

## What does it mean to Glorify God?

To “glorify” God means to give glory to Him. The word glory as related to God in the Old Testament bears with it the idea of greatness of splendor and beauty, to shine, to demonstrate and to manifest the divine. In other words, glory represents the Lord’s presence. In the New Testament, the word translated “glory” means to signify, extol and ascribe honor. Putting the two together, we find that glorifying God means to acknowledge His greatness that we bring Him honor through what we say, how we act, and how we think by praising and worshiping Him. To glorify God means to acknowledge His glory and to value it above all things that is He alone, deserves to be praised, honored and worshiped. It means we make it known to others. It means we have a heartfelt gratitude. We glorify God through our faith, through our love and through our desire to obey Him. We glorify God through our desire to know Him. According to the Bible, to glorify God means to bring Christ’s glory or radiance to light, to manifest it or to reflect it. God’s glory is the essence of His attributes, and we give glory to Him by recognizing that essence. When we glorify God, we are reflecting how awesome and amazing He is through our actions and attitudes.

Why do we glorify God? To put it simply, it is what we were created to do. God created us for His own glory. In Isaiah 43:7, God says this about mankind, *“Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”* We were made to glorify God. If we are not glorifying God, then we are not living out our purpose. How then do we “give Him” glory? The key is found in 1 Chronicles 16:28-29, *Give to the Lord, O families of nations, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!* In this verse, we see two actions on our part that make up the action of glorifying God. First, we “ascribe” or give glory to Him because it is His due. No one else deserves the praise and worship that we give to glorify Him. Isaiah 42:8 confirms this: *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols”* Second, we are to “bring an offering” to God as part of the worship that glorifies Him. What is the offering we bring to God to glorify Him?

The offering we bring to God as we come before Him in the splendor or beauty of His holiness involves agreement, obedience, submission, and rehearsing His attributes or extolling Him. Glorifying God begins with agreeing with everything He says, especially about Himself. In Isaiah 42:5, *Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it”* We glorify Him by listening to and agreeing with them. God’s Word, the Bible, is His Word to us, all that we need for life in Him. We also submit to Him and obey the commands contained in His Word. *“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them”*(Psalm 103:17-18) Jesus reiterated the idea that glorifying and loving God are one and the same in John 14:15: *If you love me, you will obey what I command.* We also glorify God by rehearsing His attributes and His deeds. When we tell of God’s work in our lives, how He saved us from sin, and the marvelous works He does in our hearts and minds every day, we glorify Him before others. *“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God”*(Acts 7:55) To glorify God is to extol His attributes—His holiness, faithfulness, mercy, grace, love, majesty, sovereignty, power, and omniscience, rehearsing them over and over in our minds and telling others about the singular nature of the salvation only He offers.

*“The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell”* (Genesis 4b-5) Worship and the glory of God are closely connected in Scripture (Lev.10:1-Heb. 12:18-29), which means we must pay close attention to how we structure worship and what we do in worship if we want to glorify and please God. When Cain and Abel offered worship to the Lord, God had regard only “for Abel and his offering” (Gen. 4:1-5). Something about Cain’s sacrifice of worship displeased the Lord. The problem with Cain’s sacrifice was that His heart was not in the offering. Abel brought the “firstborn of his flock” and “their fat portions,” giving the very best to God and trusting that the Lord would provide other sheep to meet his needs (Gen. 4:4). Cain, on the other hand, treated worship as an afterthought. The contrast of Cain’s sacrifice with Abel’s offering indicates that instead of bringing the Lord the first and the best, Cain sacrificed what was left over after He had taken “his share”. The Bible warns us not to worship anyone or anything else. We are not to worship saints, statues, stones, angels, money, or celebrities. Anyone or anything that becomes more important than God, and turns our hearts away from Him is an idol or a false god. God says in Exodus 20:2-3 *“I am the LORD your God You shall have no other gods before me.”* When the devil tried to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4:10, Jesus rebuked him and said, *“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”* If we choose to worship false gods, God says in Jonah 2:8 *“Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God’s mercies.”*

We must search our hearts and our worship practices to make sure that they are not displeasing to the Lord. Should we find that our worship fails to please and glorify God, we must change it.(Exodus 20:4-5)

How does a person glorify God?

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The supreme purpose in life for any man or woman—for anyone who has ever been born into this world—is to glorify God. That is what living is all about. Glorifying God is the end result of the Christian life. Spiritual maturity is simply concentrating and focusing on the person of God until we are caught up in His majesty and His glory.

We glorify God by living the way He calls us to live. We glorify him when other people can see him because of the way we live our lives. In 1 Corinthians 10:31 it says, *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* We are called to do everything for God’s glory. Everything we do should point others to Him. God is a God of glory. Jesus has told us that we’re the light of the world and that we should let our light shine through the good works that we do in His name. Jesus is the ‘light of the world’. It’s the strength of the light of Jesus that shines in and through us. It’s the power of Jesus living through us. This is what makes all the difference as we go about being a faithful presence everywhere in this dark world. We glorify God by reflecting Jesus and living the way he would live. When we live to glorify God, He responds by giving us overwhelming joy. “Well,” you say, “I have a tough life. I just don’t have any joy.” Suggest an answer? Start glorifying God.

• **Confess Your Sins.** Confession of sin glorifies God because if you excuse your sin, you absolve yourself of responsibility and blame God for letting you get into a mess. Adam illustrates this. When God confronted him, what was his excuse? *“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate”* (Genesis 3:12). He was practically saying, “If You hadn’t given me this woman, none of this would ever have happened.” To do that is to blame God and thus to assign guilt to Him. But God is never at fault when we sin. So those who try to sneak out from under the absolute responsibility for their own sin commit a grievous sin against the glory of God. To confess means to agree with God that sin is all our fault and to repent. That act glorifies God.

• **Bear Fruit.** In John 15:8 Jesus told the disciples, *“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit”* because then the world can see the results of a Spirit-filled life. That is what we are here for—to put God. *“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work.”* (Colossians 1:10) Good works are fruit. When we live a life of good works, the world will see and glorify our Father in heaven. Bearing fruit simply means having evidence in your life that you are living the way God wants you to. You can glorify God in the way you interact with others, in the way you speak, in the way you dress, every choice you make is an opportunity to glorify God. When we glorify God, we should be pointing others to Jesus. instead of pointing them to ourselves. “As God’s children, we are to use our lives knowing they reflect back to him and bear his image.

• **Give Praise to God.** Psalm 50:23 says, “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me.” Praise honors God. One way to praise God is to give Him credit for everything. In 2 Samuel 12:26-31, when Joab won the victory against Rabbah and got possession of the enemy’s crown, he sent for David so he could present the crown to him. This is a good illustration of how the Christian should act toward the Master. You win a victory in your life, but you don’t wear the crown. You give it to the Lord, who has won the victory for you.

• **Be Content.** We may be discontented about ourselves and about our circumstances. But who made us? God. And He promises to supply all our needs. When we are content, we acknowledge God’s sovereignty in our lives, and that gives Him glory. If we are discontented, it’s the same as questioning God’s wisdom. That doesn’t glorify Him. Apostle Paul testified, “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am” (Philippians 4:11). Paul was confident that God would use all things—poverty as well as abundance, comfort as well as pain—for Paul’s good and God’s glory (Romans 8:28). He said, “I will give God glory because of it.” A Christian who is discontented for any reason—job, spouse, finances—is a terrible testimony about the goodness of our God. Glorifying God means that we praise Him with absolute contentment, knowing that our lot is God’s plan for us now.

• **Pray According to God’s Will.** Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). Jesus’ name signifies all that He is and all that He would want. Praying in His name means praying in accordance with His character and His will. And God delights to reveal His glory in prayer. He commands us to pray—so He can show us His greatness and we can give Him the praise He’s worthy to receive.

• **Proclaim God’s Word.** “Brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you” (2 Thessalonians 3:1). How was the Word glorified through those believers? Because they heard it and believed. They trusted Christ and were born again—and God got the glory. Presenting the Word clearly and accurately always gives Him glory. Every time a Sunday school teacher teaches a class of kids, every time a Bible study leader opens the Word in someone’s living room, every time a father sits down with his family and starts talking about the Word of God, God is glorified. We honor Him by making His Word known and understood.

• **Lead Others to Christ.** God also gets glory when people are redeemed. He is glorified when Satan’s prison is broken open and men and women are turned loose from the power of the evil one. People are saved from their sins in order to give God glory. So the more people who get converted, the more thanksgiving is going on, and the more there are in the choir singing, “Hallelujah!” (2 Corinthians 4:15) *“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”*(Revelation 4:11)

To praise and worship God is an expression of our love and awe to the God who gives us more than we deserve. God is holy, loving, and worthy of our devotion, praise and worship. He is God, our Creator, and we are commanded to praise and worship Him. Psalm 29:2 says, "*Give unto the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*" In Isaiah 66:1 God says, "*Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool*" He is the Creator of the universe and everything in it, which includes you and me. How wonderful and amazing is that!

The meaning of the "worship" is "to fall down before" or "bow down before" Worship is an attitude of spirit. Praising and worshiping God is not about a ritual, or prayer repetition. It's not about spending a few minutes a day reading our bible or about reciting our wish list on a daily basis. True worship requires total commitment of our body, mind and spirit. It's about exalting, adoring and acknowledging the God of the Bible. It has nothing to do with religion, but it has everything to do with having an intimate and profound relationship with God - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God Seeks People to Worship Him in Spirit and Truth.(Joh4:23) So, before you can worship in the way that God desires, you have to develop a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus, His Son. He wants us to have hope for a future and have eternal life with Him. In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses sets down for the Israelites how they are to love their God: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*" Our worship of God is directed by our love for Him; as we love, so we worship. Because the idea of "might" indicates totality, Jesus expanded this expression to "mind" and "strength" (Mark 12:30) Jesus taught the most basic principle for worship—"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). To worship God necessarily involves loving Him with heart, soul, mind and strength. True worship must be "in spirit," that is, engaging the whole heart, that we worship God in spirit (in our minds) and in truth (in our hearts) Jesus said in Matthew 15:8 "This people honors me with their lips but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me." Cain did not worship the Lord in spirit, for his heart was not in it, and so our Creator God did not accept His offering

The nature of Christian worship is from the inside out. Worshiping in the spirit has to do with our innermost being and requires several things. First, we must be born again. Without the Holy Spirit residing within us, we cannot respond to God in worship because we do not know Him. "No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God"(1 Corinthians 2:11b) The Holy Spirit within us is the one who energizes worship because He is in essence glorifying Himself, and all true worship glorifies God. Second, worshiping in spirit requires a mind centered on God and renewed by Truth. Apostle Paul exhorts us 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*"(Romans 12:1b, 2b). Only when our minds are changed from being centered on worldly things to being centered on God can we worship in spirit. Distractions of many kinds can flood our minds as we try to praise and glorify God, hindering our true worship. Third, we can only worship in spirit by having a pure heart, open and repentant. When King David's heart was filled with guilt over his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11), he found it impossible to worship. He felt that God was far from him, and he "groaned all day long" feeling God's hand heavy upon him (Psalm 32:3,4). But when he confessed, fellowship with God was restored and worship and praise poured forth from him. He understood that "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart" (Psalm 51:17). Praise and worship toward God cannot come from hearts filled with un-confessed sin.

The second part of true worship is worship "in truth." All worship is a response to truth, and that which is truth is contained in the Word of God. Jesus said to His Father, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17b). Psalm 119 says, "Thy law is truth" (v. 142b) and "Thy word is true" (v. 160a). To truly worship God, we must understand who He is and what He has done, and only place He has fully revealed Himself is in the Bible. Worship is an expression of praise from the depths of our hearts toward a God who is understood through His Word. If we do not have the truth of the Bible, we do not know God and we cannot be truly worshiping true God. When we fail to worship God we always find a substitute, even if it ends up being ourselves. Also, worship is not just for our benefit, but for God's. When you say, 'I didn't get anything out of the service today,' you worshiped for the wrong reason! Yes, there are personal benefits, but we don't worship to please ourselves. Our highest motive should be to exalt God in whatever we do. '*because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as...dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him*'(Rom 12:1) *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit,* (1 Cor 6:20)

We can worship God in church, in the garden, while we're shopping or in the shower. Worship can be done with a group of people, or by ourselves. When we come before the Lord with a pure and repentant heart, He will bless us with His grace and mercy. We can worship God through prayer, singing, raising our hands in adoration, dance, playing instruments. Focus your mind and heart on God with bible verses and let your praise go up! *The spiritual sacrifices that we are to offer are sacrifices of praise. It is the fruit of our lips* (Hos14:2) It is act of spiritual worship (Rom12:1) "*Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him*"(Rev 14:6,7)

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.  
For great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!  
He is to be feared above all gods.  
The gods of other nations are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens!  
Honor and majesty surround him;  
strength and joy are in his dwelling place.  
O nations of the world, recognize the Lord,  
recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong.  
Give to the Lord the glory due his name!  
Bring your offering and come to worship him.  
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.(1 Chron 16:23-29)

To worship in truth and spirit we must: Have purity of heart, Deal with any sin in our hearts and repent, Have a spirit of humility, Have a spirit of submission to the will of God, Have a spirit of obedience, Have a spirit of commitment Have a sense of wonder of who He is and have a sense of awe in His presence, Have an awareness of God's presence and be overwhelmed by His majesty, Be speechless in His presence and allow Him to speak to us.

"Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs." (Psalm 66:4)

"Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods." (Psalm 96:4)

"With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever,"(Psalm 86:12)

Oh, clap your hands all you people, shout unto God with voice of triumph (PSA 47:1)

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. (PSA 134:2. 1TI 2:8, PSA 63:3,4)

"The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

(They) stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice. (2 CH 20:19; ACT 4:24)

Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.(PSA 149:1,98:4)

Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.(PSA149:3, 2SA 6:5,14)

I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee (PSA 22:22)

And these signs shall follow them that believe: they shall lay hands on sick, and they shall recover (MAR 16:17,18)

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, has a doctrine, has a revelation, has a tongue or an interpretation. Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.(1CO 14:39, 26,18,3,4)

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (REV 19:1,6)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his ; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:1-5)