



# **BEYOND SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

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## SEMINAR FOCUS

The Christian is said to be a citizen of two worlds: the so-called “natural” world and the spiritual. In actuality, there is only one world - the spiritual. What we call the natural world is only our fallen perception of reality. To understand reality, ourselves, one another, and the Christian life we must accept the Biblical position in spite of our tendency to think and live naturalistically.

God has provided for our need of wisdom, guidance, and strength for daily life.

Beyond that, He has given us the possibility, the pattern, and the power to live joyfully in spite of every obstacle. Regardless of where the obstacles come from, it is His will for us that we learn to identify, grow through, and overcome them in order to be successful in living joyfully.

The purpose of this seminar is to present the Bible’s teaching in the following areas:

- The spiritual world and the believer’s position in it.
- The believer’s enablement and encouragement to succeed in joyful living.
- Guidance in dealing with good and evil in the spiritual world.
- God’s purpose for the joyful believer.
- Practical training for daily spiritual battles.

It is not enough to have an intense desire to walk with God and to work hard at doing it. We must **KNOW HOW** to so walk and then **DO IT!** This is living in harmony with truth.

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# THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

## Introduction

- A. The Christian is a citizen of two worlds: The so-called “natural” and the spiritual.
- B. In actuality there is only one world - the spiritual. What we call the “natural world” is only our fallen perception of reality.
- C. To understand reality, ourselves, one another, and the Christian life, we must accept the Biblical position - in spite of our tendency to think and live “naturalistically”.

## I. A Picture Of The Spiritual World.

### A. The man Job.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect (spiritually mature), upright (did what was right), one that feared God (reverenced God), and eschewed evil (consistently rejected evil).

–Job 1:1

**Comment:** *In revealing the spiritual world God does so in the life of an individual who goes through a serious trial. The emphasis is on the practicality of the spiritual and the value of gaining that viewpoint of life.*

### B. The Accusation

Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

–Job 1:9

**Comment:** *Job is accused of serving God because of divine blessing. The words of Satan are directed against God as much as against Job.*



**C. The affirmations.**

Job...said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

-Job 1:20-22

But he knoweth the way that I take. When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

-Job 23:10

**Comment:** *Here Job indicates the only true basis for faith: the belief that God is good and what He does is goodness. This content of his faith is the very foundation of true belief. Job believed the truth - even though God appeared to be his enemy.*

**II. The Explanation Of The Spiritual World.**

**A. The effect of spiritual ministry.**

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven.

-Luke 10:17,18

**Comment:** *We cannot avoid the truth: Biblical ministry causes profound effects in the spiritual world.*

**B. The effect of repentance and faith.**

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

- Luke 15:7

**Comment:** *The value of repentance could hardly be more emphasized.*

**C. The effect of spiritual leadership.**

For I think that God hath set forth us the last apostles last, as it were appointed to death, for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

-I Cor. 4:9

**Comment:** *The angels watch to see what the leaders of the Church will do.*

**D. The effect of spiritual living.**

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

-Eph. 3:10

**Comment:** *The spiritual world learns by looking at the life of believers!*

**III. The Exhortations Regarding The Spiritual World.**

**A. The necessity of true faith.**

But without faith it is impossible to please God...

-Heb.11:6

**Comment:** *True faith affirms the truth about God: He is good and what He does is goodness.*

**B. The necessity of practical choices of faith.**

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

-Col. 3:1,2

**Comment:** *A true Biblical choice takes into account the spiritual world. It means to think and live with the truths of the Bible, and in particular the truths about God - as the governing principle.*

**Conclusion**

Each of us must ask whether Satan's accusation is true.

## THE ENJOYMENT OF SPIRITUALITY: THE JOY OF THE LORD

### Introduction

- A. God has not only provided for and promised - forgiveness, righteousness, wisdom, and strength - He has also promised to give us His joy.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through the Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have now received the atonement.

-Rom. 5:10,11

- B. This joy is not the contentment which comes when things are going well. The joy of the Lord is enjoying God Himself - and the things of God!

- C. God expects us to have His joy - for our good and His glory.

### I. The Joy Of The Lord Is Based On A Personal Relationship With Jesus Christ.

These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.

-John 15:11

**Comment:** *This verse is part of the Farewell Discourse. The Lord Jesus was teaching the disciples about their union with Himself. A practice of this relationship will bring His joy.*

### II. The Joy Of The Lord Is Supposed To Accompany Our Prayer Life.

Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name, ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

- John 16:24

**Comment:** *Christianity is designed to work. One of the most valuable areas of our life is prayer. For too many of us prayer is largely meaningless and dull. We must learn to have His joy.*

### III. The Joy Of The Lord Is So Important The Savior Prayed We Would Have It.

And now come I to thee, and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

-John 17:13

**Comment:** *The Lord Jesus knew that no Christian could make a success out of life without His joy. To know and to do the will of God - with joy - is an unbeatable combination.*

### IV. The Joy Of The Lord Is A Characteristic Of A True Christian.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

-Rom. 14:17

**Comment:** *Christianity starts on the inside and works out. Every believer has the joy of the Lord at first - but most of us lose it!*

### V. The Joy Of The Lord Is That Which Finds Its Source In God And His Grace.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

-Rom. 15:13

**Comment:** *It is encouraging to see that God seeks to fill us with His joy. The Holy Spirit has come to make that a reality. Our part is "believing" - not a mystical feeling - but obedience in faith.*

### VI. The Joy Of The Lord Is Described As The Fruit Of The Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control), against such there is no law.

- Gal. 5:22,23

**Comment:** *These nine virtues are evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit. The first three describe our growing experience with God. The second triad, our relationship with people. The last three indicate the kind of character God is developing within us. How can we say we are filled with the Spirit - if we do not have His joy?*

## VII. The Joy Of The Lord Is To Accompany Our Trust In Times Of Trial.

Whom having not seen, you love, in whom, though you now see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

– I Peter 1:8

**Comment:** *Peter is here speaking of the trials of our faith (v7). He states that when we understand trials, and how to believe God, we can go through the experience with joy -not bitterness - but joy.*

## VIII. The Joy Of The Lord Accompanies A Knowledge And Practice Of The Bible.

And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full.

– I John 1:4

**Comment:** *God has revealed Himself to us and given us the Bible so we can learn to walk in fellowship with Him - and have His joy.*

## Conclusion

What are we to do if we do not have the joy of the Lord?

- A. Make sure you have cleaned up your past and have truly surrendered to God.
- B. Reject what you have in the place of the joy of the Lord.
- C. Believe the truth that God gave you His joy in the new birth.
- D. Practice the joy of the Lord by faith - even though you do not feel joyful. This is **NOT** pretending - but practicing truth - as we do with the assurance of our salvation.

## THE ENABLEMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY: THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Introduction

A. Every believer realizes the tremendous need for wisdom, guidance, and help for the demands of daily life. The Lord Jesus said, Without me ye can do nothing.

–John 15:5

B. God has not saved us and then left us to flounder about in our own weakness and ignorance. He has made every provision for us. A part of that provision is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### I. God Promised a Time When All of His People Would Be Anointed Alike.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will our out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions, and also upon my servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

–Joel 2:28,29

**Comment:** *God wants you to recognize that you are not a second-rate Christian.*

### II. God Promised That The Believer May Be A River Of Living Water.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any may thirst, let him come unto me and drink, he that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive, for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

–John 7:37,38

**Comment:** *God wants you to bring spiritual life into the lives of others.*

### **III. God Promised To Send The Holy Spirit To Be The Believer's Helper.**

And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

–John 14:16-18

***Comment:** God wants you to know how great your helper is.*

### **IV. God Promised That The Holy Spirit Would Lead The Believer Into A Life Of Cooperative Ministry.**

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me, and ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

–John 15:26,27

***Comment:** God wants you to measure your life by what He can do for you and through you - not by your feelings or circumstances.*

### **V. God Promised That The Holy Spirit Would Glorify Jesus Christ Through The Believer.**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

–John 16:13,14

***Comment:** God wants you to understand the goal of your life - to glorify Him.*

### **VI. God Promised That The Holy Spirit Would Empower The Believer.**

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

–Acts 1:8

***Comment:** God wants you to realize the extent of His provision.*



## VII. God Promised A Day Of Fulfillment For His Prophecies Concerning The Holy Spirit And The Believer.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel...

–Acts 2:1,16

**Comment:** *God has fulfilled His promise to give every believer the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is an historical event!*

## VIII. God Promised That The Holy Spirit Would Be His Gift As Well As The Gift Of The Lord Jesus To The Believer.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this which ye shall now see and hear.

–Acts 2:33

**Comment:** *God wants you to understand that the Church, which was born on the Day of Pentecost, is a baptized and anointed Church. When one becomes a believer today, he is made a member of that Church (I Cor. 12:13). As a consequence, through his relationship with the Lord Jesus and His Church, the believer is baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and is enabled to carry out the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20). The present day believer possesses all the value and power of Pentecost to live a successful Christian life.*

## Conclusion

**Question:** *If we have all this provision, then why is the power of God not more manifested in our daily life?*

**Answer:** In the believer's life the provision of God is not necessarily automatic. We must learn about God's provision, how to put it into practice, and then we must practice it!

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you, surrender to Him, and then obey Him.

# THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY

## Introduction

- A. One truth that makes Christianity unique among the religions of the world is the Biblical emphasis and promise of power to do what is right.
- B. The word “power” in this lesson is the translation of the word “dunamis” from which we get our English word “dynamite”. The emphasis is on ability to act, inherent power. We have the power to live a spiritual life.
- C. God’s promise of power-ability is the answer to the question all of us have, namely, “How can I do what I know is right?”

## I. The Biblical Emphasis On Power-Ability.

### A. The power related to the gospel.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

– Rom. 1:16

**Comment:** *The word “salvation” in this verse refers to more than the new birth. It would include the believer’s daily life (Phil. 2:12) and also the fulfillment and completion of salvation in glorification (1 Peter 1:5).*

*The reason Paul was not ashamed of the gospel - was that it worked! He was a living witness to the power of the gospel - as is every true believer.*

### B. The power related to the believer’s calling.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 1 Cor 1:24

**Comment:** *Here the word “dunamis” is used to remind us that whatever God has called us to do - He has given us the power to do it. As we read this verse we immediately want to ask, “But - if that’s true, - where’s the power?” The answer has to do with our faith and practice. The power of God is ours but there is no manifestation until we put our calling into practice by obedience.*

**C. The power related to the Resurrection.**

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death.

–Phil. 3:10

**Comment:** *Paul's reference here is to the new life all believers have in Christ. This is the very basis and meaning of spirituality. The reason the Apostle sought to know that power indicates that the truths related to the Resurrection must be practiced for the power to be operative.*

**II. The Biblical Instruction Regarding Power-Ability.**

**A. There is a power-ability to be a fruitful witness for God.**

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

–Acts 1:8

**Comment:** *This prophecy has come to pass. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out in a new way. The Church (Body of Christ) came into existence and all believers received the divine enablement to obey the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). This power or ability will be manifested in our life as we obey.*

**B. There is a power-ability provided for the believer's daily life.**

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

– Eph.1:18-20

**Comment:** *This passage explains the fullness of divine provision for us and also a major portion of the will of God. Paul prays our spiritual eyes would be opened so we would know "the greatness of his power". This power/ability will be our experience as we learn to obey.*

**C. There is power-ability to pray effectively.**

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

-Eph. 3:20

**Comment:** *When we pray God works through us to bring His grace into the life of those for whom we intercede. To understand this principle will encourage us and motivate us to pray. Perhaps the most important act we can perform for one another - is to intercede. This power or ability will be manifested as we learn to pray.*

**D. There is power-ability to live the Christian Life.**

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

-Col. 1:10,11

**Comment:** *As we compare our daily life with these verses we are embarrassed. We cannot allow ourselves to think, however, that such a passage is given us to mock us. The answer is the promise of power - not even on the basis of our need - but "according to his glorious power". This power-ability will be ours as we learn to walk with Him.*

**Conclusion**

NOTICE it is not enough to have an intense desire to walk with God and to work hard at doing it - we must KNOW how to so walk - and then we must DO IT. This is not earning grace - but living in harmony with truth.

## THE PATTERN FOR SPIRITUALITY - THE WILL OF GOD

### Introduction

- A. Every person has certain priorities that pattern their daily life. For the Christian the highest priority is to know and do the will of God.
- B. Because spirituality is the result of obedience by faith, love and hope - an understanding of the will of God is important for our growth in grace.

### I. The Biblical Theme And Emphasis Of The Will Of God.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

– Matt. 6:9,10

**Comment:** *Here the Lord Jesus gives us a blueprint on how to pray. We are to learn how to constantly seek and practice the will of God. We are to do His will as the holy angels in heaven: from the heart - not grudging; at once - not hesitatingly; spontaneously - not under promptings; completely - not partially; and in love - not selfishly.*

### II. The Importance Of The Will Of God.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

–Matt. 7:12

**Comment:** *The evidence that a person is a true believer is that a general characteristic of his life will be - doing God's will. Such evidence will manifest itself in a concern to know His will and an honest attempt to live that way.*

### III. The Warning Regarding The Will Of God.

And that servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

–Luke 12:47

**Comment:** *This parable states a serious warning for the believer. God expects us to know His will and to obey Him. When we fail we incur spiritual loss, open our life to the enemy, and force God to chastise us.*

#### IV. The Dedication Of Jesus Christ To The Will Of God.

The Lord Jesus prayed saying:

Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.

– Luke 22:42

**Comment:** *In the most difficult hour of His life, beside that of the actual Crucifixion, the Savior took refuge in choosing the will of God. It was what He wanted. It was more important to Him than life itself.*

#### V. The Source Of Personal Fulfillment For The Savior Was The Will Of God.

Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work.

–John 4:34

**Comment:** *By use of the word “meat” i.e. daily food, the Lord Jesus indicates the satisfaction He derived from doing the will of His Father. We are here taught that the joy of the Lord is a by-product of doing the will of God. God made us to find our fulfillment basically in Him.*

#### VI. The Promise To All Those Who Desire To Do God’s Will.

If any man do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

–John 7:17

**Comment:** *God’s promise is that He will reveal His will to us - if we honestly seek to do it. This promise applies particularly to those areas of life not covered directly in the Bible.*

## VII. The Will Of God Is Known By Divine Revelation.

Behold, thou are called a Jew, and retest in the law, makest thy boast of God, and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law.

–Rom. 2:17-18

**Comment:** *One of the great privileges of being a Jew was that they had been given the Scripture. This is how we know His will- by a careful study of the Bible - not by mystical contemplation. And when we need special guidance it will come through a practice of the Word.*

## VIII. Personal Surrender Is Where We Begin In Knowing The Will Of God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

–Rom. 12:1,2

**Comment:** *The word “prove” means to “experience in daily life”, to “put to the test with success”. In order to enter into such a life of knowing and doing God’s will - Paul gives us a threefold instruction.*

- 1. We are to surrender ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. The use of “body” indicates how God’s will is to be carried out in the life.*
- 2. We are to live not conforming to the sinful world around us.*
- 3. We are to renew our mind (via the Bible) so we can be transformed. The word “transformed” means metamorphosis and indicates how the Holy Spirit will change us as we seek God’s will.*

## Conclusion

How important is the will of God in our daily life?



## THE THREAT TO SPIRITUALITY: AN UNRESOLVED PAST

### Introduction

- A. We have seen how God's provision is spiritual freedom through understanding and practicing the truth - by faith and love.
- B. We have also seen how a violation of truth brings spiritual bondage.
- C. The areas where we are most vulnerable and tend to fail - are areas of unbelief (acceptance of error) and sinning (practice of error).
- D. For the believer to be free it is necessary to understand and reject the error that has been accepted and to stop its practice. A major step toward such freedom is found in resolving one's past.

### I. The Example The Apostle Paul.

#### A. His affirmation of spiritual freedom.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.  
-Phil. 3:13,14

**Comment:** *Here Paul declares his freedom to live for God and to serve Him. As we think of his former life as a sinful and bigoted Pharisee, we can only marvel at the effects of the grace of God.*

**Question:** *Was this reversal of belief and priority automatic in the apostle's life?*

**Answer:** From the context of this passage we know it was not. Paul had to work through his past with understanding and confession and decision as any other believer.

**B. His basis of spiritual freedom.**

1. Confession of his pride and self-confidence.

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the law, a Pharisee.

–Phil. 3:4,5

**Comment:** *In this passage Paul not only confesses his sins of pride and self-confidence - he points out where this started in his life. This is an important principle regarding spiritual freedom. To break the bondage of sin we must do more than deal with our present.*

2. Confession and resolution of false religious zeal.

Concerning zeal, persecuting the church.

–Phil. 3:6

3. Confession and resolution of religious self-righteousness.

...Touching the righteousness which is the law, blameless.

– Phil. 3:6

4. Confession and resolution of error regarding the Messiah.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. – Phil 3:7

5. Confession and resolution of wrong values and priorities.

Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

– Phil. 3:8

**Comment:** *These verses dramatically point out how thorough Paul was in cleaning up his life. The reason why this is necessary is that when we accept error it produces patters of thought, belief, and practice. Therefore, to change how we think, believe, and live - we must learn to confess and resolve the acceptance of such error.*

## II. The Biblical Principles Regarding Our Past.

### A. The principle illustrated in confession.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

– I John 1:9

**Comment:** Confession means to “say the same thing” that God says about a subject. One aspect of confession, therefore, is to acknowledge how we have deviated from truth. When we sin we must confess the sin to be what it is—a lie, or gossip, or sensuality, or jealousy, etc. And, to make the confession complete - we must understand why we committed such a sin - and that will bring to light the root of the sin and make possible true spiritual freedom. It is very rare for a sin to stand alone in our life - without some root (acceptance of error) in our past.

*One reason why we are not able to live in freedom from the sins we confess - is that we have not taken the time or effort to find and extract their root!*

### B. The principle illustrated in forgiveness.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

– Mark 11:25 (see also Matt 6:12,14; 18:22-35; Eph. 4:32)

**Comment:** We must forgive those who sin against us. The only way to be free and to be healed is to forgive. Failure to do so will result in continual pain, bondage, and bitterness.

## THE PURPOSE IN SPIRITUALITY

### Introduction

- A. One of the most profound and important questions ever asked has to do with the meaning and purpose of life. The Bible reminds us that life is short (James 4:13-15), it is not measured by possessions (Luke 12:13-21), and that its meaning and purpose is living for the glory of God.
- B. The basic reason why the believer should be a spiritual person is that God would be glorified. Too often we think of spirituality in terms of what it will bring us. We must give up such self-centeredness.

### I. The Importance Of Living For God's Glory.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- I Cor. 6:19,20

**Comment:** *These verses emphasize the necessity of evaluating our daily life in the light of the reason for our existence physically and spiritually. A complete surrender to God will cause us to see our daily life with much more clarity and simplicity. We need only ask the question - "Will it glorify God?"*

### II. The Provision For Living For God's Glory.

#### A. The provision of salvation.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- Eph. 1:5,6

**Comment:** *The Christian, due to salvation, is exhibit #1 of the glory of God. We are living proof of the sufficiency and power of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And, because of salvation we can now live for the glory of God - we are no longer (legally) under the control of sin, self, or Satan.*

**B. The provision of divine providence.**

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that we should be to the praise of his glory...

- Eph. 1:11,12

**Comment:** *God has promised to providentially superintend and control our life and circumstances so that His purpose may be fulfilled. Think what this means - God watching over us - if we are truly surrendered to Him and His glory.*

**C. The provision of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

In whom also ye have trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

- Eph 1:13,14

**Comment:** *Here the presence and work of the Holy Spirit is shown to be God's provision within us so we may live for God's glory. This should not only encourage us but also indicate to us the value and importance of living this way.*

**III. The Explanation Of How To Live For God's Glory.**

**A. Good works will glorify God.**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- Matt. 5:16

**Comment:** *Good works are not the works of a do-gooder - but are those attitudes and activities that are characterized by goodness and truth and love. When the believer -*

- 1. Is tempted to lie - but tells the truth - God is glorified.*
- 2. Is tempted to be self-centered - but loves - God is glorified.*
- 3. Is tempted to be sensual - but is moral - God is glorified.*

**B. Righteousness will glorify God.**

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

- Phil. 1:11

**Comment:** *Righteousness is simply doing what is right. It is living in both attitude and activity in harmony with truth. The standard here is not our self-righteousness, nor the approval of others, nor what will bring us benefit - but the attributes of God.*

**C. Praise and thanksgiving will glorify God.**

There met him ten men that were lepers...as they went they were cleansed. And one of them...turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God...giving him thanks...Where are the nine?

- Luke 17:12-19

**Comment:** *Praise and thanksgiving are so important because they are the very opposite of our sinful self-centeredness. To turn from looking at ourselves, and evaluating everything on the basis of what it will do for me -to praising and thanking God - will not only bring glory to Him but spiritual progress to us.*

**Conclusion**

Use your concordance and look up other references to the glory of God. An excellent book to read is The Plan Of God by J.I. Packer (Gospel Mission Press).

## A DAILY GOAL REGARDING SPIRITUALITY

### Introduction

- A. It is important to have clearly defined goals. The old saying is correct, "If we aim at nothing we are sure to achieve it."
- B. The Christian understands about goals. The Bible exhorts us to live for the glory of God. The problem, however, has to do with the meaning of the glory of God in our daily life.
- C. One very helpful way of making the glory of God practical is to make a verbal affirmation when you first get up in the morning such as - "In this day I will please the Lord." And then -maintain that attitude during the day - and do what you know will please him.

### I. The Basis For This Goal Of Spirituality.

#### A. David made such a goal practical in his daily life.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.  
- Psalm 19:14 NIV

**Comment:** *How did David become such a Godly person that the Lord said he was a man after His own heart? (Acts 13:22) One reason is that David had a spiritual goal - he wanted to please the Lord.*

#### B. Paul made such a goal practical in his daily life.

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.  
- I Cor. 5:9,10 NIV

**Comment:** *There came a time in the life of the Apostle Paul when he established the goal - that he was going to please the Lord. This undoubtedly was a major step toward his spirituality.*



**C. Paul taught that such a goal was important in one's daily life.**

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk (live) and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

– I Thes. 4:1

**Comment:** *Apostolic teaching when written into the Bible under divine inspiration - should carry a lot of weight with us. We cannot treat this verse as if it were an optional matter. All of us should follow these directions and establish such a goal.*

**D. Enoch was commended for living so as to please God.**

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him, for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

– Heb. 11:5

**Comment:** *Enoch lived in a very ungodly day. The verse explains one way in which he learned to live as a spiritual person - he had a very simple and practical goal - he sought to please God.*

**E. John taught that such a goal was related to a successful prayer life.**

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

– I John 3:22

**Comment:** *At least two great truths are taught in this verse. First of all we have an identification of obedience with pleasing God, and then the reminder that such a life is a necessary foundation for a successful prayer life. If we believe the Bible we can only say - "I must learn to please God and do it every day!"*

**II. The Explanation Of This Goal Of Spirituality.**

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect (equipped) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

– Heb. 13:20,21

**Comment:** *Many Christians seek to do the will of God as though it were a mystery withheld from them. These verses identify the will of God with pleasing Him. Are we longing to do the will of God but somehow never get started? Here is how we can start today - establish the goal - "I will please the Lord."*

### III. The Assurance Related To This Goal Of Spirituality.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.

- Phil. 2:12,13

**Comment:** *These verses should encourage us a great deal. They plainly teach that God is seeking to work in us so we will make the right decisions (to will) to obey Him (to do) and thereby please Him. When we establish such a goal in our life - "I will please the Lord." - we are working in harmony with God.*

### Conclusion

Let's establish this goal in our life now - and then reinforce it each morning by saying - "Today, I am going to please the Lord."