

1 Peter 1:7 – Part V

1Pe 1:6 (ESV) **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

What we want to do in this portion of our study is to provide some very practical insight and understanding in how we actually go about giving praise, glory, and honor to God in our life. Ultimately, that should be the goal for how we live. So, what I want to do in our study is to simply look at various verses throughout the New Testament that speak of actually glorifying God and see if we can glean from those passages “how” we as believers should be glorifying God in our life. There are many verses (nearly 150) which contain references to the specific “glory” of God, and there are around 57 specific times that the verb form of the word, “glorify” or “glorified”, is used, so I am going to primarily concentrate on the verb form, but will also utilize the noun form as well.

God is glorified when our life has a GODLY PURPOSE to it – [1 Corinthians 10:31](#).¹

1Co 10:31 (NKJV) **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

The worst thing that can happen to a person is that they have no meaningful purpose to their life. They find themselves always living for themselves, living for what they want to do, where they want to go, what they want to have. Jesus was very clear when He said the following in [Luke 17:33](#),

Lk 17:33 (NKJV) **Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.**

Losing our life, losing what God wanted to do in us, losing the value and substance of following Christ, losing eternal rewards, and ultimately wasting the life that God has given to us – that is what happens when a Christian finds themselves living without a godly purpose. [Romans 8:28](#) says,

Ro 8:28 (NKJV) **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

We cannot read that verse without realizing that God has an incredible purpose for our life. The Greek word for “purpose” is “*prosthesis*” refers specifically to a determination, a plan, and a will. It is a word that includes resolve and design. Often times it means to openly display something so that it can be seen.² [2 Timothy 1:9](#), speaking of not being ashamed of the gospel, says this about God,

2Ti 1:9 (NKJV) **who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**

Just think of someone like Paul who had great purpose and resolve in his life to honor and glorify God with his life. [2 Timothy 3:10](#) speaks of this when it says,

2Ti 3:10 (NKJV) **But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,**

If you want your life to count, then it has to have a godly purpose. I am personally convinced that with a clear and definable purpose for my personal life, that I will accomplish very little for Christ and have virtually no impact on anyone's life. We have to have purpose.

When Paul says to “do” all to the glory of God, obviously that is something that takes a great deal of commitment and concentration. Living with a godly purpose, living with a godly focus and resolve are not qualities that every Christian has or has even tried to develop in their life. Everything else on the planet will do everything that it can to distract us from having this kind of purpose, motivation, and devotion in our life, so it is critical that we develop a mindset and a conviction that living with a godly purpose and resolve is exactly what God desires for our life. Why? It is because to do so is what ultimately will bring glory to Him. I do not know of anyone who is void of this kind of outlook that really is bringing much glory to Christ, and the reason is simply because bring glory to God is not an accident. It is something that is planned and worked into our lives.

The word “do” is in the present tense, active voice, so it carries with it the idea of constantly having this kind of mindset. It is so easy to become completely sidetracked and diverted from thinking this way. It seems almost effortless for our life to become absorbed with and diverted from that which brings glory to God. I doubt seriously for most Christians that becoming absorbed with other things is necessarily intentional, but nevertheless, it is something that is constantly occurring in their life – this fundamental lack of spiritual direction for their life. Everyone seems to be living for this life, for what they can acquire and for what they can achieve, and in the process the glory of God becomes a very distant reality.

The way that God thinks is clearly revealed in what he has written in the Scriptures. All of the Scriptures reflect God's thoughts and how God thinks. So, one of the primary goals of any believer's life should be to discipline themselves so that they learn to think the way that God thinks simply because God has reminded us that His thoughts are not like our thoughts. In other words, God wants us to know that He does not think in the same way that we think. **The reason that so many people live in an unbiblical way is because they think in an unbiblical way. What a man thinks determines what a man does.** That is why it is so important for believers to embrace the Word of God into their life so that they can think like God thinks, and ultimately allow the purpose of their life to be exactly what God desires.

God is glorified when PEOPLE SEE OUR GOOD WORKS – [Matthew 5:16](#).

Mt 5:16 (NKJV) **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

The word for “works”, “*ergon*”, is a word that refers specifically to a person's entire life-style, everything about their life. The adjective “good” or “*kalos*”, speaks specifically of that which has moral excellence, of that which has virtue, excellence, and goodness associated with it.³ It is often translated as “honest”, or as that which is honorable and something that brings honor. It refers specifically to integrity, uprightness, and morality that should be evident in a person's life.

What God is really after is that it become more than evident from how we live before others that our personal faith in Christ is dominating and controlling our life, or said another way, that Christ is

governing our life. It is the idea that Christ is truly living His life through my life. It is something that other people can clearly see and recognize. They are able to understand some things about God by observing our life.⁴ This word refers to every aspect of our life – our words, how we spend our time, our resources, our relationships, and our behavior at home and at work – everything about our life. The phrase “**good works**” refers to those things that someone does because of their faith rather than to obtain faith, and these various areas of our life are lived out solely for the purpose of being able to glorify God in our life. They are things that we do so that we can clearly testify of the goodness and salvation of God in our life. We know that the Pharisees did their “**good works**” so that they could be seen of men, but the genuine motive that has value and merit before God is that we are doing what we do and living how we live so that He can be honored and glorified in our life. What we are addressing here is not something that can be concealed or hidden. If in reality, these things are not obvious and apparent in a person’s life, then in reality it is most likely evidence that they may never have been saved. [1 Peter 2:12](#) says,

1Pe 2:12 (NKJV) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

ENDNOTES

¹ MacArthur, 227.

² Zodhiates, 1219.

³ Zodhiates, *kalos*, 814.

⁴ Harris, *Matthew 5:16*, ep.

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