



**PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE**  
**The Purpose Driven Life – Part 2**  
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God has five reasons for creating you, and today we're going to look at the first one.

Would you read it with me?

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

Circle the phrase "*for your pleasure.*" The Bible says you were created for God's enjoyment.

God made you just to enjoy you. God planned you for His purpose.

Now, last week we talked about how you **were created to be loved** by God.

This week we're looking at the flip side, the first purpose of your life, which is

- God wants you to love Him back.
- He wants you to bring enjoyment back to Him.

Listen to this summary of the whole Bible, It's the most important thing ever."

Let's read it together there in Matthew 22.

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

Circle “**first**” and “**greatest**.” God says if you don’t get anything else, here’s what you’re supposed to do in life: To know Him and love Him back.

**There is a word for this its, “WORSHIP”**

**MY 1<sup>ST</sup> PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO WORSHIP GOD.**

*“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.**

God always makes the first move. God doesn’t ever ask you to make the first move.

He always makes the first move.

- Creating, redeeming, forgiving, blessing and protecting us.

And notice what we do - we “**offer**.” That word describes worship.

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

Second thing is **giving back** to God.

**First**, He gives to us, and **second**, we give back to Him. And whenever you give back to God, whenever you offer anything to God, that's called worship. And that brings pleasure and enjoyment to God.

**Illustration:**

*I remember when we had tickets for kids from Footsteps to go and watch a show at Wembley and one kid came back with a written thank you note, that gave me and the donor a lot of pleasure, probably more than the kid got, and immediately I wanted to do more for that kid.*

When your kids are grateful to you, as a parent that brings pleasure to you.

When we're grateful to our Heavenly Father that brings pleasure to Him.

Now, the question is, what do we offer?

I mean, what do you give a God who has everything? He is the Creator of the Universe and Ownership is with Him.

Here is what you offer: It's simply this... love. And He's very specific about how to give it.

And we're going to look at this today. In Mark chapter 12, would you read this verse with me?

Now, in this verse – which is also our memory verse for this week in 40 days.

*“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...**

### **THOUGHTFULLY**

“with my mind”

Think it through no kissing your brains good bye, know and love him thoughtfully

### **PASSIONATELY**

“with my heart and soul”

Love him with real passion- that means with zeal, enthusiasm, excitement, obsession and delight!

### **PRACTICALLY**

“with my strength”

Love him with all your ability- aptitude, capacity, capability, skill, talent and gift.

You see the truth is that even though God created the entire universe and that He created you, there are three things God does not have unless you give them to Him.

He doesn't have your 3 "A" unless you give it to Him.

### ATTENTION-AFFECTION-ABILITY

Whenever you take the things such as (Attention, Affection and Ability) God has given to you and you give them back to God, that, friends, is the heart of worship.

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

Number one, worship is **focusing my attention** on God.

It is focusing my mind, my thoughts, and my attention on God.

Many religions, the idea of worship is to put your mind into neutral, or autopilot. But the truth is, God wants us to worship Him thoughtfully.

#### **IT TAKES ENERGY.**

Which isn't always easy to do.

God wants your focus because He is focused on you.

Look at what the Bible has to say to us in Psalm 139 verses 1 through 3

*"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. Did you know that?

He provides, prolongs, and prospers your life.

The reason is He made you is to love you. And the greatest expression of love is often that attention. When I notice my wife and give her attention is delighted.

Why? Because, attention is an incredible expression of love.

And God puts His attention constantly on us.

How many of you remember when you first fell in love? You couldn't get that person of your mind!

We are easily distracted because we are by nature selfish and self-centred and we live in a self-centred 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."*                      *Rom. 8:7 (Msg)*

We have to decide to focus on Him- God Almighty.

Let us read Romans 12:2a together...

*“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 can we remain focussed on God when we are so easily distracted?

- (i) Establish a daily quiet time and talk to God and read His Word

*“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)*

Three key words:

- i. “Place”- you need a place
- ii. “Simply”- no ceremony, no fancy words
- iii. “Honestly” Be yourself!

- (ii) Focus on God and develop a constant conversation with God

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

Whatever you do, you develop this constant conversation throughout the day.

As we focus on God we receive incredible benefits in our lives.

*“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You,  
whose thoughts are fixed on You!”      Isa. 26:3 (NLT)*

When you focus on yourself, the inevitable results are:

- Worry
- Insecurity
- Anxiety
- Guilt
- Fear
- Discouragement

But when that focus shifts from oneself to God, all of a sudden, you begin to sense

- Gratitude
- Hope
- Confidence
- Love

## 2. WORSHIP IS EXPRESSING MY AFFECTION TO GOD.

Now, not only is worship focusing my attention on God, it's also **expressing my affection** to God. This is loving God with your heart and soul.

**Illustration:** Family background, personality type... etc.

Expressing your love might be difficult. The good news is you don't need to feel weird or awkward because as the next verse says,

*"We love Him, because He first loved us."*

*1 John 4:19 (KJV)*

God said I love you first and the risk has been taken away.

Notice this verse, the Bible says,

*"We love Him, because He first loved us."*

You know, in many religions, God is this angry tyrant, and you have to appease God and you have to avoid God and run from God, and you have to be afraid of God.

But that's not the real God. The Bible says God wants to be loved. Have you ever said, "I love you" to God? God wants that from you.

*"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)*

Notice this next verse.

Now, I want you to circle the word "**love**" and the word "**know**," because that, friends, is the first purpose of your life -- to know and love God. If you get that done, you have accomplished the most important thing in life.

You see, 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.

We need to pray every morning that we get to know God a little bit better and love him a little bit more, all else amounts to zero.

God is never too busy for you. In fact, the Bible says He has extremely deep feelings for you.

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

Circle that word "**passionate.**"

God is passionate about you. He longs to know you. He longs for you to know Him. He longs passionately for you to have a relationship.

## Illustration: MY WIFE'S BIRTHDAY

*We have been married now for nearly 14 wonderful years.*

*How about if said to Latana on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month, "Honey, here are some flowers for you.*

*And I am giving you these flowers for three strategic reasons:*

*Point No. 1, I am your husband.*

*Point No. 2, It is your birthday.*

*Points No. 3, Husbands are supposed to give their wives flowers on their birthday.*

*Wouldn't she be thrilled? No way!*

*Why? She wants me to love her passionately. She doesn't want duty. She wants desire.*

The same is true with God; He doesn't want your duty.

He wants your desire.

He doesn't want ritual and religion and rules and regulation.

He wants a relationship.

And He's passionate about it! And He says, "I want you to love Me as much as I love you, because I made you and I created you."

If expressing your love is hard then start by thanksgiving.

There is so much to thank God for, just think of the many blessings.

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

God gave us life then He gives new life in Jesus. He says I want you to give yourself completely back to me.

What holds us back?

Why do you not give your life completely to God?

Well, I'll tell you, it is one word -- f-e-a-r. You're scared to death.

But it is fear that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to God.

Some of you might think you don't love God enough.

That is not your problem!

The real issue is you don't realise how much God loves you.

### 3. WORSHIP IS USING MY ABILITIES FOR GOD.

We need to love God with all our strength, using our abilities our gifts and our talents to the glory of God.

I can't just give my wife flowers and kisses; I must demonstrate that love with actions-practical expressions of love.

And that's the practical thing where I use my abilities to show, this is not just words, I really do love you and I show it by my action in practical ways – fixing, helping, serving, sharing, those kinds of things. And that's part of worship, too.

“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)

Now, if you get this verse, it will absolutely revolutionize your life. You'll never be the same once you understand this verse.

Notice it again. “*Whatever you do*” – that means anything – “*work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.*”

God wants you to invite Him into every area of your life.

The Truth for Today:

## IN LIFE IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO THAT MATTERS; IT IS WHOM YOU DO IT FOR.

Please remember this truth.

*“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)*

The word offering again, it's the essence of worship. Offering our lives to God- this is our bottom line. Our DNA, our wiring is to worship God. He is worthy of our Worship!

### CONCLUSION:

Now, the greatest mistake you can make in life is to miss your primary purpose.

*So let me ask you a question, what do you think about most?*

Your bank statement and your diary are theological documents, they tell who or what matters in your life. Because the way you spend your time and the way you spend your money shows what you love the most. Whatever that is, is what you Worship.

The Bible says you were planned for God's pleasure. You were made to know and love God.

You make as your goal what Paul said in the last verse on your outline, he said, *“So we make it our goal to please Him.” 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)* There's not a better goal in life to have than that one right there.