

5. Can purpose be known?

Can you know how you are to glorify God? Is it possible for a person to experience this ultimate purpose in everyday life? Can the glory of God bring meaning to your life? Yes, because God has revealed how to glorify himself in the Scriptures. "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever." (Psalm 86:11-12) God has given his word to reveal to all humanity the good ways of God. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.'" (Jeremiah 6:16) This requires you to continually have your mind renewed by faith in God's Word. The world is constantly seeking to draw you away from God and his good way. This is why Scripture states, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2) It is the ability to live in constant harmony with the good purposes and will of God that results in bringing glory to God. The Bible calls this ability wisdom. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Proverbs 9:10) Walking in wisdom before Almighty God is the best way to live life on earth. It may not be easy, but it will be good. Therefore hear what God is saying to you, "We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." (1 Thessalonians 2:12-13) When you accept the Bible as "the word of God" it will work in you. God has revealed his good will in his word so you may know God and glorify him forever.

Bible passages to read: Jeremiah 6:13-22; Romans 12:1-2; Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Questions to ponder:

1. Why do many people reject God's good ways?
2. How has God revealed his good ways?
3. What is wisdom?
4. How does wisdom accomplish God's purpose in your life?
5. Why do you sometimes reject this purpose? What is the result?