

Created With Purpose

By Jimmy Stevens

INTRODUCTION: The Lord never promised Christians an easy life.

- A. Becoming a Christian does not remove all evils and ills of our world. Acts 14:22
- B. Becoming a Christian saves our souls and gives us inner strength to live righteously in spite this wicked world. 2 Cor 1:3-7, “*consolation*”¹
- C. As a Christian, when you are troubled how can you be consoled or comforted?

I. Examples of consolation. (ex: Job, David, Jonah, Jeremiah and others).

- A. **Moses**, Num 11:1-6, 10-17, Israel complained about the food sent by God. Moses was deeply discouraged. God expressed his confidence in him and reminded him of his purpose. He became a great leader of Israel.
- B. **Joshua**, Josh 6:18-19, 27, 7:1-13, 8:1-2, After taking Jericho, he lost the battle of Ai. Joshua was discouraged and complained to God. God expressed his confidence in him and reminded him of his purpose. Joshua made corrections and led Israel to conquer Canaan.
- C. **Elijah**, 1 Kgs 18:1, 17-22, 40, 19:1-18, When Jezebel sought to kill Elijah he hid in the wilderness and a cave. Feeling alone and sorry for himself, God expressed his confidence in him and reminded him of his purpose and the work he still had to do and it brought him out of hiding.
- D. **Paul**, 2 Cor 11:22-28, 12:7-15, 1 Cor 15:9-10. Paul suffered many things in his life and even complained about one affliction. God expressed his confidence in him reminded him of his purpose and work still to be done. He went on to gladly fulfill his purpose of spreading the gospel. Eph 3:1-8, 2 Tim 4:5-8

II. Common denominator.

- A. They all struggled with challenges in this life and became discouraged at times.
- B. God reminded them that he was with them and that they still had a purpose in life to “*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.*” (Eccl 12:13).
- C. They all still had work to do, and God believed they were qualified to do their work.
- D. God urged them to repent of their paralyses and get to work.
- E. By correcting their problems and getting back to work, they overcame their discouragement.

CONCLUSION: These principles still apply to us today. We were created with purpose and work to do. Let us never lose sight of that, and it will help us through the times of discouragement.

¹ From “console”: “To allay the sorrow or grief of”, *American Heritage Dictionary*