

The Christian Arsenal

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PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE The Purpose Driven Life

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Part 2

INTRO: If you want to know the purpose of life you have to either talk to the creator who made you, or look in the owner's manual. You were made by God and you were made for God. And until you understand that, life isn't going to make sense.

***"You (God) created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."* Rev. 4:11b (NLT)**

*"Love the Lord your God... This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matt. 22:37-38 (NIV)*

MY 1ST PURPOSE IS TO WORSHIP GOD.

This is your primary objective.

This is your highest priority.

This is your No. 1 purpose in life.

"Because of God's great mercy to us... Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer." Rom. 12:1 (TEV)

1. **WORSHIP** is MY RESPONSE to God's love.

2. **WORSHIP** is GIVING BACK to God.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." Mark 12: 30 (NCV)

GOD WANTS ME TO LOVE HIM...

- THOUGHFULLY "with my mind"
- PASSIONATELY "with my heart and soul"
- PRACTICALLY "with my strength"

1. **WORSHIP** IS FOCUSING MY ATTENTION ON GOD.

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“You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and you know all about me. You know when I am resting or when I am working... You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.” Ps. 139:1-3 (CEV)

God has focused His attention on you.
Attention is an incredible expression of love.
We must choose to focus our attention on God.

We are very easily distracted

1. We are self-centered by nature.
2. We live in a self-centered culture.

“Focusing on yourself is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, and ends up thinking more about self than God.” Romans 8:7 (Msg)

“Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.” Rom. 12:2a (Msg)

HOW DO WE FOCUS ON GOD?

- By establishing a daily time with God.

“Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.” Matt 6:6 (Msg)

- You find a place to do this.
- Just be with God simply.
- Just be yourself.
- Develop a constant conversation with God.

“Worship Him continually.” Ps. 105:4 (TEV)

Focus on self results in:

Worry
Insecurity
Anxiety
Guilt
Fear
Discouragement

Focus on GOD results in:\

gratitude
hope
confidence
love

2. WORSHIP IS EXPRESSING MY AFFECTION TO GOD.

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"We love Him, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (KJV)

"I don't want your sacrifices -- I want your love! I don't want your offerings --I want you to know Me!" Hosea 6:6 (LB)

The most important thing you can know in life is that God loves you. And the most important thing you can do in life is to love Him back.

"He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you." Ex. 34:14b (NLT)

God doesn't want duty, ritual, religion and rules – He wants a relationship.

- You start by just saying "Thanks"
- You give your life to Him.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life."
Rom. 6:13 (NLT)

WHAT STOPS US FROM GIVING OUR LIFE TO GOD? – FEAR

Your problem is not that you don't love God enough – your problem is you don't realize how much God loves you.

3. WORSHIP IS USING MY ABILITIES FOR GOD.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people." Col. 3:23 (TEV)

It is not what you are doing or how much you are doing, but who you are working for.

God doesn't want worship to just be a church thing. He wants it to be your whole life, to worship God with your life.

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“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.” Rom. 12:1a (Msg)

Real purpose driven living doesn't happen in a church – it happens in ordinary, routine, mundane things of real life where you go.

The greatest temptation of your life and the worst sin you could possibly commit is the temptation to worship something/someone other than God.

“So we make it our goal to please Him...” 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)