



Exchange Discussion Questions
18 October, 2014 - "Called by Name"

1. Which would you prefer: trouble-filled life of purpose or a pleasure-filled life without a sense of meaning? Why?
2. Purpose is a strong word. When you think of a 'purposeful' person, what springs to mind?
3. Cyrus did not force the Jews to return home but rather "shared his freedom." How do we share our freedom with others? Are we sometimes guilty of trying to push it onto other people?
1. What did Cyrus have to give up in order to fulfil his mission? Are there similar things in our lives holding us back from fulfilling our given decree?
2. The passages that mention Cyrus are quite clear in the prophecy regarding what Cyrus was expected to do. However the Bible is not clear about how we are to go about our individual missions. How do we find our own way to fulfil our mission of sharing freedom?
3. In the parable of the sheep and the goats it wasn't evangelism that was the test. Does every Christian have to evangelise? Isn't loving God and loving others enough?
4. Are goal setting and living in trust in God compatible? Did Jesus 'set goals'? Did Abraham?
5. Is a 'purpose driven life' just a Western conceit?
6. Is it the same thing to 'figure out what God's goals for us are and pursue them' and 'hear God's voice and follow him'?
7. Could Jesus have rejected his call?
8. Does God have a specific plan for every person - job, marriage or not, location, income etc?
9. Do you figure out God's plan for you or is it revealed to you by God? Are these different?
10. Many churches use the term 'the call'. To what are they referring? What does one do until receiving 'the call'?
11. The idea of a calling can be daunting as it sets up expectations that we may fear that cannot be met. Where can we get hope that we could fulfil God's calling for us if we chose it?
12. We are all created with a unique set of skills and have walked a path different to everyone else. What can each of us bring to the common goal of freedom-sharing? How can we work together to be more effective?
13. Solomon made some sad admissions about his life being meaningless. Why would a meaningless or purposeless existence bring despair in spite of having every then-known pleasure at his disposal?
14. What are some common purposes that compete with God's call for His people?