

The Purpose in Spirituality: The Glory of God

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), that 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 into 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 ye also 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 16:12-19

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).

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