



PURPOSE

February 14, 2021

GO DEEPER

In Jeremiah 1:4-5 we read that God knew and consecrated Jeremiah for Himself before he was born. Jeremiah's calling as a "prophet to the nations" was appointed to him before he was even formed in his mother's womb. There is an intimacy and nearness conveyed between the Creator and His creation.

Is this kind of calling specific to Jeremiah? Do you think this intimate knowledge that God has for Jeremiah is true to others? To some people? To everyone? Why or why not?

God's words to Jeremiah from verses 4 to 5 encompass a very deliberate action by God for Jeremiah's life calling and purpose: "I formed you," "I knew you," "I consecrated you," "I appointed you." And yet in response to this, Jeremiah voices his protest/disagreement with his ability to carry out God's calling upon his life.

How does God respond to Jeremiah's rebuttal? Do you think Jeremiah had a good reason to believe he was not ready or ill equipped for the calling?

How does the knowledge that God knows us intimately from before our birth change how we think about our own abilities, personalities, gifts, and strengths?

In the sermon, we learn that Jeremiah was called to address the unfaithfulness of the nation of Israel. Israel was no longer doing what she was called and PURPOSED to do.

What was this purpose?



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This same purpose applies to all of our lives. No matter what we are called to do specifically, *our chief joy and concern is to glorify God, proclaim Jesus Christ, and praise Him*. This is true in our public and personal lives, home life, workplace, family, online, offline, or at church.

What does it mean to glorify God?

We learn that Jeremiah proclaimed God's Word to Israel for more than forty years. Although he was a faithful servant of God, there was "little to show" for his life's work (in an earthly sense).

What made Jeremiah's calling to bear the Word of God as a prophet to Israel so difficult in this time of history? What were some examples in the sermon of God's servants who had to endure similar hardships?

What examples do you have in your own life of hardships in the midst of living out God's calling in your life? What are the joys? Describe what it means to enjoy God. Describe what it means to be enjoyed by God.

Pastor Kevin teaches that "purpose is what powers perseverance."

What is the definition of perseverance?

How are purpose and perseverance related?

What can you do to remind yourself of how God created you, sees you and equips you? Why is this important when it comes to calling and fulfilling our purpose to glorify Him and enjoy him forever?