

Things God Does Not Know

4 – God Knows No Other Way to Live the Best Life But by Living for His Glory

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There's on other way for you to live your best life now than to live for God's glory!

Author, **M. Scott Peck**, talks about counseling a woman named Charlene who said something about Christianity that shows she understands it better than some of the people sitting in church today! She said: "There's no room for me in that. That would be my death!... I don't want to live for God. I will not. I want to live for... my own sake." M. Scott Peck, *The People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil* (Simon and Schuster, 1983)

When you read the Bible you see it's not all about us, but it's all about God. And we die, so that something amazing can be born – less of us and more of Him!

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I *must* decrease."

Real freedom is found in doing what you were created to do – to glorify God with your whole life – instead of just what you want! The sooner you get a hold of that and start living it out, the sooner you'll find real joy in your life!

Evolutionist, **Stephen Jay Gould**, says basically the same thing when he writes...

"We are here because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures; because comets struck the earth and wiped out dinosaurs, thereby giving mammals a chance not otherwise available....We may yearn for a "higher" answer – but none exists. This explanation, though superficially troubling, if not terrifying, is ultimately liberating and exhilarating... We must construct these answers for ourselves..." David Friend and the editors of *Life, The Meaning of Life: Reflections in Words and Pictures on Why We Are Here* (Little, Brown, 1991)

I. **Glory 101 ~ What is the Glory of God?**

The glory of God is the beauty of God unveiled. It's the EXternal elegance of His INternal excellencies. The glory of God is the character and beauty of God gone public.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

God most clearly and fully reveals His glory to us in His Son – Jesus Christ, and in the Gospel that was secured by His Son's death on the cross!

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 "But even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of the darkness who

has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

- The Hebrew word for glory used in the OT is ‘*kabod*’ which means, "weight"
- The Greek word used for glory in the NT is ‘*doxa*’ – and it means "fame."

So for us to "glorify God" is to declare, or draw attention and advertise God’s glory by the way we’re living our lives. God created us to showcase God!

You were created to showcase God, and the sooner you get a handle on THAT – the sooner you’ll start experiencing joy, peace, power and purpose in your life!

II. How Can You Glorify God with Your Life?

A. You Glorify God with Your Life by Living in Such a Way that People are Struck by You but They Don’t Stay Focused On You

It might be YOU that gets people’s attention initially, but that’s not you what keeps their attention, because you live and talk in such a way that you’re continually pointing people past you and to your Savior, past you to the Gospel, past you to the grace and beauty of God.

2 Corinthians 2:14 “But thanks be to God who always leads us in His triumph in Christ Jesus, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”

I hope you’re living your life in such a way that it gets attention, but people should keep looking past you, looking for an explanation as to why and how you live the way you do. That’s what it means to glorify God with your life.

We’re created in God’s image, and we were designed to be God’s advertising agency.

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Therefore whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

B. You Glorify God with Your Life When You Show Others How You Go to Him for Your Deepest Satisfaction

Psalms 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good...”

Psalms 36:8 “They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house. And you give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.”

Whatever it is you yearn for and find your deepest satisfaction in is what you glorify — because when you yearn for something you’re saying around you, “This thing would meet my need and would satisfy me most.”

What you yearn for and find your deepest satisfaction in – you glorify.

- What are you glorifying in your life?
- What do you turn to for your deepest satisfaction?
- And based on where you're turning – who are you promoting and making much of in your life?

John Piper says, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

Be satisfied IN God so that you can start glorifying God with your life – because glorifying God and being satisfied in God go hand and hand together... to God's glory and our great good.

"We were never wired to live for the glories of what is seen. At best, these shadow glories were meant to point us to the one and only glory really worth living for, the glory of the Lord. There is always a terrible price to pay for this great replacement. It destroys relationships, it distorts culture, it scars people, and finally it leads to death. The oxygen of the glory of God that we were meant to breathe cannot be found elsewhere. When we take in the deoxygenated gases of the creation, our lungs collapse and our hearts atrophy. The problem is not that the physical things are evil in themselves. The problem is that they can take God's place in our hearts. Desire for a good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing." ***Lost in the Middle***, Paul David Tripp, p. 95-96