

# Finding Your “Why?”



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

# Finding Your “Why?”

Learn how to discover and fulfill your true purpose in life

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## Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God’s word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God’s word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God’s instructions.

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# Finding Your “Why?”

What is your life about? What is the central purpose or idea that causes you to make the decisions you make and that motivates your actions? Can you think of one? Maybe you can think of several. Maybe you can't think of any.

Why do you exist on this earth? Why do you exist on this earth at this particular point in time? Can you define the reason for your existence? Are you still searching for the true purpose of your life? Or, perhaps you thought you had found your purpose – but, you still feel like you are not using your abilities to their full potential.

“Why does it even matter how I have defined the central purpose of my life?,” you might be asking yourself. Think of it this way. If you have defined your profession in life as an accountant, you'll train yourself in the accounting field, search for an accounting job, and measure success in your work by standards in the accounting profession. You will not define your profession as an accountant, train yourself to do electrician work, search for a job as a mechanic, and measure your success by the standards of the petroleum engineering profession. No, every evaluation that you make relative to your work will be based on the fact that you have defined your profession as an accountant. In order to begin making other decisions, you will have to redefine your profession.

Likewise, these kinds of questions are absolutely essential for you to answer for yourself – and to answer properly. Properly defining your “Why?” has a much greater impact than just on your profession (though it will impact your choice of a profession). Every decision that you make about

your life will be impacted by what you define your central purpose in life (your “Why?”) to be!

The purpose of this lesson is to search for answers relative to your “Why?” As we do this, we will be considering the very essence of your earthly existence and examining some various options, testing them in order to see if they match up with your “Why?”

## *The Importance Of Finding Your “Why?”*

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I want you to think about the importance of knowing your destination. If you prepare to go on a vacation and don't know your destination, you will never know when you get there – and you will not be able to properly navigate yourself so as to get there! However, if you know your destination, you'll be able to determine every turn and decision you have to make in order to get there. You'll be able to look at a roadmap, a GPS, or something similar to determine how to get from where you are to where you want to be.

Think of your “Why?” as a roadmap for your life. You will be making your decisions relative to your education, your profession, your family, whether or not you want to marry, who you want to marry, whether or not to start a family, when to start a family, where to live, what friends to associate with, whether to be religious, how you want to practice the religion you choose, what you do with your free time, how to spend your money, etc., etc., etc. – depending upon how you have defined your “Why?”

So, take a few moments to consider three categories individuals fit into relative to finding their true purpose in life. You will also fit into one of these three categories.

### **Undefined “Why?”**

Some individuals live their lives without a true “roadmap.” They are like a man who sets out to go on a trip and does not care where he winds up!

This man never checks a map to see how to get from where he is to a specific place.

There are many individuals living on this earth who have no idea why they are here or what they want out of life. They just live from day to day and take whatever seems best to them at a particular moment – and what seems best to them may change from one day to another. They are just kind of along for the “ride of life” and go wherever the ebbs and flows of life lead them.

Ultimately, these kinds of lives tend to go nowhere *fast!* That is, as these individuals grow old, they will have difficulty recognizing anything that would best summarize the ways they chose to live their lives – because no one thing did define their lives! ***This is a wasted life!***

### **Improperly defined “Why?”**

Some individuals have defined where they want to go in their lives, it’s just not where they should take their lives. They are like a man who sets out to go on a trip and has selected a location (perhaps unknowingly) that will bring harm upon himself or his family. He has carefully plotted out his course to get to this place – it’s just not the place he should go!

There are many individuals living on this earth who have a purpose in their lives. They have priorities and goals. They may be pursuing money, wealth, fame, earthly relationships, earthly pleasures, earthly experiences, etc. They have given their purpose thought and made very intentional decisions according to this purpose.

However, having an improperly defined “Why?” always has some false source of pleasure or purpose at its core. These are things that are simply not in harmony with the essential elements of your life. They may be things that appear to be good and/or pleasurable in a specific moment; but, they are not things which have any true meaning or significance. Ultimately, this also is ***a wasted life!***

### **Properly defined “Why?”**

Some individuals have carefully evaluated all of the facts about their earthly lives – why they exist on this earth and what happens whenever life on this

earth is over. They are like a man who knows exactly where he needs to go on a trip and diligently plots the best route to arrive at that destination! Every turn he makes, therefore, is guided by this one well-thought-out and properly defined purpose.

These individuals, then, have sought out instruction concerning how to live in a way that is in complete agreement with the unmistakable facts about life, death, and the afterlife. These individuals make their decisions and take their actions always with the end in mind (rather than getting caught up in particular moments). They are willing to sacrifice the temporary, short-sighted pleasures and treasures for much longer term joy.

Ultimately, these individuals can precisely define why they have lived the ways in which they have lived. They know their true purpose in life and do not live in fear about their worldly lives or possessions. ***This is the successful life!***

### **Where are you?**

As I mentioned, you will find yourself in one of these three categories. I challenge you ***right now*** to identify the category your life belongs in – and explain your reasoning. Unless you identify that you have an undefined purpose, I want you to specifically identify one thing (or the few things) that defines your life. Then, I want you to keep referring back to this as we continue through our study.

## ***Defining Some Essential Elements To Your “Why?”***

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Our lives do not exist in a vacuum. There are certain things that we must understand in order to properly define our true purposes. Let’s take some time to properly define each one of these essential elements, realizing that if we do not allow these foundational principles of truth to define our lives we will certainly miss the main purpose of life!

## Defining your origin

It is essential to properly define your origin so that you can properly define success and your purpose in life. For instance, if you believe that you are only a result of years of evolution and that you have no Creator, you will never recognize a higher power or your need to submit to a higher power. If you believe that you are no different than an animal, you will never see anything particularly special about your life and may not make any kind of spiritual preparation in your life.

**(1) God is Your Creator.** Yes, there is a God who created this universe and everything in it! How can you know this to be true? Consider two verses from the Bible – and then we'll make application of them. Romans 1:19-21 says, "because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."

There are many complex arguments made concerning evolution and the denial of a intelligent Creator. However, the argument for the sovereign God as Creator of this world is a simple one (as summarized by the two passages quoted). You will either accept that all of the order that exists in the universe exists because there was an intelligent Creator controlling it all – or that it all came about by random chances, explosions, and evolutionary processes. It takes a greater faith to believe that all of the order and magnificence that we can observe throughout the universe came by chance than it does to believe that there was an intelligent Creator in charge of it all! You have to decide which one you will believe.

**(2) Your nature is body and spirit.** If you determine that God did create this universe and everything in it, then you need to understand how God has created you. Genesis chapter 1, specifically,

reveals how God has created this world and everything in it – including you! Specifically, you learn that whenever God chose to create man, he created him in His own image. Genesis 1:26-27 says, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Since God is Spirit (John 4:24), this fact means that mankind has been created with a spirit/soul. Then, it is important to realize that this soul survives physical death (demonstrated by James 2:26; Luke 23:43; Luke 16:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; etc.). So, your earthly life (as we will see momentarily) will end; but, your soul will continue to live on!

## Defining the truth

What is the truth? In a world that contains so many lies (even lies about the Bible), who can you believe? Certainly, properly defining the truth is essential to your purpose in life. What you accept as being truth will lead you to act accordingly.

**(1) The need for an objective standard of truth.** Mankind needs to recognize a standard of authority in life. In the physical realm, this is demonstrated by the need for common laws to abide by (i.e. traffic laws, property laws, etc.). In this spiritual realm, this is even more true! Consider the teachings of Proverbs 14:12 and Jeremiah 10:23. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death." Jeremiah 10:23 says, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

Both of these passages should help you see that it is outside of your own ability to live in a way that is pleasing to your Creator – without recognizing His instructions as authoritative! Living your life in a way that pleases yourself simply will not result in a life that is pleasing to God! Therefore, you are in need of an objective standard of truth to recognize as being authoritative in life.

**(2) False standards of authority.** There are many false standards of authority. You must simply expose each one of these as being false and refuse to recognize them as authoritative standards of truth in your life. These false standards include: The doctrines and commandments of men, the opinions of men, the traditions of men, the “wisdom” of men, your conscience, the will of the majority, your family and friends (i.e. their traditions, opinions, beliefs), etc.

Although these false subjective standards of authority are often recognized as being truth, they all fail to result in lives that are pleasing to God. Why is that? Simply because they are from men and not from God! Therefore, you must reject any source that claims to be authoritative that originates with men and not with God!

**(3) God’s word is truth.** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The writers of the Bible wrote under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who revealed God’s will to these writers (see 2 Peter 1:20-21; Ephesians 3:3-5; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16). Since God is the All-Powerful Creator of the world who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), His word is complete truth (John 17:17)!

God’s word will be the criteria by which you will be judged. In John 12:48, Jesus warned that those who reject Him and do not receive His words also rejects what judges them, saying, “the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” Also read Romans 2:16 and Revelation 20:11-15 to see that all of God’s word will be used to judge us one Day. Since this is true, it is extremely important for you to live your life according to its teachings. As we will see, what happens to you after your death depends on this! So, you must “buy the truth, and do not sell it” (Proverbs 23:23)!

## **Defining what happens when your earthly life ends**

A key component to living your life with the proper purpose is defining that your earthly life will

end – and what will happen to you when your life does end. Think about it. If you believe you will be given many different chances at life (i.e. reincarnation), then your purpose might be to try to improve each opportunity you get. If you are forever put out of existence when you die (possessing no soul that continues to exist), then your purpose might be to live in whatever way makes you and others happiest while you are on earth. If, however, you do possess a soul that survives physical death and continues to exist (as we have already established), then you’ll want to examine how it is that you can live in the most favorable place.

**(1) Your earthly life will end.** You will die. You can observe death all around you (in plants, animals, and people). You will not escape this fate. Your earthly life is only a temporary existence. Hebrews 9:27 says that “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” In fact, James writes (in James 4:13-16) that your life is like a vapor that appears for only a short time before it vanishes away.

**(2) You will go to the Hadean realm.** After your physical death, you will go to Hades (if you die prior to the return of Christ). Hades is the realm of the dead. It is divided into two parts (as demonstrated in Luke 16:19-31). There is a part of comfort and there is a part of torment. Read the text to observe each one. Also, notice how the text connects how an individual lives and which part of Hades he/she will be in. Then, notice that whichever part of Hades you will find yourself in, you will not be able to escape it in order to go to the other!

**(3) You will take part in the return of Christ.** Christ is coming again (see John 14:3). However, He has not told us when His return will be. Instead, He has simply told us to “be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44). We must be ready because the dead will be raised (John 5:28-29), we will all be judged for how we lived our earthly lives (2 Corinthians 5:10), and this world will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10-14) when He comes again.

**(4) You will be judged.** You will stand before the Judgment seat of Jesus Christ when He comes. Your judgment will consist of the things you

have done on earth in comparison with the instructions of God's word (John 12:48; Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:11-15). Everything that you have ever done, said, or thought will be exposed and judged by your All-Knowing God on this Day. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

#### **(5) You will spend eternity somewhere.**

Based on the Judgment you receive (as previously described), you will either spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell. These are the only two options God has given for you regarding your eternal destination. If you obeyed God during your life, you will go to Heaven – a beautiful place (pictured in Revelation 21-22:5), a place where there will be no pain, sorrow, or death (Revelation 21:4), a place where there will be no evil (Revelation 21:27), and a place where you will forever be with God (John 14:1-6). But, if you disobeyed God during your life, you will go to Hell – a place of eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46), a place described in Revelation 21:8 and Mark 9:43-48 as never-ending torment, suffering, pain, and anguish that burns with fire and brimstone, and a place in which you will be eternally separated from God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

### **Defining your opportunity to be saved**

Having established that you have a soul that survives physical death, that you will be judged for how you have lived your earthly life, and that you will spend eternity either in Heaven or in Hell, you should be considering how you can live your life so as to spend eternity in Heaven. Can you even go to Heaven?

**(1) Your problem of sin.** God defines "sin" as "lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Therefore, sin occurs whenever you act without or contrary to God's law (the standard of truth He has revealed in the Bible). God did not create you in sin – and you did not inherit sin. Instead, you sin whenever you violate His laws. Romans 3:23 will help you understand that you are a sinner – since "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This sin is significant because "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Spiritual death (separation from God) is what you earn/deserve by

sinning. Dying in your sin is what will result in eternal spiritual death in Hell fire (see Revelation 21:8).

**(2) God's part in your salvation.** How, then, can you be saved from your sins? You needed a Savior. Thanks be to God that He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross and be the ransom sacrifice for your sins so that you might "not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)! He has extended this opportunity to be saved from your sins to you (and to everyone living on this earth). Therefore, even though "the wages of sin is death," the "gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). By God's love, grace, and mercy you can be saved from the wrath of the Almighty God (which you deserved to experience because of your sin) through Jesus Christ (read Romans 5:6-11)!

**(3) Your part in salvation.** Jesus has died for you so that you can be saved; but, this does not automatically save you. God has said that His salvation-bringing grace has appeared (has been made available) to everyone (Titus 2:11); but most people will still choose to live their lives in a way that will result in being lost in Hell (read Matthew 7:13-14). In fact, many religious people who believe in Jesus will be lost because they have not been obedient to God's instructions (see Matthew 7:21-23 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Although you cannot earn your salvation by doing good deeds, God has required you to do some things in order to be saved. Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." God has commanded the following things of you in order to access His grace and be forgiven of your sins (please read the passages for each point): Hear God's word (Romans 10:17; Acts 18:8), believe (John 8:24; Romans 10:9-10), repent of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-39), and be baptized (immersed) in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:20-21).

**(4) Your opportunity to be part of Christ's church.** God has given you this opportunity to be saved, forgiven of your sins, and be part of His one

true church. It is at the point when you are obedient to the previously mentioned commandments of God that you are added to Jesus' church (His congregation of the saved) and are forgiven of your sins (see Acts 2:37-47). This is His church – the church of Christ, the one He promised to build in Matthew 16:18. Then, as a Christian and as a member of His church, you have the responsibility to live faithful and be obedient to Him throughout the remainder of your earthly life in order to be given a home in Heaven (Revelation 2:10) – because it is possible to sin and fall away from the grace of God after being saved by it (see Galatians 5:4 and Hebrews 10:26-39)!

## ***Defining Your “Why?”***

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Now that we have carefully defined all of these essential components and realities that make up your life, we need to make diligent application of these truths so as to help you properly define your “Why?”

### **Defining success**

Given all that we have defined in the previous section of this study, what does it mean to be “successful” when it comes to living life on this earth? Is it the accumulation of earthly riches? Is it achieving worldly fame? Is it getting to experience the greatest earthly thrills and pleasures? Is it defined by your family life? Is it advancing up the “corporate ladder”? Is being identified as an authoritative figure? Is it living what is perceived to be a “good” life? Is it having a positive impact on the world while you live?

While you think about this question, let me state what should be obvious: There is only one opportunity to be successful in your life! That is, you only have one life to live – so you had better make that one a success! Furthermore, as I mentioned, James 4:13-16 teaches that your earthly life is like a vapor that appears for just a short time before it vanishes away. So, you need to make sure that you are making the best use of that brief time – since it has eternal implications for you!

**(1) The problem with all earthly measures of “success.”** When you consider the list of things that are common ingredients of a life that is perceived as being “successful.” You need to observe and carefully recognize that all of the things I listed (and every other earthly measure of “success”) are all about life on this earth! It is this common thread which causes each one of these things to *fail* to result in a truly successful life!

Why is this true? After all, the things I mentioned might sound like good and “successful” things. To answer the question, we need to think back to the truth we established from Hebrews 9:27: “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Well, if you are going to die and your life is going to be evaluated by the standard of God’s word (the Bible), then all of those earthly measures of “success” prove to be utterly worthless! They simply will not provide any spiritual benefit to you (in and of themselves).

Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Also read and consider the examples of two rich men – one in Luke 12:16-21 and the other in Luke 16:19-31. Both of these men died and were separated from their wealth – and their wealth was of no benefit to them (since it would just be left to somebody else). Furthermore, the man in Luke 16 was said to have been in torments (in Hades) after he died! How, then, was either of these a successful life?

Now, this is not just true about earthly wealth. Indeed, some may agree that physical wealth and possessions are not the measure of “success”; but, they may believe some other earthly thing is (i.e. having a positive impact on the world, relationships with others, being influential, etc.). However, all of these things share the same common fate as earthly wealth: They are only temporary and only have temporary impacts! One man (in the book of Ecclesiastes) searched for the true meaning of life and how to be happy and successful. He tried earthly wealth and possessions, earthly relationships, earthly



wisdom and knowledge, etc. However, Ecclesiastes 2:11 records: “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.”

This man recognized that every earthly thing ends in physical death. It is only temporary – at best. It is trying to chase after something you’ll never catch! Therefore, Jesus asked, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). So, Jesus says that nothing and no one is worth more than your soul. Your soul is truly the most valuable thing you could ever possess. After all, is it really “successful” if what you are living for and achieving is only temporary?

**(2) Living eternally in Heaven.** We have already discussed the opportunity that you have to be forgiven of your sins and to live eternally in Heaven. We have also discussed what it is that you must do in order to be saved. At this point in our study, I want you to appreciate that the ultimate measure of success in life is whether or not you will live eternally in Heaven!

Heaven (as we have seen) is a place of everlasting life and comfort (see Revelation 21-22:5). Hell, on the other hand, is a place of everlasting death and torment (see Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8). Therefore, according to the statement made by Jesus in Matthew 16:26, if you miss Heaven, you have missed everything!

Certainly a central connecting piece to your living in Heaven is the reality that if you are rewarded with eternal life in Heaven, it means that your earthly life ended in devotion to God – in His service! This is a truly successful life!

**(3) Influencing others to live eternally in Heaven.** Since living eternally in Heaven is your true measure of success, then it follows that the same is true for everyone (as these Biblical truths are equally applicable to all). Therefore, living your life in such a way so as to influence others to make the decision to live for God and live eternally in Heaven is also a measure of success. In fact, helping others come to glorify and obey God in their lives is part of every

Christian’s responsibility (see Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 10:13-18; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Of course, there are many people you have the opportunity and responsibility to influence. Those who are members of your family represent some of your greatest opportunities. Spouses, children, parents, and other family members may represent frequent opportunities to win others to the Lord. Other opportunities may include neighbors, co-workers, friends, classmates, and even strangers! Regardless of who it is, those who conduct their lives in a way that is pleasing to the Lord will be working to influence others to make the choice to obey the Lord themselves!

## Defining your purpose

So what is your purpose? We have been studying a number of different subjects that, I keep saying, are important to your purpose in life. But, how? Why?

Previously, we have been focused on laying the groundwork for this study. All of the subjects we have covered up to this point, then, have an important part in actually defining your purpose in life (your “Why?”). Now, we want to use the information we have gained and come to a conclusion about your ultimate purpose on this earth. Then, what we can conclude is that you have been created to fulfill a two-fold spiritual purpose!

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 adequately summarizes your purpose in life (your “Why?”). However, before we examine the two-fold purpose for your life that is defined in this passage, it will be helpful for you to understand some of the context surrounding this passage. You may notice that these are the final two verses in the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes has been a book about a wealthy king (Solomon) searching for the purpose of life. He has tried everything you can think of – wealth, possessions, property, pleasures, knowledge, etc. However, he has discovered that the pursuit of all those things is vanity! You can hear him say, “Vanity of vanity...All is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 12:8). That is, “IT’S ALL USELESS!!!” “I work so hard to accumulate these things and enjoy them – for what? They just break down, are stolen, or they no longer

make me happy. Ultimately, I see that everyone's dying (and I'm going to die), and none of this stuff is going to help me at all!" So, we can imagine the writer asking the question one more time, "What's it all about?" It's at this point that we hear him say, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

**(1) Fear God.** You must recognize who God is. An accurate knowledge of who God is will lead you to fear Him. What does it mean to fear God? There are really two elements involved in fearing God.

First, there is a reverential awe of God. Involved in fearing the Lord is an amazement of the wonderful works of God! You should be provoked to stop and consider how marvelous the Lord is as you think about the power He demonstrated throughout His creation. Again, the Psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). There is no place you can go where you cannot be reminded of the greatness of God! This reverential awe toward God should cause you to praise Him, thank Him, and lead you to live your life to His honor and glory!

The second thing that is involved in the fear of the Lord is a terror of Him. As you consider His great power, you should also be reminded of the fact that He has promised to judge your life (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14). He has also promised that those who disobey Him will be sentenced to everlasting punishment and will experience His great wrath (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Therefore, an accurate knowledge of who God is should cause you to be afraid of disobeying Him, respecting what He is able to do to your soul and body (Matthew 10:28)! It is in this way that the Hebrew writer said, "It is a fearful [terrifying] thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31). Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:10-11), this should cause you to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), conducting your life in a way that is pleasing to Him – considering everything you do, think, and say!

**(2) Keep God's commandments.** You must fear God. That is part of your purpose in life. However, that fear (both reverential awe and terror of God) means absolutely nothing unless it is accompanied by your obedience to God's instructions!

As I mentioned earlier, you cannot earn your salvation (i.e. Ephesians 2:8-9). Nothing in what we are about to discuss is meant in that way. Still, God has required you to be obedient to Him. Please take some time to read the following passages that indicate the necessity of obedience: Matthew 7:21-23; John 14:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Hebrews 5:9. This is just a sample. The Bible is full of commandments and instructions which must be obeyed.

Obedying these commandments, then, is an essential element to your purpose in life. Your life is not about living to please yourself. Rather, your life is about living in a way that will bring glory and honor to the Almighty Creator and Judge! This way, you will be judged to be faithful to the Lord on the Day of Judgment and will be given eternal life in Heaven!

What commandments do you need to obey? All of them (see James 2:10). You must keep the commandments to become a Christian – and you must keep the commandments that are included in living a faithful Christian life.

## ***Living According To Your "Why?"***

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"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25).

Finding your true purpose in life (your “Why?”) is only part of your spiritual journey. The Scriptures plainly teach that a proper knowledge of your purpose is essential. However, without being obedient to God’s Word, your soul will be sentenced to Hell on the Day of Judgment (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)! As the passage in James has demonstrated, you must put your knowledge into action! Not only must you define your purpose in life properly, but, you must then live according to that well-defined purpose.

## **Obey God’s plan of salvation**

Putting the knowledge of your purpose in life into action begins with obeying God’s plan of salvation. As we studied earlier, God has given you an opportunity to be saved from your sins. This opportunity, though, involves personal responsibility. He requires you to be obedient to Him (Hebrews 5:9)!

To live according to your true purpose, then, you must decide to become a follower/disciple of Jesus Christ (a Christian). You do this by: (1) Hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17), (2) believing in God/Christ (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6), (3) repenting of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), (4) confessing Jesus Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9-10), and (5) being immersed in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). It is at this point that you are forgiven of your sins and are added to Christ’s church (Acts 2:41, 47)! But, if you have not done these things, you are not living according to your true purpose!

## **Live a faithful Christian life**

Being obedient to the instructions we’ve just discussed is a beginning point. It’s not the end of your responsibility! Living according to your true purpose in life requires continued obedience throughout your lifetime (see Revelation 2:10). The Scriptures plainly teach that it is possible for you to fall from the grace of God after you have been saved by it (see Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 10:26-39)!

What does living a faithful Christian life really look like? Some general passages you ought to read include: Luke 9:23-26, Luke 14:25-33, and Romans 12:1-2. These passages clearly indicate that

your level of commitment to the Lord must be 100%! He must come first – even if it results in martyrdom. Paul’s statement about his dedication to the Lord serves as an excellent model to help you understand what your commitment to the Lord must look like: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Other passages of Scripture will help you understand some of the specifics involved in living a faithful Christian life. Consider the following passages that will help you understand the characteristics you must develop – and that you must put off: Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 4:17-32, and Colossians 3:1-17. Faithful Christian living involves the development of proper character, the fulfillment of God-given family roles, teaching the gospel of Christ, correcting the erring, showing hospitality, doing good to all according to your ability, and many other things which are described in God’s Word. You must be diligent to accomplish these things if you desire to live according to your true purpose in life!

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## **Conclusion**

Are you living your life according to this grand purpose? Or, are you wasting your life in pursuit of some other purpose? Please don’t waste your life! Give your life to God and dedicate yourself entirely to His service, to His honor and glory!

Please consider and apply the words of 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 to help you devote yourself to God in this way: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

# Study Questions

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D. Your opportunity to be saved –

What is your life about? What is the central purpose or idea that causes you to make the decisions you make and that motivates your actions?

## 1. The Importance Of Finding Your “Why?”

What does it look like to live with an undefined “Why?”

What does it look like to live with an improperly defined “Why?”

What does it look like to live with a properly defined “Why?”

Where are you? Explain.

## 2. Defining Some Essential Elements To Your “Why?”

Define each of the following and explain any connections to your “Why?”:

A. Your origin –

B. The truth –

C. What happens when your earthly life ends

## 3. Defining Your “Why?”

What is success? Define and explain.

What is your true purpose in life? Define and explain.

## 4. Living According To Your “Why?”

Have you been obedient to God’s plan of salvation? If not, what do you need to do?

Have you been living a faithful Christian life? If not, what do you need to do?

**\*Are you living your life according to this grand purpose?**