What is God's Glory (part 2)

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Last month we looked at God's glory which is seen in creation, all throughout the Old Testament, and in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Now we, as followers of Christ, bring glory to God through our lives.

In his book, 'The Purpose Driven Life' Rick Warren shares the importance of bringing glory to God; so important that living for God's glory is the greatest achievement we can accomplish with our lives. We can seek riches, fame, comfort, happiness, or knowledge but none of these things are our greatest life goal; God's glory is. The Bible says do *everything* for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).



How do we bring glory to God through our lives? Just like Jesus, we honor God by fulfilling His purpose on earth. In John 17:4 Jesus says, 'I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave me to do.'

When anything in creation fulfills its purpose, it brings glory to God. Birds bring glory by flying, chirping, nesting. Ants bring glory by being ants. According to St. Irenaeus, 'the glory of God is a human being fully alive.' When we sin, we fall short of His purposes: 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We weren't created for sin, but for God's glory.

Warren points out five specific purposes that bring glory to God when we fulfill them:

First, we bring glory to God by **worshipping Him**.

> 'Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.' – 1 Chronicles 16:28,29

The word ‘ascribe’ means to ‘credit.’ One person looks at the wonders of nature and says, ‘so cool.’ Another believes it all happened by chance, and another gives God credit for what He created, thinking ‘Wow, God.’

Worship is a natural response to God’s glory. Spend time each day focusing on who God is and what He has done. Worship is more than singing praise songs on Sundays. Worship is a lifestyle of enjoying God, loving Him and giving of ourselves to be used for His purposes. God loves worship motivated by love, thanksgiving and delight. When you live for God’s glory, everything you do can become an act of worship.

We also bring glory to God by **loving other believers.** Romans 15:7 says, ‘Accept one another then - just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.’ Following Christ includes belonging to and learning to love the family of God. God is love and it honors Him when we reflect His love to others.

We bring glory to God by **becoming like Christ.**

> ‘And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).’

We reflect God’s glory, and as we grow in Him, His reflection becomes clearer and clearer in us. Once we are born into God’s family, He wants us to grow to spiritual maturity, becoming more like Jesus in the way we think, feel and act. The more we develop Christ-like character, the more we bring glory to God. God gave you new life and a new nature when you received His Son. For the rest of your life on earth, God will help you continue the process of becoming more Christ-like (Philippians 1:9-11; John 15:8).

We also bring glory to God by **serving others** with our gifts. Each of us was uniquely designed by God with talents, gifts, skills and abilities.

> ‘Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.’ – 1 Peter 4:10-11

The way you’re wired is not an accident. God didn’t give you your abilities for selfish purposes. They were given to benefit others, just as others were given gifts for your

benefit. Matthew 5:16 says, ‘Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

Finally, we bring glory to God by **telling others about Him.** God doesn’t want His love and purposes kept a secret. Once we know the truth, He expects us to share it with others. This is a great privilege – introducing others to Jesus, helping them discover their purpose and preparing them for their eternal destiny. 2 Corinthians 4:15 says, ‘All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.’

At the end of time, we will see the glory of God. Jesus will return with great glory; His glory will be unveiled to us. ‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory (Mark 13:26).’

In God’s eternal kingdom, His glory will provide all the light we need: ‘The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp (Rev 21:23).’

And at the end of time when Jesus rules, people will have no choice. Every person will be compelled to bow the knee and bring glory to God:

> ‘Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place, and gave Him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus *every knee* should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:9-11)

How much better to choose now to live for God’s glory!