

The Monday Memo
From Birmingham, England
Written by Dr. John Stanko
Issue 91

There are only nine days until Christmas and I hope you have bought and wrapped my present! Of course, I am just kidding. . .sort of. But I'm not kidding that Christmas is almost here.

For the first time ever, I am sending an attachment with [The Monday Memo](#). I sent many of you the information about the [PurposeQuest](#) seminar on January 11 this past week, but did not send it to any of the overseas subscribers. So to make sure that **everyone** got one, I am resending it with this [Memo](#). If you can't register and come, and I hope you can, then please pray for a successful launch. As this seminar develops, it is just a matter of time before I conduct one in your country, and maybe you will help me teach it! If you have any questions about the attachment, please don't hesitate to write me.

Everywhere I go, someone usually asks me how I do what I do. They receive [The Monday Memo](#), look at my travel and speaking schedule and wonder how I can carry a schedule like I do. I get that question so often that I have developed a three-part answer that I would like to share with you this week. First, I would like to look at something that Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus:

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power (Ephesians 3:1-7).

1. 1. **God has given me something to do.** Paul wrote that he had a special administration of God's grace. I have the same thing. I am not portraying myself as Paul's equal, but truthfully, both you and I have something special from God to do and say just like Paul did. Our experience, gifts and purpose all work together to make what we have to offer something that the world has never seen before. The purpose message I have is unique and I want to work hard to see it distributed. In some ways like Paul, I am imprisoned by my purpose. I cannot **not** do what God has assigned as my life work.
2. 2. **I try to do what I do best.** From his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road, Paul made the Gentiles his focus. Yes, he visited synagogues where Jews worshipped, but only because he knew he could find believing Gentiles there who would be open to his message. He worked efficiently and God helped him do what he needed to do. I do what I do, in part, because I stick to what I do best, where I am most gifted. I am constantly evaluating what I do to see what I should and could stop doing. My efforts to develop the January 11 seminar are part of a plan to focus on how I can do what I do more effectively. The most courageous thing a leader can do at times is to make the hard decision to **stop** doing something, because there are only so many hours in a day.
3. 3. **I count on God's energy.** Paul said that he did what he did "by the gift of God's grace given me through the **working** of his power." The Greek word for **working** is "energeia." It is where we get our word for energy. When you function in your purpose, there is a divine energy that is working in you. You are like the burning bush that Moses saw; you burn but aren't consumed. What I do, I sense God's energy when I'm doing it. When I don't sense that energy working, I try to determine why it isn't. That may be an indication that I need to make some adjustments.

So with that in mind, I ask you to answer three questions this week as best you can. First, what has God given you to do? Second, are you doing what you do best as often as possible? And third, do you sense God's energy? As busy as I am, I don't feel fatigued or overwhelmed. I think that is the norm that God has for all of us. As you seek to answer these questions, I pray that you will find what it is that gives you divine energy and give yourself to that as much as you can. Have a great week!

**The Monday Memo
From Dallas, Texas
Written by Dr. John Stanko
Issue 92**

Today I visited the hotel where we will host the Seven Steps of a PurposeQuest™ seminar on January 11. It is a great hotel. I couldn't help but think that the meeting there could represent the beginning of a purpose movement that will see many, many people come to clarify and fulfill their purpose, not only in this country but around the world. I spent an hour with a man on Saturday morning and when we were done, I think he was surprised and overwhelmed at what had taken place. He had a much clearer understanding of his purpose and that will change his life forever. I want to help you and others have that same experience, if you haven't already. If you can, join me in Dallas on January 11 as we continue our purpose quest together.

I was reflecting on the Christmas story this week and how much turmoil Jesus' birth caused. Consider Mary who became pregnant outside of marriage, or so Joseph and her family thought. We see Joseph, who was ready to divorce Mary until the angel appeared and told him to do otherwise. We see Mary making a trip on foot and by donkey to Bethlehem while she was nine months pregnant. When she arrived, she had to give birth in an outdoor stable. Later, when King Herod heard about Jesus and perceived that He was a threat to his throne, Herod had all the male children two years or younger killed in Bethlehem. Yes, the birth of Jesus wasn't exactly the best of times for those closely involved.

That is how tough things can get when you function in your purpose. Until you clarify your purpose, life can be peaceful, perhaps uneventful. Once you set out on a course to fulfill your purpose, all heaven and some of hell can break loose. You may even find that you have enemies simply because you are trying to do what you were created to do.

Think of it. In the book of Genesis, Joseph wasn't popular with his brothers, but after he had his dreams that his purpose would be to rule over them, they conspired to deliver him into slavery. Moses was successful in Egypt until he began to rescue his people. Then Egypt and Pharaoh became his enemies. David was a shepherd boy who became a popular and successful servant of King Saul. But after David was anointed to be king (his purpose), Saul pursued and persecuted him. In the New Testament, a man named Saul was a successful Jewish evangelist and theologian until his fateful trip on the Damascus road. After that, Jews and some of his fellow believers became a source of suffering and pain.

And then there was Jesus. He stirred up some enemies at birth and then seemed to settle into a simple lifestyle in Nazareth for the next 30 years. But when He began to fulfill His purpose to seek and save the lost, He found many ready to oppose and even kill Him. Are you seeing a pattern here? Your purpose can produce circumstances that are painful and even dangerous. But if you understand this, you will see that the opposition is actually a confirmation that you are doing something right, not something wrong. Your purpose is so powerful that it will usually threaten someone, maybe even someone close to you, someone from whom you would not expect such opposition.

As you celebrate the joys of Christmas with your family and friends this coming week, I trust that you will spend a few minutes reflecting on the price that Jesus paid for you to enjoy what you have. And then I hope you will resolve to be a man or woman of purpose, to be a person who will see your enemies and opponents for what they are: a confirmation of the correct path you are pursuing. If you are encountering opposition, take hope! If you are afraid to embrace your purpose because it may make some unhappy, take courage! If Joseph, Moses, David, Paul and Jesus had enemies, you will too. But they made their purpose their life, and the rest is history. I trust you will join them. Have a great week!

**The Monday Memo
From the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue 93**

I trust that your Christmas was special and that you are looking forward to a new year with great anticipation. I am trying to take a few days to rest and recuperate from a busy schedule, but at the same time I am excited about and working on the program for January 11. The Seven Steps of PurposeQuest™ has the potential to help many people clarify their purpose and order their world. I hope you are one of them. You can register or get more information on the seminar program at <http://www.purposequest.com/seminars.htm>. Or write me with the word "Dallas" and I will send you what I have.

As I begin this week and as we look at the start of a new year (I love new beginnings), I am thinking of a passage found in Ecclesiastes 3:

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to
refrain,
6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.
9 What does the worker gain from his toil?
10 I have seen the burden God has laid on men.
11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of
men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
12 I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live.
13 That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of
God.

As you enter 2003, are you finding satisfaction in all your toil? If not, then perhaps the answer is found in the verses preceding that question which the writer posed. Perhaps the answer is in verse two, which states that there is a time to be born and time to die. The answer to your satisfaction may not be in trying to keep something alive but in seeing something die, even something that has become very special to you.

It is so very hard to determine the seasons of life and work. Something that began with such hope and energy may now be something that is taking from you the very life that it once gave. I have had several emails from people this past week who were all trying to fit 28 hours of work into a 24-hour day. There is just no way to do that. I have encouraged each person who wrote or called to find what it is they need to **stop** doing and then focus on what needs to be done. I've written about this topic on other occasions but it is still one of the most difficult things to do.

Activities, roles and even businesses and churches have a time to be born and then have a time to die. That is a part of the life cycle. Trying to keep something alive that is past its season of life is not only counterproductive, but also impossible. If you are like many people, you may be setting your goals and resolutions for the coming year. But if those resolutions have any chance of being fulfilled, don't you first have to face the fact that something else may have to come to an end before that new thing can come to life?

I am going through the same exercise that I am asking you to do. As I enter 2003, I am doing my best to evaluate **The Monday Memo**, the weekly Bible studies and my book writing. What season are these activities in? Should they continue or do I have to face the end of activities that I love so that new activities or direction can emerge in the coming year? All I can say as I face this process is "His will be done." I pray the same for you. Happy New Year and have a great week!

The Monday Memo
From the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue 94

Happy New Year! I trust that your holidays were enjoyable and that you are ready to enjoy a purposeful and productive new year! After resting over the holidays, I am now putting the finishing touches on the Seven Steps of a PurposeQuest™ seminar scheduled for this coming Saturday, January 11, in Dallas. I was reflecting today that I have served the Lord for 30 years, been in ministry since 1979 and taught on purpose since 1991. My objective this year is to work closely with as many people as possible to mentor and coach them to bring clarity to their purpose and order to their world. Today is the early registration deadline, but you can still come even if you decide to do so at the last minute. I hope to see you in Dallas.

This week I have been thinking about something Jesus said: "[Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him](#)" (John 7:38). The next verse described what He meant by this: "[By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive](#)" (John 7:39). If you have faith in Him, He promised that something would come from you that would be like a river or streams of living water, water that has life for you and others. In fact the second step of a PurposeQuest that we will discuss this coming Saturday is one of "flow." What does this flow mean for you and me?

The waters that flow from you, while coming from the Spirit's presence, should have your flavor. Those waters should taste like you; they should have the taste of your experience, gifts, and purpose. So many people, in trying to be spiritual, distance themselves from who they are and try to be someone they are not. But God made you as you are and comes into your life not to radically change you but to make the fullest, best expression of who He intended for you to be in the first place.

When you sing, the Spirit may be flowing from you, but it's your voice. When you counsel, the Spirit may be using you to help someone, but you are doing it utilizing your style and counseling technique. Even the writers of the gospels, who were writing the inspired word of God, used words, phrases and grammatical styles that were unique to them. The water that flowed out of them tasted like them, but it has brought the Spirit's life to many through the ages.

The water that comes from you and me must not be artificially flavored. You don't have to be like someone else to fulfill your purpose or to please God. You are free to be **you**, to find a flow of life and purpose that comes naturally and touches others. You don't have to try and eliminate any and all flavor from your water. God is working in and through you for His good pleasure. If you love music, then love it with all your heart and allow God to use that love to flavor your water. If you are a businessperson, then let the flavor of commerce or sales be what people taste when they "drink" you.

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Now there are some tastes that you must work to keep out of your flowing streams. First, there must not be any salt in your water (see James 3:12) that comes from cursing or gossiping. And there must not be any bitter taste in your water from grumbling or complaining about your circumstances (see Exodus 15:23). And of course there must not be any poison in your water that comes from sin or unresolved issues of the past (see Numbers 5:22-27). But apart from these things that can taint your water, you and I are to let the rivers flow, rivers of purpose that God can use to water our families, our nations and even the world.

Is there water flowing from you, and does it taste like you? Have you “dammed up” the flow out of fear, confusion or doubt? And what flavor are you? Are your waters vintage you, or have they injected the taste of someone else or of elements that make the water undrinkable? As you enter another week and another year, I hope that you will determine to have faith and let your rivers flow. Be a person of purpose. In other words, be yourself! If you’re good enough for God, shouldn’t you be good enough for you? Have a great week!

**The Monday Memo
From the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue 95
January 13, 2003**

The first Seven Steps of a PurposeQuest™ seminar is history and it was a success. The seminar was well attended and the feedback was encouraging. I will be in planning sessions this week as we lay the groundwork to take the seminar to other cities this year. I heard from many **Monday Memo** readers this past week offering best wishes and prayers for the seminar. Thank you so much for your support. It made all the difference in the world.

Thank you also for adding your friends and associates to **The Monday Memo** list. I am making an effort to get the subscription base to 10,000 as quickly as possible. You can read below how to add someone to the list.

As I was preparing for the seminar last Friday, one question kept going through my mind again and again. It is a question I posed to those present on Saturday and one I pose to you as you start another week. The question is: What are you afraid of? Don’t be too quick to answer as we examine this question together. In fact, you may want to take one minute and list four of five things that come to mind as you try to face your fears this week.

When I decided to do the PurposeQuest seminar last October, there was tremendous excitement and caution at the same time. Between October and last Saturday, I believe I faced every fear possible. What if no one comes? What if the weather is bad? What is the material isn’t relevant? What if no one comes? What if I lose money? What if no one comes? (You can tell that my greatest fear was that no one would come!)

Someone once told me that courage isn’t action in the *absence* of fear; it’s action in the *presence* of fear. As I was studying fear this week, I came across an interesting Bible verse: “**But the cowardly [fearful], the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death**” (Revelation 21:8). I can understand all those who will be in the fiery lake, but I was surprised to find the cowardly there. It seems that lack of action due to unbelief or fear of failure is more serious in God’s sight than I had previously considered it to be.

Now back to the question at hand. What are you afraid of? Fear can paralyze you and cause you to put off what you should be doing. In other words, fear can cause you to be disobedient. I urge you to face your fear this week and then take some step toward doing something you’ve been afraid to do. Don’t wait for your fear to go away, but in the midst of it, in spite of it, I want you to write the letter, make the phone call, talk to your supervisor or pastor or make plans to do

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something bold. Make the week ahead your week of courage and act on your dreams and purpose. As you do, you will join the army of God where only the courageous acting on faith are victorious. Have a great week!