



WHAT ARE WE
DOING HERE?



SURRENDER
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Imagine being able to look down on earth as do the angels and other inhabitants of the universe. What would you see? What would you conclude that humans are doing down here on earth? Every day billions of people wake up and don't understand who gave them life that day. Each hour thousands of people curse the name of God. Most every act of humanity is tarnished with selfishness. What are we doing here?

THE FIRST DUTY OF MAN

"O that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 9 p.12*

"If your daily study is to glorify God and subdue self, he will make his strength perfect in your weakness, and you may live so that your conscience will not condemn you." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p.38*

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD?

- 1) He alone deserves to receive glory.
- 2) He alone has given everything to win the great controversy which is now being waged to forever clear His name before the universe.
- 3) God has enlisted us to help point people to Christ by being Christlike in character. God receives glory when our lives reflect the character of Christ.

TWELVE PRACTICAL WAYS TO GLORIFY GOD

1) Commune with God through prayer

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." *John 14:13*

2) Faith in God

"... it is by faith we must stand and unless we have faith we cannot glorify God." *Manuscript Releases, Volume 3 p.84*

3) Healthful living

"What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost 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 Corinthians 6:19,20*

4) Honor God

Refuse anything that will reduce our ability to give glory to God.

"Daniel purposed in his mind that he would not comply with any condition that would in any way weaken his physical powers so that he could not give glory to God. Now if he had yielded to that very first test -- to have eaten at the king's table -- then he would have yielded to the second test. Had he said, 'It is a very small matter whether I pray in secret or whether I pray openly to God and it is convenient for me to obey the command,' then the Lord could not have let His blessing rest upon him in such a remarkable degree. But here is wherein Daniel saw God could be honored; that he, as a representative of God, must keep the living God exalted above all as the One who could give wisdom and power. Here was an opportunity for him to show to all from whence came his strength, and that man could not come in between him and his God; therefore he did not accommodate himself to the circumstances at all, but he placed himself in the position that he would lose his life rather than dishonor the God of heaven in any way." *Manuscript Releases Volume 10 p.91*

Pursue present truth.

"The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light." *The Great Controversy p.596*

5) Humility

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."
Jeremiah 9:23,24

"If the children of God, especially those who stand in positions of responsibility, can be led to take to themselves the glory that is due to God, Satan exults. He has gained a victory. It was thus that he fell. Thus he is most successful in tempting others to ruin. It is to place us on our guard against his devices that God has given in His word so many lessons teaching the danger of self-exaltation. There is not an impulse of our nature, not a faculty of the mind or an inclination of the heart, but needs to be, moment by moment, under the control of the Spirit of God. There is not a blessing which God bestows upon man, nor a trial which He permits to befall him, but Satan both can and will seize upon it to tempt, to harass and destroy the soul, if we give him the least advantage. Therefore however great one's spiritual light, however much he may enjoy of the divine favor and blessing, he should ever walk humbly before the Lord, pleading in faith that God will direct every thought and control every impulse." *Patriarchs and Prophets p.421*

6) Love for God and man

"There is not a moral precept enjoined in any part of the Bible which is not engraved with the finger of God in His holy law on the two tables of stone. A copy was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The first four commandments enjoined upon man his duty to serve the Lord our God with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the mind, and with all the strength. This takes the whole man. This requires a love so fervent, so intense, that man can cherish nothing in his mind or affections in rivalry with God; and his works will bear the signature of heaven. Everything is secondary to the glory of God. Our heavenly Father is to be ever cherished as the first, the joy and prosperity, the light and sufficiency of our life, and our portion forever." *Sons and Daughters p.56*

"Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family -- a family that love and obey God instead of rebelling against Him. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household name, revered and glorified." *The Adventist Home p.27*

7) Jesus as the Lord of our life

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
Philippians 2:11

8) Praise and thanksgiving to God

"There are lessons to learn daily in regard to offering praise and thanksgiving to God. To praise God and glorify him in the fullness and sincerity of heart is as much the duty of those who love God as is prayer. We are to show to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate their ministrations, and that we are expecting and waiting for the goodness and mercy and large blessings of God. Never should we lose sight of his wondrous love for the fallen human family. We are under obligations to God to offer thanksgiving. Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God. [Psalms 50:23]." *Spalding and Magan Collection p.148*

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." *Psalms 50:14,15*

9) Revealing the character of Christ

"To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God." *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A p.979*

10) Reverence & worship God

It is of vital importance we remember that the main reason for attending church is to worship God and thereby give glory to Him. This should be our aim and desire whenever we gather together for church or any other spiritual meeting. By giving glory to God, we will gain a spiritual blessing that will encourage us and unite our hearts.

"All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore." *Psalms 86:9-12*

"Gratitude-offerings glorify the name of the Lord. In every assembly of the saints holy angels listen to the praise offered to Jehovah in testimony, song, and prayer." *Gospel Workers p.171*

"The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship,

above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power." *The Great Controversy p.436, 437*

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." *Revelation 4:11*

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men." *The Church Hymnal, "Glory Be to the Father" p.571*

11) Serving God

The true worker for God will do his best, because in so doing he can glorify his Master. He will do right in order to regard the requirements of God. He will endeavor to improve all his faculties. He will perform every duty as unto God. His one desire will be that Christ may receive homage and perfect service." *Gospel Workers p.294*

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." *John 15:8*

12) Trust in God's care

"It is recorded of the holy men of old that God was not ashamed to be called their God. The reason assigned is, that instead of coveting earthly possessions or seeking happiness in worldly plans or aspirations, they placed their all upon the altar of God, and made disposition of it to build up His kingdom. They lived only for God's glory, and declared plainly that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth, seeking a better country, that is an heavenly. Their conduct proclaimed their faith. God could entrust to them His truth, and could leave the world to receive from them a knowledge of His will." *Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5 p.188*

THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING GLORY TO GOD

The first angel's message to the inhabitants of earth

The first angel's message warns us to understand the power of God and revere who He is. We need to give Him glory by revealing His character in our lives because He is judging His people

now. Give glory to God by worshipping Him because He made you and all things - including the Sabbath.

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." *Revelation 14:7*

"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. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." *Matthew 7:21-23*

These people were not giving glory to God for their works. They will be recounting to God what they have done instead of what God has done for them and through them.

Our personal meeting with Jesus in heaven

"Do all church members realize that all they have is given them to be used and improved to God's glory? God keeps a faithful account with every human being in our world. And when the day of reckoning comes, the faithful steward takes no credit to himself. He does not say, 'My pound;' but, 'Thy pound hath gained' other pounds. He knows that without the entrusted gift no increase could have been made. He feels that in faithfully discharging his stewardship he has but done his duty. The capital was the Lord's and by His power he was enabled to trade upon it successfully. His name only should be glorified. Without the entrusted capital he knows that he would have been bankrupt for eternity.

Christ says to him, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. [Matthew 25:21]." *Counsels on Stewardship p.111,112*

144,000 people who will glorify God

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (II Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain." *Christ's Object Lessons p.69*

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." *Revelation 15:2-4* [see *The Great Controversy* p.648,649]

"Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand." *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7 p.970*

Martyrdom

A quote from Jesus regarding Peter:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me." *John 21:18,19*

A quote from Peter:

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." *1 Peter 4:16*

Even during great trial and persecution, martyrs have given glory to God by their praise, thanksgiving, trust, Christlike character, service to God, communion with God, reverence, worship, and humility.

Surrendering to God

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." *Proverbs 3:5-7*

Our primary motivation for surrendering to the will of God should be to glorify Him, otherwise our motivation will become self-centered. Some of the ways we can glorify God by surrendering to His will are: trust in His wisdom, love of His character, faith in His care and concern, dependence upon His power, humility - realizing His ways are always best,

communing with Him to discern His will through prayer, study of the Bible, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit's guidance.

HOW THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTLY AFFECTS GIVING GLORY TO GOD

Any effort we make to glorify God will only be successful as we have the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. We can praise God for giving us the ability to give Him glory.

If we do not acknowledge God's help and give glory to God, our struggle with self will be more difficult than it would be otherwise.

Important factors for receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit without measure

- 1) Be willing to be totally emptied of selfishness.
- 2) Consent to the process of bringing every thought into line with what Christ would think.
- 3) Realize that one of the most powerful antidotes for selfishness and unChristlike thoughts is giving glory to God.

"We can receive of heaven's light only as we are willing to be emptied of self. We cannot discern the character of God, or accept Christ by faith, unless we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ [II Corinthians 10:5]. To all who do this the Holy Spirit is given without measure." *The Desire of Ages p.181*

1) Be willing to be totally emptied of selfishness.

"When one is fully emptied of self, when every false god is cast out of the soul, the vacuum is filled by the inflowing of the Spirit of Christ. Such a one has the faith that purifies the soul from defilement. He is conformed to the Spirit, and he minds the things of the Spirit. He has no confidence in self. Christ is all and in all. He receives with meekness the truth that is constantly being unfolded, and gives the Lord all the glory, saying, 'God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.' [I Corinthians 2:10]." *Gospel Workers p.287*

2) Consent to the process of bringing every thought into line with what Christ would think.

"We have the companionship of the divine presence, and as we realize this presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. Our spiritual exercises are in accordance with the vividness of our sense of this companionship. Enoch walked with God in this way; and Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith when we will consider what He is to us, and what a work He has wrought out for us in the plan of redemption." *Testimonies to Ministers p.388*

"As the mind dwells upon Christ, the character is molded after the divine similitude. The thoughts are pervaded with a sense of His goodness, His love. We contemplate His character, and thus He is in all our thoughts. His love encloses us. *Testimonies to Ministers p.388*

Appropriate Categories of Thoughts	Inappropriate Categories of Thoughts
<p>"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." <i>Philippians 4:8</i></p>	<p>Selfishness. Doubting God. Feeling superior to any person. Judging others motives or character.</p>

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." *Psalms 19:14*

3) Realize that one of the most powerful antidotes for selfishness and unChristlike thoughts is giving glory to God.

We are not here on earth to do what we think will glorify God but to do (with His power and guidance) what He says will glorify Him. Your life can glorify God TODAY no matter what difficulties you are facing. Pray that God will help you glorify Him every day.

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:
and let such as love thy salvation say continually,
Let God be magnified."
Psalms 70:4
