

## *Has anyone ever asked you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”*

Chances are you’ve been asked that question on numerous occasions by relatives, teachers, guidance counselors, and other adults who were eager to guide you on your journey to becoming a productive member of society.

You’ve probably been told, at some point in your life, that you can be anything that you want to be, if only you set your mind to it. Our culture teaches that all we need to do to have everything we want in life is to decide what it is that we want – to work hard – and to follow our dreams. We’re given this advice as children – and many of us pass it along as adults with the best of intentions – because we want to encourage our kids to dream big.

We want our children to be excited about their futures and all of the wonderful things that they can do with their lives! The only problem with sharing this advice with our children is that it isn’t entirely true.

Think about it for a moment. Deep down inside, as much as we want to believe that if we set our minds to anything, we can make it happen, but logic and personal experience tell us that this simply isn’t always the case. We all know lots of talented, hard-working people who, for various reasons, are unable to achieve their dreams. Sometimes for reasons beyond their control.

Have you ever known someone who’s dreamed of becoming a police officer, a fireman, or a member of the military whose application was declined because they had a pre-existing medical condition that precluded them from serving?

The truth is that God gives us the freedom to pursue any path we want in life – but God created each of us with a unique purpose and a perfect plan for our lives.

God gives each of us special gifts and talents towards certain vocations in life. These gifts, combined with our individual personalities, our heart’s desires, and our individual experiences, make us uniquely suited for the purpose God created us to fulfill.

If we pursue our own dreams without any regard for God’s plan for our lives, we wind up feeling empty, frustrated, and disillusioned inside. If we partner with God and seek His guidance for our lives, we discover the freedom and joy that comes from living the life God created us to live – no matter where that may take us.

Which path will you follow? The choice is yours!

*together through prayer and service, Deacon  
Mike*