

2024

ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

# 40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

VOL 1

JAN 7 - FEB 16



# UNDERSTAND WHY YOU EXIST

## THREE BASIC QUESTIONS OF LIFE

1. Why am I alive?
2. Does my life matter?
3. What is my purpose?

### Your Purpose is About God, Not You!

Today, we're surrounded by mass media messages that tell us to look within ourselves for answers. We pursue earthly successes that are empty and temporary. You were placed on earth for God's cosmic purposes, which stretch into eternity. The only way to reveal your purpose is through a relationship with Christ. Don't try to use God for your purpose; let God use you for His purposes instead.

The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant time period. Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for His purposes, He took 40 days:

- Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
- Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai.
- The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land.
- David was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
- The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
- Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
- The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after His resurrection.

*The next 40 days will transform your life.*

### HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL:

Start each day with the short devotional and questions. Read the passage of Scripture that goes along with the Bible-In-A-Year plan, and reflect on how you get to play a small part in God's master plan! Then take a few minutes to:

- Review the point to ponder.
- Memorize the daily verse.
- Consider the question for the day.
- Journal your journey. Reflection is an important part of the process.
- Pray before you start your day!

AS A PART OF THIS JOURNEY, YOU HAVE  
ACCESS TO PASTOR CONWAY'S  
MASTERCLASS: "KNOWING YOUR  
WHY/FINDING YOUR PURPOSE"

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS COURSE AT YOUR  
OWN PACE. ADDITIONAL 'KNOW YOUR WHY'  
RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR  
CAMPUS AND ONLINE AT:  
[VISITONECC.COM/40-DAYS-OF-PURPOSE](http://VISITONECC.COM/40-DAYS-OF-PURPOSE).

# KNOW YOUR WHY - PART 1

75% OF PEOPLE ARE  
LOOKING FOR MEANING  
IN LIFE



Participate in this session for wisdom on how to  
know what God has specifically called you to do.  
Part of your purpose is what we are all called to:

- Make disciples
- Love one another

This course is about finding your unique calling.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOD  
WANTS TO DO, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT  
WHAT GOD HAS DONE.



# DAY 1

## IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 1-2 • Luke 1

**Point to Ponder:**

It's not about me.

**Verse to Remember:**

"Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him." Colossians 1:16b (Msg)

### It's Not About You!

The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose. The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people for thousands of years. That's because we typically begin at the wrong starting point—ourselves. We ask self-centered questions like, "What do I want to be? What should I do with my life? What are my goals, my ambitions, my dreams for my future?" But focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose.

Contrary to what many popular books, movies, and seminars tell you, you won't discover your life's meaning by looking within yourself. You didn't create yourself, so there is no way you can tell yourself what you were created for! Many people try to use God for their own self-actualization, but that is a reversal of nature and is doomed to failure. You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not your using Him for your own purpose.

You can usually succeed in reaching a goal if you put your mind to it. But being successful and fulfilling your life's purpose are not at all the same issue! You could reach all your personal goals, becoming a raving success by the world's standard, and still miss the purposes for which God created you. You need more than self-help advice. The Bible says, "Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, My way, to finding yourself, your true self." The easiest way to discover the purpose of an invention is to ask the creator of it. The same is true for discovering your life's purpose: Ask God.

To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God's Word, not the world's wisdom. You must build your life on eternal truths, not pop psychology, success, motivation, or inspirational stories.

The Bible says, "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone."

This verse gives us three insights into your purpose.

1. You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. God was thinking of you long before you ever thought about Him. You may choose your career, your spouse, your hobbies, and many other parts of your life, but you don't get to choose your purpose.
3. The purpose of your life fits into a much larger, cosmic purpose that God has designed for eternity.



# NEXT STEPS

JOIN US DAILY (M-F) FOR  
MORNING PRAYER @ 645A



SCAN TO  
JOIN US ON  
YOUTUBE



*Question to Consider:*

In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?

*Thought to Take Away:*

You were created in God's perfect image and in accordance with His plans. He planned everything with His greater purpose in mind, including when, where, how, and to whom you were born, and even your flaws and weaknesses. Put God at the center of your life, so you can begin to uncover and fulfill His plans for you.

**PUT ASIDE THE THINKING THAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT YOU.  
REFLECT ON WAYS YOU CAN LIVE FOR GOD.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I give you these next 40 Days. May I be faithful to pursue you and your purpose in me, through Christ. May you glorify yourself in me, that I — and the world — may see your power, holiness, and love. Not for my glory, but yours alone. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 2

## YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 3-5 • Luke 2

**Point to Ponder:**

I am not an accident.

**Verse to Remember:**

“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” Isaiah 44:2 (CEV)

### **You Are Not an Accident!**

Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned for you, but God did. He was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, He expected it. Long before you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the mind of God. He thought of you first. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you!

The Bible says, “The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me.” God prescribed every single detail of your body. He deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. He custom-made your body just the way He wanted it. He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality. The Bible says, “You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.”

God also planned where you’d be born and where you’d live for His purpose.

Your race and nationality are no accident. God left no detail to chance. He planned it all for his purpose. The Bible says, “From one man He made every nation, . . . and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.” Nothing in your life is arbitrary. It’s all for a purpose.

Why did God do all this? Why did He bother to go to all the trouble of creating a universe for us? Because He is a God of love. This kind of love is difficult to fathom, but it’s fundamentally reliable. You were created as a special object of God’s love! God made you so He could love you. This is a truth to build your life on.

If there was no God, we would all be “accidents,” the result of astronomical random chance in the universe. Life would have no purpose or meaning or significance. There would be no right or wrong, and no hope beyond your brief years here on earth. But there is a God who made you for a reason, and your life has profound meaning! We discover that meaning and purpose only when we make God the reference point of our lives.

# NEXT STEPS

LIFE IS DONE BETTER IN THE CONTEXT  
OF COMMUNITY



SCAN TO  
JOIN A  
LIFEGROUP



*Question to Consider:*

Knowing that God uniquely created me, what areas of my personality, background, and physical appearance am I struggling to accept?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Know what drives your life. Most people are driven by guilt, anger/resentment, fear, materialism, and a need for approval—without knowing God's purpose, no amount of wealth, status or pleasure can fulfill you. In contrast, a purpose-driven life gives you new energy, time, and focus to do God's will. You will find hope and fulfillment as He prepares you for eternity.

How you spend eternity after your life on earth depends on your answers to these 2 questions: Did you know, love, and trust Jesus? And, what did you do with the gifts and resources God gave you?

**CONSIDER ASPECTS OF YOURSELF THAT YOU STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT.  
HOW CAN THESE BE PART OF GOD'S UNIQUE PURPOSE FOR YOU?**

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*Teach me, dear Father, to embrace your sovereignty. Not one of passive acceptance, but of accepting passion. To not shy away from the ugly, painful, and evil aspects of life — or draw away from you because of them — but to draw near to You in and through them. Help me to trust that you will not allow any trials greater than your grace can sustain me through — if I choose to admit my helplessness enough to receive it. And it is in His name that I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 3

## WHAT DRIVES YOUR LIFE?

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 6-8 • Luke 3

**Point to Ponder:**

Living on purpose is the path to peace.

**Verse to Remember:**

“You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in You.”  
Isaiah 26:3 (TEV)

### Everyone's Life is Driven by Something!

Most dictionaries define the verb drive as “to guide, to control, or to direct.” Whether you are driving a car, a nail, or a golf ball, you are guiding, controlling, and directing it at that moment.

What is the driving force in your life? Right now you may be driven by a problem, a pressure, or a deadline. You may be driven by a painful memory, a haunting fear, or an unconscious belief. There are hundreds of circumstances, values, and emotions that can drive your life.

Here are five of the most common ones:

1. **Guilt:** These are individuals who are manipulated by memories and controlled by the past. But God's purpose for the individual is not limited by the person's past. God specializes in giving anyone a “fresh start.”
2. **Resentment/Anger:** These are individuals who retain their hurt, never releasing their pain through forgiveness. They either “blow up” or “clam up” over it, both are unhealthy reactions.
3. **Fear:** These are individuals who have allowed some past event or unrealistic expectation to control their lives. This often makes them miss opportunities because they are afraid to “venture out.”
4. **Materialism:** These are individuals whose only goal in life is to acquire possessions. They believe that more achieves happiness, status, and security; but all three anticipated objectives are untrue.
5. **Approval:** These are individuals who must have approval, those who allow others (parents, spouses, teachers, friends, etc.) to control their lives. Peer pressure rules them.

One day you will stand before God, and He will do an audit of your life, a final exam before you enter eternity. The Bible says, “Remember, each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God. . . . Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God.”

Fortunately, God wants us to pass this test, so He has given us the questions in advance.

From the Bible, we can surmise that God will ask us two crucial questions:

1. “What did you do with my Son, Jesus Christ?” The only thing that will matter is, did you accept what Jesus did for you and did you learn to love and trust Him?
2. “What did you do with what I gave you?” What did you do with your life—all the gifts, talents, opportunities, energy, relationships, and resources God gave you? Did you spend them on yourself, or did you use them for the purposes God made you for?”

The first question will determine *where* you spend eternity. The second question will determine what you *do* in eternity.

# NEXT STEPS

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHERE TO USE  
YOUR GIFTS IN SERVING?

SCAN TO  
JOIN THE  
DREAM TEAM



*Question to Consider:*

What would my family and friends say is the driving force of my life? What do I want it to be?

*Thought to Take Away:*

We were created for eternal life; our life on earth is to prepare us for eternity with God. How you relate to God on earth decides whether you spend eternity in fellowship with Him in Heaven or apart from Him. When you live in light of eternity, your values and priorities will shift, and things that once seemed important will begin to seem petty and trivial.

**REFLECT ON THE CURRENT DRIVING FORCES IN YOUR LIFE.  
ARE THESE WHAT YOU WISH TO BE DRIVEN BY?**

---

---

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I confess that I alternate between being a slave to my desires, and trying to ignore them completely. I have a hard time believing that you have a purpose for all of me. Yet, you did not despise humanity, but took it on yourself, that you might redeem all of it.*

# DAY 4

**Passage to Read:**

**Point to Ponder:**

**Verse to Remember:**

## MADE TO LAST FOREVER

Gen. 9-11 • Luke 4

There is more to life than just here and now.

“This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.” 1 John 2:17 (NLT)

### **This Life is Not All There Is!**

Life on earth is just the dress rehearsal before the real production. You will spend far more time on the other side of death—in eternity—than you will here. Earth is the staging area, the preschool, the tryout for your life in eternity. This life is preparation for the next.

If your time on earth were all there is to your life, I would suggest you start living it up immediately. You could forget being good and ethical, and you wouldn't have to worry about any consequences of your actions. You could indulge yourself in total self-centeredness because your actions would have no long-term repercussions. But—and this makes all the difference—death is not the end of you! Death is not your termination, but your transition into eternity, so there are eternal consequences to everything you do on earth.

The most damaging aspect of contemporary living is short-term thinking. To make the most of your life, you must keep the vision of eternity continually in your mind and the value of it in your heart. There's far more to life than just here and now!

If you have a relationship with God through Jesus, you don't need to fear death. It is the door to eternity. It will be the last hour of your time on earth, but it won't be the last of you. Rather than being the end of your life, it will be your birthday into eternal life. The Bible says, “This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.”

Measured against eternity, our time on earth is just a blink of an eye, but the consequences of it will last forever. The deeds of this life are the destiny of the next. We should be “realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus.”

Years ago a popular slogan encouraged people to live each day as “the first day of the rest of your life.” Actually, it would be wiser to live each day as if it were the last day of your life. Matthew Henry said, “It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our final day.”



# FURTHER READING

HOW TO LIVE WITH HEAVEN IN MIND

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

Since I was made to last forever, what is the one thing I should stop doing and the one thing I should start doing today?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Congratulations on making it to day 4 of your 40-day journey! As you continue along you will find additional resources on the 40-days of purpose page. Scan here for more!



**CONSIDER HOW YOUR DEEDS ON EARTH WILL SHAPE YOUR ETERNAL LIFE. WHAT SHOULD YOU STOP DOING OR START DOING?**

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I can't claim to have all the answers — or even understand the questions! — but I believe there is more to life than this life. I believe you have set eternity in our hearts, and that we have a purpose greater than mere mundane survival, or even localized happiness. Teach me to live my life in light of the infinite and eternal, that I may elevate this world in preparation for the next. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.*

# DAY 5

## THE TESTS THAT GOD HAS SENT YOU

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 12-14 • Luke 5

**Point to Ponder:**

Life is a test and a trust.

**Verse to Remember:**

“Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won’t be faithful in large ones.” Luke 16:10a (NLT)

### **The Way You See Your Life Shapes Your Life!**

How you define life determines your destiny. Your perspective will influence how you invest your time, spend your money, use your talents, and value your relationships. One of the best ways to understand other people is to ask them, “How do you see your life?” You will discover that there are as many different answers to that question as there are people. I’ve been told life is a circus, a minefield, a roller coaster, a puzzle, a symphony, a journey, and a dance.

If I asked how you picture life, what image would come to your mind? That image is your life metaphor. It’s the view of life that you hold, consciously or unconsciously, in your mind. It’s your description of how life works and what you expect from it.

What is your view of life? You may be basing your life on a faulty life metaphor. To fulfill the purposes God made you for, you will have to challenge conventional wisdom and replace it with the biblical metaphors of life. The Bible says, “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God.”

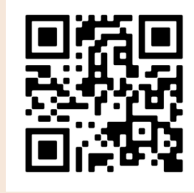
The Bible offers three metaphors that teach us God’s view of life: Life is a test, life is a trust, and life is a temporary assignment. These ideas are the foundation of purpose-driven living. Life on earth is a Test. This life metaphor is seen in stories throughout the Bible. God continually tests people’s character, faith, obedience, love, integrity, and loyalty. Character is both developed and revealed by tests, and all of life is a test. Life on earth is a Trust. This is the second biblical metaphor of life. Our time on earth and our energy, intelligence, opportunities, relationships, and resources are all gifts from God that He has entrusted to our care and management. We are stewards of whatever God gives us.

At the end of your life on earth, you will be evaluated and rewarded according to how well you handled what God entrusted to you. That means everything you do, even simple daily chores, has eternal implications. If you treat everything as a trust, God promises three rewards in eternity. First, you will be given God’s affirmation: He will say, “Good job! Well done!” Next, you will receive a promotion and be given greater responsibility in eternity: “I will put you in charge of many things.” Then you will be honored with a celebration: “Come and share your Master’s happiness.”

# FURTHER READING

HOW TO TRUST GOD MORE,  
EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

What has happened to me recently that I now realize was a test from God? What are the greatest matters God has entrusted to me?

*Thought to Take Away:*

- **Life is a TEST:** God is constantly giving us tests, big and small. However, He also gives us the grace to pass these tests.
- **Life is a TRUST:** Everything we have on earth belongs to God; they're simply entrusted to our care. If you take great care of God's "stuff", you'll receive affirmation from God in eternity. Money is both a test and a trust—how you handle worldly wealth shows God if you can be trusted with spiritual riches in Heaven.

**Life is a temporary ASSIGNMENT.** Our true home is in Heaven. If you allow your temporal life on earth to shape your values and priorities (e.g. seeking worldly wealth and power), you'd have betrayed your true purpose. Instead, fulfill your duty on earth, with faith in the promised reward in eternity.

**REFLECT ON THE TESTS THAT GOD HAS SENT YOU  
AND THE THINGS HE HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH.**

*Prayer:*

God, I acknowledge that you are my master. You have given me a great trust, and have every right to test me. Part of the reason I resent those things is because I fail the tests and usurp the trusts. Lord, help me to want to know your heart behind your sometimes heavy hand. I want to know you as the Great Lover who desires me for me, not just the Great Master who deserves my service.

# DAY 6

**Passage to Read:**

**Point to Ponder:**

**Verse to Remember:**

## LIFE IS A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT

Gen. 15-17 • Luke 6

This world is not my home.

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

### Life On Earth is a Temporary Assignment

The Bible is full of metaphors that teach about the brief, temporary, transient nature of life on earth. Life is described as a mist, a fast runner, a breath, and a wisp of smoke. The Bible says, “For we were born but yesterday. . . . Our days on earth are as transient as a shadow.” To make the best use of your life, you must never forget two truths: First, compared with eternity, life is extremely brief. Second, earth is only a temporary residence. You won’t be here long, so don’t get too attached. Ask God to help you see life on earth as he sees it. David prayed, “Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more.”

Repeatedly the Bible compares life on earth to temporarily living in a foreign country. This is not your permanent home or final destination. You’re just passing through, just visiting earth. The Bible uses terms like alien, pilgrim, foreigner, stranger, visitor, and traveler to describe our brief stay on earth. David said, “I am but a foreigner here on earth,” and Peter explained, “If you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth.”

In order to keep us from becoming too attached to earth, God allows us to feel a significant amount of discontent and dissatisfaction in life—longings that will never be fulfilled on this side of eternity. We’re not completely happy here because we’re not supposed to be! Earth is not our final home; we were created for something much better.

In God’s eyes, the greatest heroes of faith are not those who achieve prosperity, success, and power in this life, but those who treat this life as a temporary assignment and serve faithfully, expecting their promised reward in eternity.

You will not be in heaven two seconds before you cry out, “Why did I place so much importance on things that were so temporary? What was I thinking? Why did I waste so much time, energy, and concern on what wasn’t going to last?” When life gets tough, when you’re overwhelmed with doubt, or when you wonder if living for Christ is worth the effort, remember that you are not home yet. At death you won’t leave home—you’ll go home.

# FURTHER READING

MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

How should the fact that life on earth is just a temporary assignment change the way I am living right now?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Everything exists to show God's glory. God created all things and deserves all the glory. We can't add to His glory, but we're commanded to honor and praise Him.

We bring glory to God when we:

- Worship him
- Love other believers
- Become Christ-like
- Serve others with our gifts
- Tell others about Him

**CONSIDER HOW YOU SHOULD SPEND YOUR TIME ON EARTH DIFFERENTLY IF THIS IS JUST A TEMPORAL ASSIGNMENT.**

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, forgive me both for getting so caught up in earthly things and false religion that I ignore you! God, I want to know the heaven of living life with and for you; not the hell of living life with and for myself. Help me to turn my eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, that I am seek to serve God and man the way he did. It is in Christ's name that I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 7

## GIVE GOD GLORY IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 18-19 • Ps. 3 • Luke 7

**Point to Ponder:**

It's all for Him.

**Verse to Remember:**

"For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory."  
Romans 11:36 (LB)

### It's All For Him!

The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the glory of God. It is the reason for everything that exists, including you. God made it all for his glory. Without God's glory, there would be nothing. What is the glory of God? It is who God is. It is the essence of His nature, the weight of His importance, the radiance of his splendor, the demonstration of His power, and the atmosphere of His presence. God's glory is the expression of His goodness and all His other intrinsic, eternal qualities. Creation reveals our Creator's glory. In nature, we learn that God is powerful, that He enjoys variety, loves beauty, is organized, and is wise and creative. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

God's glory is best seen in Jesus Christ. He, the Light of the world, illuminates God's nature. Because of Jesus, we are no longer in the dark about what God is really like. The Bible says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory." 5 Jesus came to earth so we could fully understand God's glory. "The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory . . . a glory full of grace and truth." God's inherent glory is what He possesses because He is God. It is His nature. We cannot add anything to this glory, just as it would be impossible for us to make the sun shine brighter. But we are commanded to recognize His glory, honor His glory, declare His glory, praise His glory, reflect His glory, and live for His glory.

#### How Can I Bring Glory to God?

1. Worshipping Him. Worship is enjoying God, loving Him, and giving ourselves to be used for His purposes.
2. Loving other believers. It is your responsibility to learn how to love as God does, because God is love, and it honors Him.
3. Becoming like Christ. Spiritual maturity is becoming like Jesus in the way we think, feel, and act.
4. Serving others with our gifts. God didn't give you your abilities for selfish purposes. They were given to benefit others, just as others were given abilities for your benefit.
5. 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.
6. Living the rest of your life for the glory of God will require a change in your priorities, your schedule, your relationships, and everything else. It will sometimes mean choosing a difficult path instead of an easy one.

Will you live for your own goals, comfort, and pleasure, or will you live the rest of your life for God's glory, knowing that he has promised eternal rewards? The Bible says, "Anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, . . . you'll have it forever, real and eternal." Right now, God is inviting you to live for His glory by fulfilling the purposes He made you for. It's really the only way to live. Everything else is just existing.



# FURTHER READING

## HOW TO GLORIFY GOD IN MY DAILY ROUTINE

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

Where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God's glory?

*Thought to Take Away:*

The first purpose of your life is to bring pleasure to God via worship.

Anything that brings pleasure to God is called "worship". If we fail to worship God, we tend to worship other things, even ourselves. Music can be a part of worship, but worship is much more than music. In fact, any activity can be transformed into an act of worship so long as you do it for God's glory and pleasure.

**LOOK FOR WAYS TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD  
IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.**

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I thank you that you have created me for a purpose – actually, many purposes. I agree with you that all of my purposes can only be truly and simultaneously fulfilled if and when they glorify you, through Christ. Be with me this day, that I may seek first your Glory and your righteousness, that all these things may be added unto me, without regret. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 8

## PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 20-22 • Luke 8

**Point to Ponder:**

I was planned for God's pleasure.

**Verse to Remember:**

"The Lord takes pleasure in his people."  
Psalm 149:4a (TEV)

### **You Were Planned for God's Pleasure.**

The moment you were born into the world, God was there as an unseen witness, smiling at your birth. He wanted you alive, and your arrival gave him great pleasure. God did not need to create you, but He chose to create you for His own enjoyment. You exist for His benefit, His glory, His purpose, and His delight.

Bringing pleasure to God is called "worship." The Bible says, "The Lord is pleased only with those who worship Him and trust His love." <sup>3</sup> Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship.

Worship is far more than music. For many people, worship is just a synonym for music. Every part of a church service is an act of worship. Worship is not for your benefit. We worship for God's benefit. When we worship, our goal is to bring pleasure to God, not ourselves.

Worship is not a part of your life; it is your life. Worship is not just for church services. Every activity can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory, and pleasure of God. The Bible says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

How is it possible to do everything to the glory of God? By doing everything as if you were doing it for Jesus and by carrying on a continual conversation with Him while you do it. The Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

This is the secret to a lifestyle of worship—doing everything as if you were doing it for Jesus. The Message paraphrase says, "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering." Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.

# FURTHER READING

DEVELOPING THE GOD HABIT

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Know how to please God. The Bible gives us Noah as an example of how to make God smile with 5 acts of worship:

1. Loving Him above all else,
2. Trusting Him fully
3. Obeying Him unreservedly
4. Constantly praising and thanking Him
5. Using the gifts He has given us

Everything you do (except sin) can please God if it's done with trust and praise.

**CHOOSE A DAILY TASK TO DO FOR JESUS,  
CONVERSING WITH HIM WHILE YOU WORK.**

---

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I thank you that you have created me for a purpose – actually, many purposes. I agree with you that all of my purposes can only be truly and simultaneously fulfilled if and when they glorify you, through Christ. Be with me this day, that I may seek first your Glory and your righteousness, that all these things may be added unto me, without regret. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 9

## WHAT MADE GOD SMILE

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 23-24 • Luke 9

**Point to Ponder:**

God smiles when I trust Him.

**Verse to Remember:**

“The Lord is pleased with those who worship Him and trust His love.” Psalm 147:11 (CEV)

### **The Smile of God is the Goal of Your Life.**

Since pleasing God is the first purpose of your life, your most important task is to discover how to do that. The Bible says, “Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.”<sup>1</sup> Fortunately, the Bible gives us a clear example of a life that gives pleasure to God. The man’s name was Noah.

In Noah’s day, the entire world had become morally bankrupt. Everyone lived for their own pleasure, not God’s. God couldn’t find anyone on earth interested in pleasing him, so he was grieved and regretted making man. God became so disgusted with the human race that he considered wiping it out. But there was one man who made God smile. The Bible says, “Noah was a pleasure to the Lord.” From his life we learn the five acts of worship that make God smile.

The five acts of worship that make God smile are:

1. Love him supremely
2. Trust him completely
3. Obey him wholeheartedly
4. Praise & thank him continually
5. Use our abilities

God smiles when we love Him supremely. Noah loved God more than anything else in the world, even when no one else did! The Bible tells us that for his entire life, “Noah consistently followed God’s will and enjoyed a close relationship with Him.” This is what God wants most from you: a relationship!

God smiles when we trust him completely. The second reason Noah pleased God was that he trusted God, even when it didn’t make sense. The Bible says, “By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn’t see, and acted on what he was told. . . . As a result, Noah became intimate with God.”

God smiles when we love him supremely. Noah loved God more than anything else in the world, even when no one else did! Notice that Noah obeyed completely (no instruction was overlooked), and he obeyed exactly (in the way and time God wanted it done). That is wholeheartedness. It is no wonder God smiled on Noah.

God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. He smiles when we express our adoration and gratitude to Him.

God smiles when we use our abilities. You don’t bring glory or pleasure to God by hiding your abilities or by trying to be someone else. You only bring him enjoyment by being you. Anytime you reject any part of yourself, you are rejecting God’s wisdom and sovereignty in creating you.

Will you make pleasing God the goal of your life? There is nothing that God won’t do for the person totally absorbed with this goal.

# FURTHER READING

TRUSTING GOD ONE DAY AT A TIME

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust Him most?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Worship by surrendering yourself to God. Offer yourself fully to God and give Him ultimate control over your life instead of trying to do it all yourself. Don't tell God how to solve your problems or ask Him to remove them—offer your problems to Him and let Him guide you. Surrender is a daily choice; it helps you to find peace, freedom, and the power of Christ. If you don't surrender to God, you'll eventually surrender to something else (e.g. money, pride, or fear).

**CONSIDER IF THERE ARE AREAS IN LIFE  
WHERE YOU MUST PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD.**

---

---

*Prayer:*

*God, I just want to confess my weakness, pride, and superficiality — and how those sins are ultimately responsible for all the things I try to blame you and others for. Ultimately, what I need most is to let go of all my human desires, and my right to have my own way. Instead, help me to focus on pleasing you.*

*Father, help me to embrace and find my pleasure in dying to myself for the sake of making you happy. Help me to know that you are so good and holy — that nothing I do for you will ever be in vain (unlike what I do for myself). In particular, help me to do less, and enjoy more. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.*

# DAY 10

## THE HEART OF WORSHIP

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 23-24 • Luke 9

**Point to Ponder:**

The heart of worship is surrender.

**Verse to Remember:**

“Surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes.” Romans 6:13b (TEV)

### **The Heart of Worship is Surrender.**

Surrender is an unpopular word, disliked almost as much as the word submission. It implies losing, and no one wants to be a loser. Surrender evokes the unpleasant images of admitting defeat in battle, forfeiting a game, or yielding to a stronger opponent. The word is almost always used in a negative context. Captured criminals surrender to authorities.

In today's competitive culture, we are taught to never give up and never give in—so we don't hear much about surrendering. If winning is everything, surrendering is unthinkable. We would rather talk about winning, succeeding, overcoming, and conquering than yielding, submitting, obeying, and surrendering. But surrendering to God is the heart of worship. It is the natural response to God's amazing love and mercy. We give ourselves to Him, not out of fear or duty, but in love, “because He first loved us.”

There are three barriers that block our total surrender to God: fear, pride, and confusion. We don't realize how much God loves us, we want to control our own lives, and we misunderstand the meaning of surrender.

**Can I trust God?** Trust is an essential ingredient to surrender. You won't surrender to God unless you trust Him, but you can't trust Him until you know him better. Fear keeps us from surrendering, but love casts out all fear. The more you realize how much God loves you, the easier surrender becomes.

**Admitting our limitations.** A second barrier to total surrender is our pride. We don't want to admit that we're just creatures and not in charge of everything. It is the oldest temptation: “You'll be like God!” 11 That desire—to have complete control—is the cause of so much stress in our lives.

**What it means to surrender.** Surrendering to God is not passive resignation, fatalism, or an excuse for laziness. It is not accepting the status quo. It may mean the exact opposite: sacrificing your life or suffering in order to change what needs to be changed. God often calls surrendered people to do battle on his behalf. Surrendering is not for cowards or doormats.

**The best way to live.** Surrender is not the best way to live; it is the only way to live. Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone. If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear, or to your own pride, lust, or ego.

Sometimes it takes years, but eventually, you discover that the greatest hindrance to God's blessing in your life is not others, it is yourself—your self-will, stubborn pride, and personal ambition. You cannot fulfill God's purposes for your life while focusing on your own plans.



# FURTHER READING

## RELINQUISHING CONTROL

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

What area of my life am I holding back from God?

*Thought to Take Away:*

Build a friendship with God. God wants you to know and love Him as a friend.

There are 5 ways to become friends with God:

1. **Meditate on scripture.** Think about God's Word throughout your day, and learn His secrets.
2. **Be completely honest with God.** Share everything with Him, including your hurts and resentments. He doesn't ask for perfection, only your full honesty and trust.
3. **Obey God, not out of fear or guilt,** but out of love and trust in His wisdom. Do what He says, even if you don't understand it. Small daily gestures can be just as pleasing to God as big ones.
4. **Care about the things God cares about.** God's top priority is His children, especially finding the lost ones.
5. **Choose God above all else.** God wants you to be intimate and passionate with Him, even if it means wrestling with Him. He sometimes allows pain into your life to call you back to Him.

*Prayer:*

*O Father, it seems like you've been throwing this idea at me from every side this past week. This is one of those prayers I'm afraid to pray because I'm sure it will be answered. Enough. I surrender. I confess that you are God, and I am not. Even if I still have doubts, ultimately I'm more sure you exist than that I exist. You're certainly far more capable of knowing what's good for me, and even of wanting what's good for me. God, I surrender to that. I surrender to you. Further, I (gulp) ask you to frustrate every area of my life that is not of you, to drive me back to that place of surrender. For I know that only by surrendering can I win. Amen.*

# DAY 11

## BECOMING BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 27-28 • Ps. 4 • Luke 11

**Point to Ponder:**

God wants to be my best friend.

**Verse to Remember:**

“Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him.” Psalm 25:14a (LB)

### God Wants to Be Your Best Friend

Your relationship with God has many different aspects: God is your Creator and Maker, Lord and Master, Judge, Redeemer, Father, Savior, and much more. But the most shocking truth is this: Almighty God yearns to be your Friend!

In Eden we see God’s ideal relationship with us: Adam and Eve enjoyed an intimate friendship with God. There were no rituals, ceremonies, or religion—just a simple loving relationship between God and the people he created. Unhindered by guilt or fear, Adam and Eve delighted in God, and He delighted in them.

We were made to live in God’s continual presence, but after the Fall, that ideal relationship was lost. Only a few people in Old Testament times had the privilege of friendship with God. Moses and Abraham were called “friends of God,” David was called “a man after [God’s] own heart,” and Job, Enoch, and Noah had intimate friendships with God. But fear of God, not friendship, was more common in the Old Testament.

Then Jesus changed the situation. When He paid for our sins on the cross, the veil in the temple that symbolized our separation from God was split from top to bottom, indicating that direct access to God was once again available. By looking at the lives of God’s friends in the Bible, we learn six secrets of friendship with God. We will look at two secrets in this [session] and four more in the next.

### **Becoming a Best Friend of God Through Constant Conversation.**

You will never grow a close relationship with God by just attending church once a week or even having a daily quiet time. Friendship with God is built by sharing all your life experiences with Him.

A common misconception is that “spending time with God” means being alone with Him. Of course, as Jesus modeled, you need time alone with God, but that is only a fraction of your waking hours. Everything you do can be “spending time with God” if He is invited to be a part of it and you stay aware of his presence.

### **Through Continual Meditation.**

A second way to establish a friendship with God is by thinking about His Word throughout your day. This is called meditation, and the Bible repeatedly urges us to meditate on who God is, what He has done, and what He has said.

Start today by practicing constant conversation with God and continual meditation on his Word. Prayer lets you speak to God; meditation lets God speak to you. Both are essential to becoming a friend of God.

# FURTHER READING

## HOW TO PRAY THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

What can I do to remind myself to think about God and talk to Him more often throughout the day?

*Thought to Take Away:*

There are six secrets of friendship with God. The first two are as follows:

### **1. Constant conversation with God.**

A routine “devotional time” with God is insufficient. Friendship with God is built by sharing all of one’s life experiences with Him—through a continuous, open-ended conversation with Him throughout each day. God should be included in and consulted for all activities during each day.

Elaborate prayers are not necessary. Short, to the point, from the heart, breath prayers (the spontaneous verbalized or thought-directed requests or statements of praise that can be completed in “one breath”) will do the job.

### **2. Continual meditation with God.**

Meditation is “thinking about God”—His essence, His desires, His plans, His mercy, etc. — throughout each day. And the only way a Christian can know God is through His Word. Meditation which is only “focused thinking,” is accomplished when one mulls over God’s Word continually during the day.

Meditation allows God to share His secrets (revelations) with His children—to speak to His children in a close and personal way.

*Prayer:*

*Jesus, thank you for framing our relationship with you as friends. Thank you for showing your friendship by becoming one of us and for setting us free by dying for us and giving us new life. Help me to enjoy a greater intimacy with you by walking with you throughout the day. Let my thoughts continually be upon you. Teach me how to converse with you all day long, not just when I have quiet times with you when I am away from everything but also during the loud, busy times of my day. Help me to hear your voice throughout the day as I meditate on your Word. Amen.*

# DAY 12

## DEVELOPING YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 23-24 • Luke 9

**Point to Ponder:**

I'm as close to God as I choose to be.

**Verse to Remember:**

“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.” James 4:8a (NLT)

### **You Are as Close to God as You Choose to Be.**

Like any friendship, you must work at developing your friendship with God. It won't happen by accident. It takes desire, time, and energy. If you want a deeper, more intimate connection with God you must learn to honestly share your feelings with Him, trust Him when he asks you to do something, learn to care about what he cares about, and desire his friendship more than anything else.

### **I must choose to be honest with God.**

The first building block of a deeper friendship with God is complete honesty—about your faults and your feelings. God doesn't expect you to be perfect, but He does insist on complete honesty. None of God's friends in the Bible were perfect. If perfection was a requirement for friendship with God, we would never be able to be his friends. Fortunately, because of God's grace, Jesus is still the “friend of sinners.”

### **I must choose to obey God in faith.**

Every time you trust God's wisdom and do whatever He says, even when you don't understand it, you deepen your friendship with God. We don't normally think of obedience as a characteristic of friendship; that's reserved for relationships with a parent or the boss or a superior officer, not a friend. However, Jesus made it clear that obedience is a condition of intimacy with God. He said, “You are my friends if you do what I command.”

### **I must choose to value what God values.**

This is what friends do—they care about what is important to the other person. The more you become God's friend, the more you will care about the things He cares about, grieve over the things He grieves over, and rejoice over the things that bring pleasure to Him.

### **I must desire friendship with God more than anything else**

The truth is—you are as close to God as you choose to be. Intimate friendship with God is a choice, not an accident. You must intentionally seek it. Do you really want it—more than anything? What is it worth to you? Is it worth giving up other things? Is it worth the effort of developing the habits and skills required? There is nothing—absolutely nothing—more important than developing a friendship with God.

Have you been missing out on the most important thing in life? You can do something about it starting now. Remember, it's your choice. You are as close to God as you choose to be.

# FURTHER READING

TALKING TO GOD AS A FRIEND

SCAN TO  
READ



*Question to Consider:*

What practical choices will I make today in order to grow closer to God?

*Thought to Take Away:*

There are six secrets of friendship with God. The final four are as follows:

**3. Complete honesty with God.**

Perfection is not required by God of His children; complete honesty is required!

**4. Faith-based obedience with God.**

God considers all acts performed for him, regardless of size, that are executed in the proper attitude of love and gratitude as worship.

**5. Embracing God-based values.**

Friendship deepens between individuals who care about and share the same things.

**6. Earnestly desiring friendship with God.**

Friendship with God must be the Christian's first priority—it must become a passion.

*Prayer:*

*God, I confess that it is my own imperfection that makes it hard to appreciate your perfection, and that I would rather bend my image of you to please me than vice versa. Father, help me to trust you enough to be honest with you and be honest enough to discover that I can really trust you. It is hard even to imagine that you are truly strong enough, good enough, and loving enough to not just accept me as I am, but make me like you. Stretch my imagination through the acts and habits of worship, so that I may enjoy the true blessedness and peace that only comes from being a genuine friend of God. I ask this in and by the name of Jesus, Amen.*



# DAY 13

## WORSHIP THAT PLEASES GOD

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 23-24 • Luke 9

**Point to Ponder:**

God wants all of me.

**Verse to Remember:**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (NIV)

### **God Wants All of You.**

God doesn't want a part of your life. He asks for all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. God is not interested in halfhearted commitment, partial obedience, and the leftovers of your time and money. He desires your full devotion, not little bits of your life.

A Samaritan woman once tried to debate Jesus on the best time, place, and style for worship. Jesus replied that these external issues are irrelevant. Where you worship is not as important as why you worship and how much of yourself you offer to God when you worship. There is a right and wrong way to worship. The Bible says, “Let us be grateful and worship God in a way that will please Him.”<sup>1</sup> The kind of worship that pleases God has four characteristics:

### **God is pleased when our worship is accurate.**

People often say, “I like to think of God as . . .,” and then they share their idea of the kind of God they would like to worship. But we cannot just create our own comfortable or politically correct image of God and worship it. That is idolatry. Worship must be based on the truth of Scripture, not our opinions about God.

### **God is pleased when our worship is authentic.**

When Jesus said you must “worship in spirit,” He wasn't referring to the Holy Spirit, but to your spirit. Made in God's image, you are a spirit that resides in a body, and God designed your spirit to communicate with Him. Worship is your spirit responding to God's Spirit.

### **God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.**

Jesus' command to “love God with all your mind” is repeated four times in the New Testament. God is not pleased with thoughtless singing of hymns, perfunctory praying of clichés, or careless exclamations of “Praise the Lord,” because we can't think of anything else to say at that moment. If worship is mindless, it is meaningless. You must engage your mind.

### **God is pleased when our worship is practical.**

The Bible says, “Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”<sup>11</sup> Why does God want your body? Why doesn't he say, “Offer your spirit”? Because without your body you can't do anything on this planet. In eternity you will receive a new, improved, upgraded body, but while you're here on earth, God says, “Give me what you've got!” He's just being practical about worship.

When you praise God even when you don't feel like it, when you get out of bed to worship when you're tired, or when you help others when you are worn out, you are offering a sacrifice of worship to God. That pleases God.



# NEXT STEPS

LIFE IS DONE BETTER IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY



SCAN TO  
JOIN A  
LIFEGROUP



*Question to Consider:*

Which is more pleasing to God right now—my public worship or my private worship? What will I do about this?

*Thought to Take Away:*

If a Christian's worship is to be pleasing to God, it must be wholehearted and genuine.

Worship that is pleasing to God has the following four characteristics:

**1. Accuracy.**

To worship God “in truth” (John 4:23), is to worship Him in accordance with accurate Bible doctrine. To think of God correctly, each thought must reflect the essence of God as revealed in Holy Scripture. To think of or worship God according to one's own personal opinion is a form of “idolatry.”

**2. Authenticity.**

To worship God “in spirit” (John 4:23), is to worship Him in genuineness of attitude (with one's whole “heart”). Authentic worship is not merely “emotion,” true worship flows from an “honest” heart.

**3. Thoughtfulness.**

Worship that is pleasing to God is worship that employs the mind of the worshiper. Vain, empty of thought repetitions, means nothing to God. Mechanical methods of “customary worship” (singing, praying, etc.) and the use of “religious clichés” (“Amen,” “Praise the Lord,” “Hallelujah,” etc.) bring no special pleasure to God.

**4. Practicality.**

Worship that pleases God must employ the body. To worship in a practical fashion will cost the Christian his self-centeredness, his comfort, his convenience, his time and his energy.

*Prayer:*

*Father God, it is easy to worship you with my body, mind, and truth, but neglect the Spirit. I get so focused on doing and thinking that I neglect “loving”. Teach me to get back to the “Heart of Worship”, where it is all about you. Help me to learn what it means to worship you in Spirit and in Truth, and not settle for one or the other. Draw my heart to yours — even if you have to break it first. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

# DAY 14

## WHEN GOD SEEMS DISTANT

**Passage to Read:**

Gen. 23-24 • Luke 9

**Point to Ponder:**

God is real, no matter how I feel.

**Verse to Remember:**

“For God has said, ‘I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.’” Hebrews 13:5 (TEV)

### **God is Real, No Matter How You Feel.**

It is easy to worship God when things are going great in your life—when He has provided food, friends, family, health, and happy situations. But circumstances are not always pleasant. How do you worship God then? What do you do when God seems a million miles away? The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of pain, thanking God during a trial, trusting Him when tempted, surrendering while suffering, and loving him when He seems distant.

Friendships are often tested by separation and silence; you are divided by physical distance or you are unable to talk. In your friendship with God, you won’t always feel close to Him. That’s when worship gets difficult. To mature your friendship, God will test it with periods of seeming separation—times when it feels as if He has abandoned or forgotten you. God feels a million miles away.

The truth is, there’s nothing wrong with you! This is a normal part of the testing and maturing of your friendship with God. Every Christian goes through it at least once, and usually several times. It is painful and disconcerting, but it is absolutely vital for the development of your faith. When God seems distant, you may feel that He is angry with you or is disciplining you for some sin. In fact, sin does disconnect us from intimate fellowship with God. We grieve God’s Spirit and quench our fellowship with Him by disobedience, conflict with others, busyness, friendship with the world, and other sins. But often this feeling of abandonment or estrangement from God has nothing to do with sin. It is a test of faith—one we all must face: Will you continue to love, trust, obey, and worship God, even when you have no sense of His presence or visible evidence of His work in your life?

The most common mistake Christians make in worship today is seeking an experience rather than seeking God. They look for a feeling, and if it happens, they conclude that they have worshiped. Wrong! In fact, God often removes our feelings so we won’t depend on them. Seeking a feeling, even the feeling of closeness to Christ is not worship. How do you praise God when you don’t understand what’s happening in your life and God is silent?

### **Tell God exactly how you feel.**

Pour out your heart to God. Unload every emotion that you’re feeling. God can handle your doubt, anger, fear, grief, confusion, and questions.

### **Focus on who God is—his unchanging nature.**

Regardless of circumstances and how you feel, hang on to God’s unchanging character. Remind yourself what you know to be eternally true about God: He is good, He loves me, He is with me, He knows what I’m going through, He cares, and He has a good plan for my life.

### **Remember what God has already done for you.**

If God never did anything else for you, he would still deserve your continual praise for the rest of your life because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. God’s Son died for you! This is the greatest reason for worship.

# NEXT STEPS

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHERE TO USE YOUR GIFTS IN SERVING?

SCAN TO  
JOIN THE  
DREAM  
TEAM



*Question to Consider:*

How can I stay focused on God's presence, especially when He feels distant?

*Thought to Take Away:*

The difference between an immature and a mature Christian is that an immature Christian relies on experiences and emotions, whereas a mature Christian relies on faith.

It is often during times of difficulties and depression, often tests from God, that God's children show their maturity and are refined for His service.

When faced with such temptations and testing, believers should be perfectly honest with God in the expression of their dilemma, focus on the character (attributes) of God and the fact that God continues to abide with us through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and also remember all that Jesus Christ did for us on the cross of Calvary.

**MAKE A LIST OF THE WAYS GOD HAS MADE  
HIS PRESENCE IS KNOWN SO THAT WHEN YOU ARE  
FEELING DISTANT, YOU CAN MEDITATE ON HIS  
GOODNES.**

*Prayer:*

*God, I don't have any answers. All I know is that you have been far more good to me than I have ever been to myself. And while I confess that I sometimes doubt your existence, I choose to trust in you rather than myself. Teach me how to love you when I do not feel you and to trust you when I do not see you. May my relationship with you grow so that I can walk in faith holding your hand even when I do not feel it and the direction you are leading me does not make sense. Help my unbelief!*



**“BEING SUCCESSFUL AND  
FULFILLING YOUR LIFE’S PURPOSE  
ARE NOT AT ALL THE SAME ISSUE!”**

**“YOU WERE MADE BY GOD AND FOR  
GOD—AND UNTIL YOU  
UNDERSTAND THAT, LIFE WILL  
NEVER MAKE SENSE.”**

**YOU WERE CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST**