

Mailing Address:
PO Box 797
Molalla, OR 97038

Pastor Dale Satrum



Phone: 503-829-5101
Fax: 503-829-9502

Foothills 2008 Resolutions
“Follow More Of God’s Purpose”
(Part 2)

Intro:

- God has a specific purpose for this church to follow. There is a corporate spiritual agenda that we are chasing after. It is NOT OK for us to get satisfied with where we’re at or how much we’ve seen God do in the last 10 years. (Thankful, yes! Satisfied, No!)
- Explain typical church life-cycles. We will NOT dishonor our God by being a typical church! I want to challenge us as a church to RESOLVE to “Follow Even More of God’s Purpose” for Foothills this year. Resolve to press on! Resolve to not allow complacency to kill off the purpose of God in our lives and church!

HOW? (4 critical decisions we need to make.)

I. We Must Personalize God’s Purpose

Jer. 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you’, says the Lord...” (NLT) God is a God of purpose. It is not an accident YOU are at this church.

A. Believe that God has a purpose for you to fulfill here

Eph. 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” (NLT)

1. So many people just have a hard time simply believing what Scripture says. This verse was written and recorded for you! God has planned good things for you to do! You were saved for PURPOSE!
2. God’s purposes are carried out in the context of the local church. You are here because God has purpose for you to fulfill here. The church is the spiritual environment where God works in and through you.
3. The biggest problem with most people in experiencing God’s purpose for their lives is not ability, but rather, unbelief. Most people tend to believe that God has specific purposes for a select few, and they are not one of them.
4. Their unbelief keeps them from experiencing God’s purpose for their life. *Heb. 3:19 “And so we see, that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.” (NASB)* Referring to Israel NOT experiencing the promise and purpose of God for their lives because they refused to believe Him!
5. Belief is a choice NOT a feeling. Belief is an act of the will. It doesn’t mean there is a removal of all fear / anxiety / or doubt. It is a decision to trust and act upon what God has said.

6. **Illustration:** I think children sometimes illustrate belief / faith the best. Jesus talked about the significance of the “faith of a child”. Children just believe and act upon what they’re told. My kids – Rachael fishing with me crossing streams on my back / jumping swimming pools /
- Can you believe an act upon what God has said about you?

B. Agree to participate in God’s purpose here

Luke 7:30 “...the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves...” (ESV) (God had a purpose for them that they rejected.)

1. We all can reject God’s purpose for our lives. Either through unbelief or blatant refusal to participate...either way, we refuse.
2. Faith agrees to follow / faith agrees to participate / faith decides to get on God’s agenda. If you can believe God brought you to this church for a reason, then the next choice of faith is to decide to get involved.
3. Where you get involved is less important than the decision to get involved. Most people don’t know where to start. That’s OK! God will direct you as you choose to involve yourself in what He’s doing.
4. Discovering God’s purpose for your life is a process. If you never involve yourself in the process, you’ll never discover it. We have to stop waiting for some epiphany / some lightening bolt, and start embracing the process.
5. HOW? There are a variety of ways and places for you to get involved. Ministry Leader list – Info Center. Foothills Web Page – Show
6. Will you personalize God’s purpose for **YOUSELF** this year by believing and participating right here? (Some of you have waited long enough.)

II. We Must Prioritize God’s Purpose

A. Following God’s purpose requires sacrifice

Mark 8:34 “...If any of you wants to be My follower...you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross and follow Me.” (NLT)

1. This word has just become unacceptable in our culture. It is no longer valued or appreciated. It’s not a sought after value, it’s actually looked down upon. Instant gratification is the value of the day!
2. The reality of life is simply nothing of real value happens without a willingness to embrace sacrifice. (Marriage / parenting / education / lasting friendships / success in business – or career / being in shape / managing money – financial peace
3. God has called us to participate in the transformation of a geographic area. He has called us to target the 45,000 people in a 10 mile radius around us. He has called us to reach them by ministering to every need we see. AND, this is not going to happen without sacrifice!

4. Sacrifice means that we are willing to put aside our selfish desires in order to accomplish something of greater value. God is calling this church to something great. BUT, it will require sacrifice.
5. What kind of sacrifice? Whatever it needs to be! Sometimes we sacrifice our time / our resources / our comfort / our security / our desires / our personal agendas /
6. WHY? In order to see the purposes of God a reality in our midst! I'm tired of seeing what man can accomplish. I want to see what God will do with a group of people who are willing to sacrifice for His purposes!

B. Following God's purpose requires maintaining a singular focus

*Phil. 2:2 "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on **ONE purpose.**" (NLT)*

1. We must keep the main thing the main thing! Foothills is here to reach the 1000's of unchurched people in our geographic area with the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ! (Purpose Statement)
2. The tension comes as we continue to grow and fulfill God's purpose, it will require us to deal with facility issues along the way. This is why we started our KAC last year. (Kingdom Advancement Campaign) **slide**
3. We call it the KAC because our focus has never been about buildings but about God's purposes. It's about advancing His Kingdom. I want to explain to you how our focus on purpose is influencing our decisions regarding the purchase of this building and the KAC.
4. Explain putting together a KAC Team to begin work with a bank to explore our options. I want to share with you these results and our perspective on these options.
 - The owner believes this property to be worth \$3.2 million based upon an assessment of the property he did a year ago.
 - We will have to do our own independent assessment and negotiate the price from there. (Price will depend upon the market at the time.)
 - Our goal with the KAC is to raise 1 million for a down payment
 - We are working with The Bank of the West – Largest church lender in the US –
 - The obstacle we did not foresee was that the Bank of the West will not consider the True Value lease as monthly income.
 - This leaves us with 2 options: (1) Have a bigger down payment (2) Increase the churches monthly cash flow to handle a larger mortgage. WHY? Because 1 million down is not enough.
5. So, instead of being discouraged, we need to be able to hear what the Lord is telling us. I believe one thing He is telling us is to NOT lose our singular focus. Don't get sidetracked with all of this. What does this mean?

- We will continue to raise \$1 million. This was the figure the Lord gave us and we're going to stick with it. Whatever we do it will require an enormous amount of money. Let's finish the goal!
- We will not become obsessed with buying the building or raising money. This is NOT what this church is about.
- We will maintain our priority of pursuing God's purpose for this geographic area by reaching more people. As we reach more people, the finances will come. BUT, the focus will be on vision!
- This will require us to be creative with the space we have. (For example: A Saturday night service next Fall? We need leadership for this.)
- This will require us to stay focused on outreach. (For example: Some of you were disappointed we didn't do BAW last summer – Explain and share about Sports Camps. – We need leadership!

Can we keep prioritizing God's purpose better in 2008 here at Foothills?

III. We Must Practice God's Purpose

Eph. 4:16 "Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (NLT)

A. God's purpose is practiced as we all get uniquely involved
(*as each part does its own special work*)

1. Earlier I told you how important it was for you to get involved. Now I want you to understand how significant your unique contribution is to this church.
2. God's purpose for your life is tailor made to fit the way He made you. You were made for ministry and God put unique qualities in your life just for this purpose.
3. When you begin to serve, you don't recognize these things. But eventually, you begin to move in directions that you were made for. He wants us to be "fitted together perfectly". It's like finding the right puzzle piece! This is one of the most fulfilling experiences you'll ever have!
4. Discovering your unique contribution is what helps the church grow and become all that God desires it to be. I believe all the puzzle pieces are here for what God wants to do. They just haven't found their perfect fit yet.
5. How do I find my unique way to serve God? (Stay involved / Be willing to experiment and try something new / acknowledge the passions of your heart – what makes you "light up"? / Take the "Discovering My Purpose class / ask other people.
6. Are you willing to discover your unique way to serve God this year?

B. God's purpose is practiced as we continue to develop our contribution
(*helps the other parts grow – Growth is the expectation in the church*)

1. Some of you have no passion for what you're doing because you've been doing it the same way for so long you're bored out of your mind! A commitment to growing our gifts and abilities for service should be the norm.
2. If you're a Greeter, you should get better at it / Kids church / Nursery / Resource Center / musician / teach / preach
3. God deserves our best, but so do the rest of us. You deserve my best and I deserve yours! As you grow and develop, I am influenced by your growth. Your growth effects my growth. The development of your gifts and abilities impacts my life.
4. Lack of personal growth leads to stagnation – stagnation leads to complacency – complacency leads to the death of a church.
5. We can't afford to have this attitude: "I've been doing it this way for the last 2 years and it has been good enough. Why isn't it good enough now?" Because God expects growth and we need it to be healthy. Has complacency taken root in your heart and mind? We cannot fulfill God's purpose in an environment of complacency.
 - Can we grow at practicing God's purpose this year?

IV. We Must Persevere In God's Purpose

Phil. 1:27 "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel." (NLT)

A. Perseverance happens in the context of unity

1. We can't persevere alone! We are designed to persevere together...in community. Our stamina for the journey lies with each other.
2. God's purposes in this life are wonderful to experience, but they are not easy. We don't finish the race because we are so strong as individuals. We finish the race well because of the strength of our unity.
3. This is why attacking a churches unity is one of the primary targets of the enemy. If unity can be destroyed, so is the perseverance in God's purposes.
4. This community has a history of churches not maintaining their unity. As a result, we have people walking away from the church and God in droves!
5. I praise God for the unity we have here, but it must be maintained / guarded / protected if we are going to persevere in what God is calling us to.

B. Unity perseveres as we rally around the right purpose

1. If we don't strive together for the right purpose, we will strive against each other. This is a huge problem in most churches. I have seen churches blow up over things like the purchase of an organ / color of the carpet / whether or not to allow coffee in the auditorium / how to dress on the platform / service times. Ridiculous!!!

2. We are called to stand firm in unity for “The Faith of the Gospel!” The Gospel is worth fighting for! Not our petty opinions and ideas!
3. God placed this church in this community 10 years ago to reach the 1000’s of unchurched people in our geographic area with the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ; and equip them to experience His presence and demonstrate His power in their lives. TRANSFORMATION!
4. I make NO apologies asking you to rally around this purpose. If you do not like / agree with the purpose of Foothills, you should find some church that you do agree with! WHY? Because unity is Not optional!
5. BUT, think of the power and influence if we rally around God’s purpose for us? If we follow it more? If we increase our unity around it? Think what could happen in this next year? (Rocket or a Bomb!)

Can we resolve to follow more of God’s purpose this year as a church? Will you be willing to Personalize it / Prioritize it / Practice it / Persevere in it this year?