

Approaching Life

Finding a Purpose

What are we here for?

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Isaiah 55:1

He who has a why to live can bear with almost any how.

Neitzche

The aims of life are the best defence against death

Primo Levi

Spend some time - looking at your life, with all its ups and downs - engaging with all the stories that make up your life - and explore the freedom that comes from not having to fight or prove yourself. Following Jesus is about receiving, clarifying, and embracing your “givenness” - and making choices out of this deep sense of self. Have they been achieved, modified, abandoned? How do you think about these goals now?

What happens when you think about the purpose of your life?

Can you recall “goals” you have had?

Have they been achieved, modified, abandoned?

How do you think about these goals now?

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“God made me to know, love and serve him in this world, and to be happy with him for ever in the next”. St. Augustine says: “God has made us for God- and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in God”. These words are words about “ultimate concern”. Is life for you about being ultimately satisfied? Living congruently? Being and doing what matters? Finding freedom?

Rowan Williams says we have lost our souls because we have lost our sense of the “Other”. Only within the horizon which the “Other” brings can we discover our identity as something given. Only then - as we learn to live with our egos differently - can we let go of restlessly searching for satisfaction “out there”, and receive ourselves as gift.

From asking “Who is God?” and “What kind of God?”, ask yourself “Who is the God I address?” - and then ask: “What do I say to this God?” By listening to what you actually say, get in touch with your operative image of God.

You could also ask yourself: “Who am I?” But don’t stay there: Ask: “Whose am I?” Have you any sense that as a human being, made in the image of God, you have a God-given capacity for the infinite, for self-transcendence? That the ultimate “Other” ceaselessly calls to you through all the “others” in your life so that you wake up to and discover how related you are to everything that is.”

***“I cannot be me without you
and we cannot be us without them”.***