

Why YOU Are Alive

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY ARE *you* alive? For *what purpose* did God put you here on this earth? Do you know?

This is the greatest, most important question your mind can contemplate just now—the most vital question of life, yet the one most people think about the least.

If, as some believe, God's purpose in our being alive is to get us "saved"—and if, as so many believe, all there is to getting "saved" is accepting Christ as Saviour, then WHY is it that God does not instantly take each one to his reward as soon as he accepts Christ—*away* from all the continuous trials, heart-aches, and sufferings of this life?

The answer, briefly stated, is that God created the human family for a very great PURPOSE—a purpose I'm afraid most professing Christians, and even most ministers, have missed entirely.

Almighty God is the Supreme Artist—you see His artistry in magnificent sunsets, beautiful landscapes, awe-inspiring mountains, in the star-studded sky. God's work of artistry is CREATION. He is the supreme, Almighty, Creator of all.

But now in MAN, God has set His hand to produce the crowning pinnacle of His own works of creation, yes, even higher than the angels. In man He is creating perfect, righteous, holy CHARACTER! And that is the highest, most lofty achievement that even the Supreme Almighty Creator can accomplish!

God's PURPOSE in having brought *you* into this world—in permitting you to live and breathe—is to create in and thru you His own supreme MASTERPIECE of creation!

Is *that* important?

Oh, but you say—"Why, I'm not important—I'm not of much consequence—how could the Great Omnipotent God be specially concerned about me?"

It's true, *you*, as you are now, certainly are not very important—certainly of very little consequence—so far as your own inherent ability and capacity is concerned. God made you a little lower than the angels. He made man a little higher than dumb animals, but on his own power and initiative, man has sunken down to depths lower than any animal would be capable of reaching.

Man has *sinned*—yes, YOU have sinned!

You are full of faults, weaknesses, short-comings. You have bad habits.

You probably have some "secret sin" you have not yet mastered and overcome, which *no one* knows anything about except just *you*—and GOD!

Then can you realize the sobering TRUTH that it is the purpose of the Everliving God to make out of *you*—sinful and unworthy and incapable tho you have been—an immortal, spiritual and holy CHARACTER so pure, and noble, and righteous that ultimately the Eternal God Himself can look upon you with loving pride as the SUPREME product of all His creative power thruout eternity?

Can your mind grasp the awful greatness—the solemn IMMENSITY of that truth? And it *is* a truth. Of course, there will be many others on the same lofty high plane—just as holy and righteous characters as you. But you are a human being, and that is God's PURPOSE in human existence!

It ought to fill you with awe—with WONDER! Impossible? Not at all! It would, of course, be ridiculously, utterly impossible for *you*, of yourself, to transform yourself into such a creation. But with God ALL THINGS are possible, and this is the zenith of all things. Remember God, is ALL-powerful—He is the ALL-mighty. His power is not limited.

And that's exactly why you were born—why you are alive, and reading these very lines this minute! GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOU! A great, mighty, SUPREME purpose! Does it make you feel rather humble—lowly, insignificant, unworthy? It should!

But you see, you, yourself, do not have to do this. It is GOD who is the Creator. And His purpose—His supreme purpose of all eternity—is to create in YOU, as one precious member of the human family, this very pinnacle of CHARACTER. God Himself will do this creating. HE will do the work. HE is the Divine Sculptor. You are only a piece of human clay in His Hands.

But this character will not be created in *you* unless and until you, yourself, make the DECISION—unless and until you simply *hunger* and *thirst* for the pure, holy character of God to be built within you—unless and until you crucify this mortal flesh and its cravings and desires and tempers—unless you REPENT bitterly and deeply of SIN, and will exert your utmost effort to put it down and hold it under, crying out earnestly to God with broken, contrite heart continuously, *believingly*, TRUST-

ING Him to forgive you and to fill you with His LOVE, His understanding and wisdom, His faith, His power, to simply take you into HIS capable Hands and to make of you what He purposes, and what you are utterly unable to make of yourself. Yes, you have your part in it—but it is GOD who will impart to you HIS righteousness—His *very own* Holy and righteous CHARACTER!

If you'll REPENT, and come to God thru Jesus Christ as Saviour, trusting in His precious shed blood for the remission of every sin you ever committed, trusting the risen, Ever-Living Christ as High Priest to come literally inside you, thru His Holy Spirit, and to mould, fashion, shape your character—then you'll see that the Creator is STILL CREATING, in you, the very highest work of all His entire works of creation!

Yes, Christians are being "CREATED in Christ Jesus *unto good works*" (Eph. 2:10),—"CREATED in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

For this tremendous purpose, you were made of mortal clay—made a little lower than the angels. Yes, made subject to pride, vanity, passions and tempers, the lusts and desires of the flesh. Character is something which cannot be instantaneously created. It grows, and is developed thru EXPERIENCES—and experiences require TIME.

It requires the human life-time, during which one must suffer temptations, encounter obstacles, endure tribulations, overcome self. But you have GOD'S POWER to draw on. It isn't really you doing it—it's God. Your part is to repent, surrender fully, wholly, unreservedly into His Hands—seek Him, cry out to Him, TRUST Him. You have your part in it, of course—else there would *be* no character!

And all this is WHY "it is thru much TRIBULATION we must enter the Kingdom of God,"—and "MANY are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Eternal delivers him out of them all,"—and "all who will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall* suffer persecution."

Are *you* persecuted, opposed, for your belief and Christian life? If not, you'd better fall to your knees quickly, and REPENT, and ask God to show you WHY you are not living godly in Christ Jesus! If you are, REJOICE!—and read Matthew 5:10. But don't deliberately bring on persecution thru lack of wis-

dom or thru misdirected zeal!

Jesus Himself is our example. If they persecuted Him, so shall we be persecuted if we truly are His followers! Jesus SUFFERED! But it is recorded, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being MADE perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (Heb. 5:8-9).

Again, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; . . . for it became Him . . . to make the captain of their salvation PERFECT thru sufferings." (Heb. 2:9-10).

Jesus *became* perfect! He was born human, and was not perfect. He was *made* perfect, THRU SUFFERING—He *learned* by the things which HE *suffered*!

So *we* suffer. We LEARN thru suffering. It develops character. If we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him!

Do circumstances come up in your life—adverse circumstances which may first bring fright, consternation, worry, but which drive you to your knees seeking deliverance from God—circumstances which you later see were actually sent from God to *punish you*—to teach you a lesson—to bring you closer to Him? God says He chastens every son whom He loves! So don't grumble, gripe and growl, REJOICE!

Do you have enemies? Can you see that the Devil is literally after you, perhaps using deceived people under his sway, even tho they pose as Christians? Well, REJOICE! If Satan is angry with you, then you must be one of God's elect! Read Revelation 12:12-17. But you don't need to fight back against your enemies. God will fight your battles for you, if you'll just TRUST Him! Pray for your enemies—and be sure it's not a prayer *against* them. If their works are evil, do not fellowship them—avoid them, but never be unkind to them. Everyone whom God is using, and who is accomplishing anything for Christ will have enemies. But keep your heart filled with the LOVE of God, your mind filled with His FAITH, and TRUST HIM!

Of course, you do have *one* enemy whom you, yourself must fight—continuously, relentlessly. That enemy is your own SELF! You are your own worst enemy. If you, with God's help, overcome *him*, you shall sit with Christ on His throne, ruling over the nations!

God is the great Master Sculptor. We are His clay. If we submit into His hands, He will shape, fashion, and mould out of our lives a beautiful, holy and perfect character that shall one day, when finished, become His crowning MASTERPIECE!

It is for *that* purpose that you were born, and are alive. Don't let another day—not another hour, or minute, pass by while you neglect or overlook that great PURPOSE! Yield yourself fully to God—rededicate your life—re-consecrate yourself, utterly and wholly, and do it NOW!