

The Goal of Pleasing God (Part2)

Scripture: 2 Cor 5:9-10 (TNIV)

⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive what is due them for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

God is pleased:

1. When we live by His Spirit – Rom 8:3-9 (Amplified)

³For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice],

⁴So that the righteous and just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit].

⁵For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit.

⁶Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].

⁷[That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot.

⁸So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

⁹But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].

- **V8 – Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God**

⁸So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

- **How does the Holy Spirit empower us to please God?**

- **Rom 8:26-27 (Amplified) – Reveals a powerful key**

²⁶So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.

²⁷And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.

2. When we are blessed – Ps 35:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Let them shout for joy and be glad,
Who favor my righteous cause;
And let them say continually,
“Let the LORD be magnified,
Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”

- **Prosperity – ‘shalom’: well, happy, healthy, peaceful, restful, safe, whole, complete**

- **Luke 12:32 (Amplified)**

³²Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!

- Rom 8:32 (Amplified)
³²He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?

3. When we **praise Him in tough times** – Ps 69:29-33 (NLT)

- ²⁹ I am suffering and in pain.
 Rescue me, O God, by your saving power.
- ³⁰ Then I will praise God's name with singing,
 and I will honor him with thanksgiving.
- ³¹ For this will please the LORD more than sacrificing cattle,
 more than presenting a bull with its horns and hooves.
- ³² The humble will see their God at work and be glad.
 Let all who seek God's help be encouraged.
- ³³ For the LORD hears the cries of the needy;
 he does not despise his imprisoned people.

- **Psalm deals with people experiencing tough times**

- **Guilt & condemnation – Ps 69:5 (Amplified)**

⁵O God, You know my folly and blundering; my sins and my guilt are not hidden from You.

- **V29 – afflicted & distressed**

²⁹ I am suffering and in pain.
 Rescue me, O God, by your saving power.

- **Ps 84:5-7 (NLT)**

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD,
 who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
⁶ When they walk through the Valley of Weeping,
 it will become a place of refreshing springs.
 The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.
⁷ They will continue to grow stronger,
 and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.

4. When we **demonstrate God's kindness** – Heb 13:15-16 (Amplified)

¹⁵Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.

¹⁶Do not forget or neglect to do kindness and good, to be generous and distribute and contribute to the needy [of the church as embodiment and proof of fellowship], for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- **Titus 3:14 (Amplified)**

¹⁴And let our own [people really] learn to apply themselves to good deeds (to honest labor and honorable employment), so that they may be able to meet necessary demands whenever the occasion may require and not be living idle and uncultivated and unfruitful lives.

Conclusion:

Phil 2:13 (Amplified)

¹³[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while [a]ffectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and [b]delight.