<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Warren, Rick. 2002. *The Purpose Driven Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, p. 5.

**Hebrews 13:5, NIV** – *God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*

**Philippians 1:6, NIV** – *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

**Romans 12:1-2, The Message** – *So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

### Next Steps

- What conflict has shaped your life? Has it shaped you toward godliness or selfishness? Why?
- What can you do to embrace conflict and allow God to use it?
- Do you have any “been there, don’t that, overcame it with God’s help” stories? Write them down. How can you offer those to God so that he can put them to use?
- What “plot twists” have you experienced in life? How have they shaped you?
- In both positive and negative ways, how has the setting of your life affected the person you have become?
- In what ways does your character reflect Christ? (Read Matthew 5:3-11; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 2 Peter 1:5-9.)
- In what ways does your character diminish the reflection of Christ? What can you do about this?
- Have you learned to worship him wherever you are? Why or why not?
- Do you represent God’s family well?
- What are you doing to grow in your relationship with Christ?
- How are you serving the family of God?
- Are you sharing Christ so that others can come to know him as Savior?