**Purpose and Mission Statements (DESTINY)**

**By Dr. Paul G. Leavenworth, the Convergence group**

Now that you have begun to identify your core values, you can move on to discovering and developing your purpose and mission statements. These statements form your best sense, to date, of who you are becoming (purpose) and what God wants you to do (mission). As we grow and mature, we will get a clearer and clearer sense of both of these.

Our core values tend not to change much, but our sense of purpose and mission will become more defined and focused as we remain faithful. Remember the “little-big” principle (Luke 16: 10) – “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much” (NIV).

Let’s take a look at what I mean by purpose and mission. They are not the same thing, but they go together:

* Purpose (“being”) – sense of purpose or calling based on Biblical core values.
* Mission (“doing”) – your best understanding to date of what you believe God would have you do with your life.

**Introduction to Mission Statement**

A mission statement is a brief description of what God wants to accomplish through us. Effective mission statements have the following characteristics:

* They Integrate an individual’s understanding of God’s “processing” in their life.
* They blend together an individual’s Biblical values, gift mix, and vision.
* They assist a person to better understand their role and place in the church, marketplace, and community.
* They provide perspective and encouragement to persevere through difficult times.
* They provide a context for decision making as a person become more focused in life and leadership.

Remember our three steps for developing an effective mission statement (DESTINY)? Let me review them here before you start working on your purpose and mission statements. We will focus on **Step 2** here.

**Steps for Developing an Effective Mission Statement (DESTINY) and Strategic Plan (STRATEGY)**

*Step 1: What has God taught me from his Word and/or life experience? (Purpose – “being”)*

* Biblical core values – personal values from the Word that help form our worldview and lifestyle
* Core values – personal values that motivate life and leadership behavior

***Step 2: What is God calling me to accomplish? (Mission – “doing”)***

* **Gift mix – combined cluster of spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and acquired skills**
* **Vision – best sense of God’s future**

*Step 3: How do you plan to accomplish your mission? (Strategy – “intentionality”)*

* Strategic Plan – a plan to accomplish God’s vision (mission)
* Accountability – standard and structure for evaluation, encouragement, and intentionality