Munroe, Myles
In Pursuit of Purpose

17. The Benefits of Purpose

This chapter lays out seven benefits that come to those who discover and live within God's purpose for their lives. It opens with a word picture of a man waiting on a wharf for his wife's yacht, then draws each benefit from a biblical figure who knew their calling.

Key takeaways

- Confidence: knowing your purpose assures you your work is not in vain. Jesus, confident His power came from God's Spirit, boldly declared His messianic mission (Isaiah 61 applied to Himself at Nazareth).
- Protection: purpose guards you until it is finished. Jesus could not drown in the storm because the cross was His destiny. 'Purpose is your defense against premature death.'
- Perseverance: purpose keeps you going through hardship. Joseph clung to his God-given dreams through slavery and prison until they came true.
- Objectivity: purpose lets you see beyond visible threats. Elisha, surrounded by armies, saw chariots of fire and stayed unafraid.

- Contentment: Paul learned to be content in plenty or want because his sufficiency was in the Lord.
- Joy: purpose produces joy even in misery — Paul and Silas sang hymns at midnight with bleeding backs in a Roman jail.
- Intercession of the Holy Spirit: when you are committed to God's purpose, the Spirit prays for you and God works all things for your good.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Purpose doesn't make life easy. It makes it possible."*

Sums up the chapter's claim — purpose is what sustains you, not what removes trouble.

> *"Joy in the midst of hell is the hallmark of those who have truly found God's purpose for their lives."*

Captures the Paul-and-Silas benefit: purpose produces joy no circumstance can steal.

How it connects

The seven benefits each pair with a biblical life — Jesus, Joseph, Elisha, Paul, Paul and Silas — showing that purpose is proven in trial, not ease. The chapter ends with discussion questions inviting the reader to test each benefit against their own experience.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 4:18-19,21** -- Jesus claims His anointed purpose — confidence from knowing His calling.
- **Proverbs 19:21** -- God's purpose will prevail — basis for confidence.
- **Genesis 37; 39–46:7** -- Joseph's dreams and their long-delayed fulfillment — perseverance.
- **2 Kings 6:16-17** -- Elisha and the chariots of fire — objectivity, seeing beyond the visible.
- **Philippians 4:11-13** -- Paul's learned contentment in any circumstance.
- **Romans 8:26-28** -- The Spirit intercedes for those called according to His purpose; God works all for their good.