

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Have you ever had one of those days when you just wonder why we are here? What are we doing here? On Monday this week I had one of those days when I just should have stayed in bed! Everything that could possibly go wrong did go wrong. My computer came perilously close to being thrown through the window and my dog seemed to decide that the safest thing to do was to hide in the doghouse. It was just one of those days. I'm sure you've had them. Actually, it felt like about four of those days wrapped up into one. Around lunch time I decided to take some time out and I found myself asking God, "What's going on, Lord. Is it me? Am I in the wrong place? Is it something I've done?" There didn't seem to be an answer. I prayed for patience, but things didn't improve until very late in the day when, out of the blue, my sister sent me an email. Now, my sister emails me about once every six months. We talk on the telephone often but neither of us is good at staying in touch by email, so this was unexpected. I think God had a hand in the timing. The words made me reappraise where I was at and what was happening. I thought there might be others who would also find comfort and understanding in the words. This is what my sister sent me:

GOD SAID "NO"

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said "No. It's not for me to take away. It's for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said "No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said "No, Patience is a byproduct of tribulation; it isn't granted, it's learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said "No. I give you blessings. It's up to you to be happy with those blessings."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God for all things, that I might enjoy life.

God said "No. I will give you life so you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God hesitated, and then said "Well, you need to nurture your own spirit, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me.
God said "Ahhhh. Finally, you're getting the idea!"

I hope that there are others out there who learn as much from those words as I did and when you're having one of those days, remember; this day is a gift from God. Don't throw it away.