

WHAT IS MY PRIMARY PURPOSE IN LIFE?

Life holds out to us a huge variety of things which we may allow to absorb our time, resources and our very lives. No matter what the subject may be, sooner or later we discover that it was all a mirage if we miss the primary purpose for life.

Only ONE subject is eternal and that is God himself. Some of the most tender chapters in the Bible are John 13 thru 17. These were the closing days of the Lord's earthly life as He spent them with His disciples in great concern for them (and for us) before He went to the cross to suffer and pay for our sins.

The great prayer of Lord Jesus Christ is recorded in Chapter 17. In verse 3 He made this statement ...

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

When a person comes to Jesus Christ and by faith asks for forgiveness, acknowledging Him as their Savior, God gives them all the “tools” they need to enable them to **KNOW GOD**. Unfortunately, some children of God assume that once they are saved and spiritually “born again,” they may now lay back and not even think about knowing God better. In addition, they may treat God like their personal servant instead of their Lord! God is not a real part of their everyday life. He is just called upon when they have a problem and blamed if it is not solved immediately and often blamed that they even had the problem in the first place!

The truth is that God does infinitely love us. He does want the best for us. But He also wants a personal relationship with us. Consider these few verses...

“That was the true Light, which lights every man that cometh into the world.” (John 1:9)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto ME”
(John 12:32)

It sounds very much like God is wanting to bring us to Himself!

SPIRITUAL WISDOM DOES NOT JUST HAPPEN! IT IS A REVELATION FROM GOD.

Note the apostle Paul's prayer...

"...making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..." (Eph 1:16-18)

The apostle Paul also wrote...

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Php 2:12-13)

Paul did not write "work FOR" your salvation, but rather work it OUT! There is work to be done as Peter encouraged us...

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen." (2Pe 3:18)

The apostle Paul told us of his great desire...

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend (lay hold of) that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 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."
(Php 3:12-14)

Now, we need to ask ourselves, "Is this MY primary purpose in life?" and if not, why not?

Here is another record of Paul's desire from the Amplified version of the Bible...

*"[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power **outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope] that if possible I may attain to the [spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body]."** (Phil 3:10, 11 AMP)*

We may read of the Psalmists desire in these verses...

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalms 42:1-2)

And yet again we may ask ourselves, "Do I desire God in this way?" and if not, why not? God has certainly given us the opportunity to KNOW HIM...

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
(1John 5:20)

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and KNOWS ME, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.’”
(Jer 9:23-24)

Now, it is our choice. Do we want to respond as King David did...

“When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ My heart said to You, Your face, LORD, I will seek.” (Psalms 27:8)

The Lord said this to His disciples...

“You are My FRIENDS if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:14-15)

Often we may hear Christians speak of God’s love for us as being eternal and UNMERITED...and thank God that is true! However, that is not true regarding our fellowship and relationship with Him. Listen to what Almighty God says about it...

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” (1John 1:5-6)

Without realizing it, some have created a god of their imagination who does not exist! They speak of “the man upstairs” and think of Him as one who just tolerates and dismisses their misdeeds like a dotting grandfather. However, the truth is that God is our Father, and as such, He chastens us when we displease Him because He wants us to have the best and bring glory to Him.

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’” (Heb 12:5-6)

To some people, in their daily lives, God is just...“a set of rules or principles,” or “a very distant Creator,” or “a long ago Savior” or perhaps “one who just tolerates anything they or others do because He loves them.” Should He not rather be...our closest Friend whom we love, whom we deeply desire to please according to His word not according to our thoughts or feelings, whom we cannot thank enough, whom we talk with all day long and whom we can’t wait to see?

God has told us that we may be His friends if we do what He commands us. The following verses tell us what God commands us to do...

FAITH

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Heb 11:6)

And remember, “faith” is not just anything we choose to believe and try to impose on God. Regarding faith, God tells us...

“...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17)

TRUST

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Pro 3:5-6)

OBEDIENCE

“Now by this we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1John 2:3-4)

This is NOT working for our salvation. It is the grace of God that made us His children by our faith in the finished work of His Son. This verse has to do with our KNOWING HIM and having fellowship with Him.

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1John 1:7)

HUMILITY

“By humility & the fear of the LORD...riches and honor and life.” (Pro 22:4)

We’ve asked ourselves the question several times earlier regarding how sincere and deep is our desire to really know God, personally. When we do this, we may find a resistance within us and wonder why. Here is the reason and only God can help us overcome it...

THE PROBLEM IS BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE NATURALLY!

SELF-centered	SELF-confident	SELF-sufficient
SELF-righteous	SELF-conscious	SELF-pity

...In other words...**SELFISH!**

Too often we may love SELF more than we love God! God said this would be a characteristic of the last days of the church age (which are right now)!

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2Tim 3:1-5)

Hopefully we are thankful for our loving, patient and merciful God who has told us how we may be rescued from ourSELVES...

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
(James 4:8-10)

God also gives us this clear clue as to why some of us do not really know Him or have much of a personal relationship with Him...

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1John 2:15-16)

Jesus Christ said that we cannot serve two masters (Matt 6:24).

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”
(1Pet 1:13-16)

WE NEED TO BE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THIS FACT...

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”
(2Corinthians 5:14-15)

Instead of tacking God on to some few minutes of our lives here and there or creating a god who does not exist, He should be over and in every part of our lives! If we allow Him to be so, we will find that He is not a “joy killer” but the Giver of every real joy...

“And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.” (1John 1:4)

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)

While there are many worthwhile callings in life, if we give ourselves to KNOWING GOD as our primary goal, we will perform well in any worthwhile endeavor and be blessed of God in the process while **GIVING GLORY TO GOD!**

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