

Where Are You?

Echo Church | Week 5 | February 2, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.
Exodus 33:15 (NKJV)

The Presence of God Awakens Purpose

"Where are you really?" Are you walking in purpose or just wandering in potential? Are you living out what God placed inside of you, or are you stuck, disconnected from the very One who activates the purpose in you?

Frame the concept of "purpose" with clarity. **Purpose isn't just about what we do—it's about walking in alignment with the One who created us. Without God's presence, our purpose becomes a grind instead of a gift.**

Highlight how Moses' life and calling were shaped through his **relentless pursuit of God's presence**. **Without the presence, his purpose would have crushed him.**

We prepare for the performance not the presence.

Purpose isn't a product of striving—it's a byproduct of intimacy with God. Moses didn't stumble into his purpose by accident. He pressed into the presence and trusted God to lead him step by step. The same is true for you.

When you prioritize God's presence, He'll reveal and align your purpose. He doesn't just call you to something; He walks you through it.

Main Points:

1. Your Purpose Begins in His Presence

Key Scripture: Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- God didn't create you just to exist; He handcrafted you with intention! But here's the catch—purpose without God is just hustle.
- Look at Moses' life. Before the burning bush (before the presence), he was a fugitive, wandering in the desert with no clear direction. Only in the presence of God did his calling become clear.

Application:

- Consider whether they've been pursuing purpose without first seeking God. Ask, "Have you asked your Creator what He created you for, or are you busy chasing what feels right?"

Practical Step 1: Start carving out *intentional* time in His presence this week. Before you ask God for answers, sit with Him and seek relationship. Purpose isn't unlocked through information but through intimacy.

2. God's Presence Prepares You for Your Purpose

Key Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Purpose doesn't happen overnight—it requires preparation. God often works on you in the process before He releases you into the promise.
- Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness *before* God called him to lead Israel. Why? Because preparation happens in obscurity. God will often work on your character before He launches your calling.
- Make the connection between Moses' wilderness and your waiting season. The purpose is still real, even if the preparation feels hidden.

Application:

- *Embrace the process.* Instead of rushing to "arrive," ask God to shape you into the person He's calling you to be.
- Prep time isn't wasted time. David had his fields, Moses had his wilderness, and even Jesus had quiet years before His ministry began.

Practical Step 2: Spend time journaling your current season and asking God, "What are you teaching me right now? How are you shaping me for what's to come?"

3. God's Presence Aligns Your Purpose with His Plan

Key Scripture: Romans 8:28 – "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- We often confuse *our plans* with *His purpose*. But true purpose is about alignment with God's bigger story—His eternal plan for His Kingdom.
- Moses' purpose wasn't about making Moses look good; it was about leading God's people forward. When Moses partnered with God's presence, his life aligned perfectly with God's mission.
- **Debunk the myth** of DIY purpose. You don't have to "figure it all out" on your own. God's presence provides alignment, clarity, and confirmation.

Application:

- "Are you trying to force your calling into *your plan*, or are you surrendering your plans into *His purpose*?"
- True alignment happens when they stop building their *own kingdom* and start investing in His.

Practical Step 3: Pray bold prayers of surrender this week, like, "God, not my will but Yours." Trust Him to redirect where needed, even if it feels uncomfortable.

4. God's Presence Equips You for Your Purpose

Key Scripture: Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."

- God's purposes aren't achievable in your strength. If your purpose doesn't require His involvement, then it's not His calling on your life; it's just a goal.
- Look at Moses. He tried to argue with God, saying, "I'm not enough! I can't speak. I can't lead." But God's response was simple—"I will be with you." His presence would empower Moses to do what seemed impossible.

- God doesn't call the qualified—He qualifies the called. And He always equips you through His presence for the tasks ahead.

Application:

- Stop shrinking back in fear of inadequacy. God's presence is the ultimate confidence-booster! It's not about your limitations—it's about His power.
- The same Spirit who empowered Moses, Esther, David, and the disciples lives in *them*.

Practical Step 4: Before tackling a specific challenge this week, pray specifically for God's presence to empower you. Speak Philippians 4:13 over your life.

5. God's Presence Protects You While You Walk in Purpose

Key Scripture: Psalm 91:1 – "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

- Walking in purpose doesn't mean life will be easy—it means life will be covered.
- Moses faced enormous challenges—Pharaoh's resistance, the Red Sea, constant complaints from the Israelites. But because he stayed in God's presence, he remained under God's protection.
- God's presence is your shelter. It shields you from attacks, discouragement, and distractions.

Illustration: Use the image of an umbrella. Storms may rage around you, but as long as you stay under the umbrella, you remain dry and protected. God's presence is the umbrella that safeguards your purpose.

Practical Step 5: Meditate on Psalm 91 this week. When life feels overwhelming, remind yourself that staying in His presence guarantees God's protection.

Final Question:

"Where are you today? Are you walking in your God-given purpose, or are you wandering in confusion?"

Recap:

God's presence is the only place where your purpose truly comes alive.

1. Your purpose **begins** in His presence.
2. His presence **prepares** you.
3. His presence **aligns** your purpose with His plan.
4. He **equips** you.
5. He **protects** you every step of the way.

Challenge the Congregation:

It's time to stop running from your purpose or trying to manufacture it on your own. Get into His presence this week and ask Him to awaken what He's placed inside of you.

Closing Prayer:

Pray for those who feel lost, discouraged, or overwhelmed in their search for purpose. Ask God to reveal Himself in their lives, awaken their calling, and align their steps with His perfect will.

Landing Line: "If you want to discover your purpose, you won't find it anywhere else but in His presence. Where are you? Make sure it's with Him."