



TO GOD BE THE GLORY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 26, 2021

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: How would you summarize the primary purpose of a Christian's life?

Key Passages: *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Colossians 3:17)

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

1. What does it mean to do something for God's glory?

To do something for God's glory means to give God all credit and honor. In the Old Testament, "glory" carries the sense of splendor or majesty. In the New Testament, "glory" carries the sense of dignity, honor, praise, and worship. Putting these two together, doing something for God's glory means recognizing His splendor and majesty and giving Him the appropriate dignity and honor since He alone deserves our praise and worship. God says in Isaiah 42:8: *"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols."*

2. Since God already has all the glory—it's not something He depends on us to give Him—how do we actually "give Him glory"?

The idea of doing something for God's glory or giving God glory is basically a matter of agreeing with who He already is! In Isaiah 42:5, God declares, *"I am the Lord God. I created the heavens like an open tent above. I made the earth and everything that grows on it. I am the source of life for all who live on this earth, so listen to what I say."* Glory is not so much something we give God as it is something we acknowledge God already possesses.

Discuss: In Isaiah 42:5, what is a response God expects from us as a result of His being God?

Discuss: What action does Jesus equate to obeying God in John 14:15? Why do you think obedience is evidence of love for God?

Discuss: Read 1 Chronicles 16:28-29. Discuss the verbs *"ascribe," "bring an offering,"* and *"worship"* in these verses and how they are actions we take in bringing glory to God.

Discuss: Read Romans 12:1-2. What similarities do you see between 1 Chronicles 16:28-29 and Romans 12:1-2? What is the *"offering"* God wants us to offer to Him? How would this offering result in bringing glory to God?

3. Glorifying God involves focusing on Him as God and not on ourselves as gods.

When Lucifer tempted Eve to disobey God's direct command warning against eating the forbidden fruit, he appealed to focusing on themselves instead of on God: "Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). Indeed, their eyes were opened (Genesis 3:7), but they did not become like God. In fact, they lost authority rather than gaining it. Satan deceived Eve about her ability to become like the one true God and led her into a lie.

Discuss: Where do you see evidence of people focusing on themselves as gods in our culture?

Discuss: Where have you seen evidence of people focusing on themselves as gods in churches?

Discuss: The "god of self" can slip into our hearts and minds and take over the throne of our lives so subtly that we don't notice the switch. What does 2 Corinthians 13:5 tell us to do? What are some ways we can carry this out?

4. How can I glorify God in everything I do?

One of our key verses for today's lesson (see above) is 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." It is important to note that the context of this verse includes Paul discussing the freedom we believers have in Christ. While we are free to make personal choices in life, we are not free to do anything that may cause another person to "stumble" in his own walk with God (1 Corinthians 10:32-33). Thus, we can conclude that part of glorifying God involves seeking the good of others.

Paul strongly reminds us that not everything believers may have the right to do is beneficial to others (1 Corinthians 10:23). He uses as an example eating meat that had been dedicated to idols. To Paul, such a dedication meant nothing since idols are not real gods—so there would seem to be no harm in eating the meat. However, Paul asserted he would abstain from eating meat for the good of others—especially new believers who might not yet understand his view of the meat. Yes, he had the freedom to eat the meat, but in this case, it would not be beneficial to certain other believers, so he would abstain. As a result, God would be glorified.

Discuss: What are some modern-day examples of abstaining from meat dedicated to idols not to cause another Christian to stumble?

Discuss: As you look ahead to the new year of 2022, how can you grow stronger in your commitment to Christ and your walk with Him?

For Further Study:

Real Worship by Warren Wiersbe

"What Does it Mean to Glorify God?" article at www.crosswalk.com

Forward by David Jeremiah