

Control “F”

A Quest for Purpose

D. Jason Prince Victor

Blessing Youth Mission
8, Church Colony, Vellore, 632006, India
< Tel : 00 91 416 – 2242943 / 2248943 >
www.bymonline.org

Control “F” A Quest For Purpose

by D. Jason Prince Victor

Copyright ©2020 Blessing Youth Mission

First Edition 2020

Published By

Blessing Youth Mission

8, Church Colony, Vellore, 632006, India

< Tel : 00 91 416 – 2242943 / 2248943 >

www.bymonline.org

Printed by

Bapuji Printers

5, Kurban Ali Street,

Woods Road, Mount Road,

Chennai - 600 002

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic, or mechanical without permission in writing from the publisher.

Bible Versions marked as ERV, CEV and ESV are taken from Easy to Read Version, Contemporary English Version and English Standard Version respectively.
Used by permission.

Acknowledgements

Page Set	: Bercy Jason
Cover Design	: Alwin Aniz
Proof	: Jerisha Melbin

Dedication

*Dedicated to my school and college friends who were my
soulmates during the
formulative stages of my life.*

Contents

Prologue

Be Warned

Part A

1. What Is Success?	14
2. Where Can Happiness Be Found?	19
3. Is There A Life After Death?	25
4. Isn't Life Boring?	29
5. Can Science Explain Everything?	33
6. Does True Love Exist?	37

Interlude - The Narrow Path

Part B

1. I Am The Light	46
2. I Am the Bread of Life	52
3. I Am The Way, The Truth And The Life	58
4. I Am the Good Shepherd	64
5. I Am The Vine	68
6. I Am the Door	72
7. I am the Resurrection and the Life	76

Epilogue

For Further Reading

Prologue

Have you ever wondered where you came from? Have you ever looked at the stars at night and marveled about the magnificence of the universe? Who are you? What are you? Are you the product of a random chance? Are you just a bag of chemicals? Did you have a beginning before birth? Is there a continuum after death?

I believe that, these are the important questions that every human need to ask. Some, indeed ask and conclude in a more somber way, like that of the Russian philosopher Leo Tolstoy who said,

“The only absolute knowledge attainable by man is that life is meaningless.”

Is that so?

Does not life have a meaning? Am I not living with a purpose? To achieve greater heights in academics; to carve a niche in business; to contribute for charity; to help the poor and needy; to cherish love in relationships.... Yes, we all live for a purpose. But the question is, how meaningful is that purpose?

Since most of us admire the people who have achieved considerable academic, political and professional success, deep within the recesses of our hearts there is a deep craving for something that is great or meaningful.

It is this sense of purpose inside each individual which naturally becomes the driving force of their life.

This book is all about analyzing man's deepest needs and doubts that arise out of that.

In order to have a reference point to proceed, I have chosen two great personalities who lived in the pages of history.

One is the mightiest King, Philosopher, the all wise King Solomon. He tasted success as no other king did. He forged marital alliances with hundreds of kingdoms. He excelled in building great monuments for himself and his kingdom. He researched plant and animal life. He was also a poet and a literary genius. His fame spread far and wide. He was and is the epitome of greatness and success, in all its contemporary terms.

The other person was born in a manger to a poor couple. He did not command an army nor was educated in academic circles. His teachings on love and humanity were unparalleled. He lived a very short life. People loved Him but the authorities hated Him. A few followed Him and very few were faithful to Him. He redefined success and greatness. He claimed that He came to die for the people. He gave a new meaning

to the meaning of life. He is Jesus Christ.

I have taken the liberty to quote extensively from two books in the Holy Bible. One is Ecclesiastes, written by King Solomon and the other is the Gospel of Jesus Christ written by John, one of the closest disciple of Jesus Christ.

As you turn the pages, I believe that more light will be shed on the deeper things of life.

Now towards the quest...

Be Warned

Part 'A' deals with the more perplexing questions of life. It prods into our deeper recesses of human heart's desires and passions. The readers are fore warned that parts of Part 'A' may sound depressing. Be patient to walk through the deep questions that Solomon asks. But if you grow impatient and want answers, you can straightaway jump to Part 'B' starting from Page 42.

Part A

What is success?

*To laugh often and much;
to win the respect of intelligent people and
the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate the beauty;
to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better,
whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch
Or a redeemed social condition;
to know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded!*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

1 What is Success? 🔍

King Solomon: Do people really gain anything from all the hard work they do in this life?'

This is the question raised by King Solomon in the beginning of his book. We all work. We labour. We work hard. 'For what?', asks the all wise King Solomon. Is it to achieve great things? Is it to acquire name and fame? Sincere work is motivated by a strong sense of goal in life. Life coaches and counsellors ask people to set goals.

When we set goals, we proceed with motivation. When we proceed, there is a sense of satisfaction. When we achieve greater heights, there is a sense of success. But great academic success and excellence do not come overnight. It is sweat and toil. It is hard work and perseverance. But are not, all these virtues like hard work, pursuing a goal and perseverance, noble ones?

But Solomon had a different perspective and He questioned the validity of our labour.

And he has valid reasons.

For Whom?

King Solomon:-“ I began to hate all the hard work I had done, because I saw that the people who live after me would get the things that I worked for. I will not be able to take them with me. Some other person will control everything I worked and studied for. And I don't know if that person will be wise or foolish. This is also senseless.”²

He was perplexed that all his toil would ultimately benefit somebody else. One generation works hard, but the next generation squanders it. One understands the value of money as they move from rags to riches. But the next generation, who knows would do the right thing? In order to acquire wealth, one has to work hard, spend sleepless nights, forfeit the hours due for family and children and in the process one may even lose their health. “What for?”, asks Solomon. “For whom?”, he questions.

Strivings of The Heart

King Solomon:-“What do we really gain from all of our hard work? Our bodies ache during the day, and work is torture. Then at night our thoughts are troubled. It just doesn't make sense.”³

Solomon understood that the human heart is erratic and fallible. Oh! how the heart is swayed by external things. We see a car and want to have it. We see a house and want to possess it. But this striving is not an unchanging one. It keeps on changing. It changes as we mature and grow older. It changes

under the influence of friends. We study a subject for several years spending sleepless nights and one day wake up and say, 'This is not my passion.' And so we pursue our next passion. We pursue our passions and finally they too die down. Solomon laments that work brings vexation. Even in the night, the heart does not sleep, it keeps thinking, scheming, dreaming about the things that will bring satisfaction and joy. But strangely, as your own experiences and mine would attest that, this is not the case.

Work Vs Pleasure

King Solomon:-“Why am I working so hard? Why don't I let myself enjoy my life?”⁴

Another thing that concerned Solomon was that work, especially strenuous work deprives man from their legitimate pleasures. As business expands, we spend less time with the family. Promotion comes, and along with it comes the change of work spot. Families are separated. Children are robbed of their parent love. Happiness is lost. All for one single reason – work. Doesn't more work means more money? And more money mean more joy!?

We need money. But money cannot be tied to happiness and satisfaction in life. Most of us fail miserably in this area. Joyful moments, once lost cannot be retrieved. We may earn a lot of money and plan to spend in the later years. But it would be a period when the children would have grown up and the physician would have advised us to take less food.

For what and for whom are we toiling? Why do we deprive us of happiness for the sake of work?

We strive for satisfaction in our work. We aim for joy in our jobs. But for many, it is just a distant dream.

More Money, More People

King Solomon:-“The more you have, the more everyone expects from you. Your money won’t do you any good—others will just spend it for you.”⁵ When we work and earn more money, invariably people who eat our earnings would increase. And we would be watching with our own eyes. One man toils and earns but several men sleep and eat. What a paradox! And it cannot be avoided. When we are insignificant and poor, there would be few friends and few people depending on us. When we have money to spend, more people would share in our dining tables, or at least there would be expectations of help from different. For what and for whom are we toiling and laboring? For me or for others?

No Net Gain

King Solomon:-“It is very sad that people leave the world just as they came. So what does a person gain from “trying to catch the wind”?”⁶

For several years we have toiled and bought houses and properties, but nothing will be ours when we close our eyes. Our properties have to be handed over to somebody. Our bank accounts need nominees. In the final analysis, we come back to square one. Just as I came into the world, so will I leave the world.

Nothing will be mine. No degrees, no dresses, no achievements, nothing! All the gain of my toil will be for others. As I came crying into this world, so will I leave.

No wonder Solomon was perplexed about work and toil that is being carried out under the Sun.

-
1. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 1:3 ERV
 2. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 2:18,19 ERV
 3. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 2:22,23 CEV
 4. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 4:8 ERV
 5. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 5:11CEV
 6. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 5:16 ERV