

“May he give you what your heart desires and fulfil your whole purpose” Psalm 20 verse 4

We all know the story of Aladdin, who finds a magic lamp in which there is a genie who offers him three wishes. All sorts of dangerous adventures follow during which Aladdin discovers his destiny.

If you were suddenly faced with the opportunity to have whatever your heart desired and to fulfil your purpose in life, would you immediately know what to ask for? In the New Testament, the daughter of Herodias, wife of king Herod, is offered anything she could want, and, driven by wickedness asks for the execution of John the Baptist. In the Old Testament, king Solomon of Israel is asked by God himself what it is he wants. He could have power and wealth beyond measure, but instead asks for wisdom so that he can rule his people.

He is the man who deliberately explored every human endeavour in order to find fulfilment in life. After thoroughly sampling pleasure, work, power and wealth he found that all were meaningless, vanity and “a chasing after the wind”. His conclusion? In one place he says “Wisdom is supreme, so get wisdom,” and in another “fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity.”

If we were put on the spot, we might have trouble identifying exactly what is our heart's desire and our whole purpose, Speaking from our human nature, we might say that our desire is to prosper and our purpose to achieve our life's ambitions. But our hearts, our inner beings, were created to thrive best when they are fixed on God himself as our greatest desire, and our primary purpose in life is to be in loving relationship with him so that we can live our lives fruitfully for him.

Prayer

Father, I don't know what the future holds for my life, but I do know that if I am in a loving relationship with you through faith in Jesus, you can so work in my life that I will fully accomplish the purpose for which you brought me into being. Help me, Lord, to obey you in all things, because my greatest desire is to know you, and knowing you, to love you, and loving you, to serve you. In Jesus' name, amen.

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