

**You have a unique way to serve God.** Although God has given all of His people the same instructions to live by to serve Him (in the Bible), God knows that every person can serve Him in a unique way due to our unique circumstances, abilities, opportunities, relationships, etc. But, rather than this being viewed in a negative way, you should gain a greater appreciation of how this means God wants to use you! For, there is no one else on this earth who is able to serve and glorify God in the exact same way God can use you to do this! In fact, this is how God has designed His body (1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Ephesians 4:11-16).

**You must use what God has given you.** God wants and deserves more from you than just your mere existence. Rather, God has created you, blessed you with many things in your life, and sacrificed His Son for you so that you will use these things to His glory (Romans 12:1-8)! Notice that God wants you to think sensibly about how you can be used in His service – not to think more highly or lowly of yourself than you should think. Rather, He expects you to simply use whatever He has blessed you with in His service, to honor and glorify Him! If you do this, God will delight in and be pleased with you (Matthew 25:19-23).

**Failing to use what God has given you is a waste of your life.** Sadly, many fail to use what God has given them – either by misusing these things or by neglecting His work. Although God has left it up to you to decide how to use what He has blessed you with, He has also warned that He will not be pleased if you fail to put these things to their best use (Matthew 25:24-30)! In fact, God considers such a life to be evil, lazy, and worthless! For, it fails to put the precious gifts He has given to you to use in the only way that really matters.

### Conclusion

To develop Godfidence and really see yourself as God sees you, you must know your purpose. And, to know your purpose, you must know your mission and your usefulness. The deeper you can appreciate each of these points, the deeper you will understand your purpose. For, your purpose is not based in the things of this world, but in the fact that God has given you a mission to accomplish and sees you as being useful to accomplish that mission!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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The second step we will consider in developing Godfidence is to know your purpose. For, what you believe about your purpose is crucial to how you live and how you see yourself. Sadly, many fail to have a proper grasp of their purpose and there are many consequences that result. Ultimately, there are two ways for you to know your true purpose. These are to know your mission and to know your usefulness. Without these, you really cannot have a true grasp of your purpose. But, with a proper understanding of these, you will unlock the deepest sense of purpose possible!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn your true purpose in life by getting to know your mission and usefulness.

### Know Your Mission

**Knowing your “why” is crucial.** People demonstrate this principle whenever they travel by carefully considering the mission of the trip. If you don't know this, you will never know how to prepare for the trip, what direction to travel, and how to make individual decisions along the way. Think of knowing your “why” in life like a map for your life. Rather than making many random and unguided decisions during your life, every decision will be considered relative to your overall mission (i.e. where to go to school, what career to pursue, who to marry, whether to be religious, how to practice your religion, how to raise a family, what to do with your free time, how to handle your money, etc.). There are ultimately three categories you can be in relative to knowing your mission.

**The undefined mission.** Some people live without a true destination for their lives and with no map to guide them. They simply do whatever they believe to be best at the time. While many celebrate this

kind of “carefree” life, this life actually misses out on all that is truly worthwhile and true satisfaction a person can experience! Ultimately, this is a wasted life!

**The misguided mission.** Some people have carefully defined the destination for their lives and have a map they are using to guide them. Perhaps they have chosen to pursue earthly wealth, pleasures, relationships, careers, or such things as their mission. However, they have (perhaps unknowingly) selected a destination and map that will not actually produce true satisfaction and really live up to their true potential. Ultimately, this is a wasted life!

**The true mission.** While most people in this world undoubtedly have either undefined or misguided missions for their lives, it is possible to live with a proper understanding of your true mission! The book of Ecclesiastes is extremely helpful in this endeavor! In this book, the author (King Solomon) describes his search for meaning and satisfaction in his life. He was a man who “had it all” from a physical perspective and had tried all sorts of physical things to find meaning and satisfaction (i.e. wealth, relationships, pleasures, knowledge, prestige, etc.). Yet, his conclusion was that it was all futility/vanity because it was all just temporary (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11). Then, he concluded that you should remember your Creator (even in your youth, Ecclesiastes 12:1) and that the true mission of your life should be to fear God and keep His commandments, knowing you will be judged by God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)!

This mission for your life is echoed in other places throughout the Scriptures. Look carefully again at Psalm 19:1-4 (which we discussed in the previous lesson). What I notice from this passage is that things really are not about you and me. Instead, it is all about God! For, it is not your glory or mine that is proclaimed every minute of every day throughout this universe; but God’s glory! So, as you reflect on how great God (your Creator) is and what He has done to save you, it should come as no great surprise that God has created you for the purpose that you (who He created in His image) would seek to glorify Him in your life (1 Chronicles 16:23-30; Isaiah 43:7; Acts 17:24-27; Ephesians 1:5-6, 11-12; Ephesians 3:20-21)!

**Living on mission.** Although this mission is counter to everything this world teaches about what the focus of your life should be, remember the emptiness of all other missions. But, when you allow yourself to really reflect on the greatness of God and truly embrace Him as your Creator and Savior, you will be able to recognize this mission as greater than all others! While everything God has created glorifies Him through demonstrating how great He is (Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 148:1-14), you can glorify God in an

even greater way since you have been created in the image of God! So, God wants you to fully devote your life to glorifying, honoring, and praising Him by living according to His will rather than your own. When you do this, every decision you make, word you say, thought you think, and thing you do will be evaluated as to whether it brings glory to God by pleasing and honoring Him in them all (1 Corinthians 10:31)!

### **Know Your Usefulness**

**God wants to use you in His service.** When you really reflect on the magnitude of who God is and how much He has done for you, your mission of living to glorify Him can certainly seem like an overwhelming and impossible task! But, God assures you throughout the Scripture that He delights in the people He has created in His image using their lives to His glory by serving Him (Psalm 147:11; Psalm 149:4; Proverbs 12:22; Isaiah 62:1-5). In fact, what we see throughout Scripture are many examples of God using people who realized they were insufficient for the great things God wanted them to do (consider Moses in Exodus 3:9-12 and Gideon in Judges 6:14-16). Yet, God was able to use them to glorify Him – just as He can and desires to use you in His service (Romans 12:1-2). Although He does not need you to serve Him (Acts 17:25), this is precisely what He desires and is why He has created you and sacrificed Himself for you (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14). So, the implication is that God believes you are capable of glorifying Him through the service you can provide!

**How God views you.** It is interesting how people have a way of seeing so little of their potential for God whenever they look at their own lives. While God desires each person to be humble and not think more highly of ourselves than we should think (Romans 12:3), He also wants us to see ourselves as He does so as to realize we are truly capable of glorifying Him through our service to Him. Consider a few of the ways God views those who live for Him.

First, God views you as being His temple who is appropriate to glorify and serve Him (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Second, God views you as a priest who has the opportunity and responsibility of bringing spiritual sacrifices to Him (1 Peter 2:4-5). Third, God views you as being His bride that He finds pleasure in (Ephesians 5:25-27). Fourth, God views you as being His ambassador He is using on this earth to represent Him and share His saving message with others (2 Corinthians 5:20). Fifth, God views you as part of His own body that can be used in a unique way to serve Him (1 Corinthians 12:27).