

Assurance of Salvation Part 76

Glorifying God:

HOW to glorify God (1)

"WE MUST GLORIFY GOD."

(It's a moral obligation.)

God's people delight in doing so.



Today, we begin:

HOW to glorify God!



ISSUES
TO
COVER

- A warning.
- The foundational issue.
- The first "how."



**WARNING!
CAUTION!
BEWARE!**



"HOW" to glorify God is NOT a technique!

- It involves VALUES and CHOICES.
- *Techniques are pursued by fakes, liars, hypocrites, etc.*
(Their response might even look "good," yet still dishonor God.)



**THE
FOUNDATIONAL
ISSUE**



In EVERYTHING, we must make a CHOICE...

- In our actions, and also in our attitudes.
- *Whether or not we have control over circumstances.*



There are only 2 possible responses.



Only 2 ways to respond.

- **According to the flesh (sinful nature)**
 - We can respond in ways that come natural* to people ...
and dishonor God.
- **According to the Spirit**
 - We can respond in the way that requires living by the power of God ...
and glorify God.

{ * What makes it "natural"? Not the fact that we are humans; but rather, the fact that we are sinners. }

**Our response is NOT
determined by circumstances.**

- **When things go well:**
→ We can glorify God.
- **When things do NOT go well:**
→ We can still glorify God.
- **In both cases:**
→ We must **CHOOSE** our response.

Our response is NOT determined by feelings.

- When life seems joyful:
→ We can glorify God.
- When life seems depressing:
→ We can still glorify God.
- In both cases:
→ We must **CHOOSE** our response.

KEY: Don't blame circumstances and feelings for your choices!



- Others have had it much worse and still glorified God by their response. (And YOU even benefitted from it!)

PAUL: "My circumstances were often bad – beatings, hunger, shipwrecks, prison – but I still chose to trust and obey God... so that YOU could hear the good news."

JESUS: "It sure didn't feel good getting my skin torn to shreds, and then being nailed to a cross. But I chose to do what was right, so that YOU could be saved."



THE FIRST "HOW"



"How do we glorify God?"

1) WE GLORIFY GOD when God's glory is the goal of our actions.

- This includes not just what we do (actions), but also why we do it (motives).

Motives are an important issue!

- The actions themselves can be imitated by fakes, liars, hypocrites, etc.
- Scripture gives us **EXAMPLES** and **WARNINGS** that illustrate this.

BAD Examples:

- Of course, any wicked person would be a bad example...

... men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ... they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, ...

Romans 1:18b, 21b (NIV)

- But Jesus also warns us about people who look good on the outside. Many "church-goers" are like this.

Don't be like the hypocrites...

From Matthew 6:2, 5, 16

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Matthew 15:8 (NIV)

... like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

Matthew 23:27b (NIV)

GOOD Examples!

- **Jesus** (speaking about the Father)

"I don't want my own glory. But there is someone who wants it [= the Father], and he is the judge."

John 8:50 (GW)

- **John the baptizer** (speaking about Jesus)

"He must increase in importance, while I must decrease in importance."

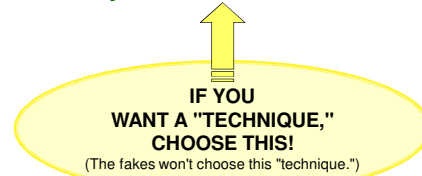
John 3:30 (GW)



Jesus and John relied on the same POWER:



- They relied on the power of the Spirit, when they made their choices.*



* (God-honoring choices, even if those choices would result in suffering and death.)



Jesus and John had the same GOAL:



- They chose to direct people's attention to God, not to self.

(This was a conscious choice, not just an accidental accomplishment!)

**When this happens,
GOD IS GLORIFIED!**

KEY: When we promote God's glory, we are glorifying him!



Our desire for OURSELVES:

- We want to glorify God because he is glorious.

Our desire for OTHERS:

- We want others to know how glorious God is!
- We want them to glorify God with us.

The big question...

Is God's glory the goal of my actions?

TO GLORIFY:

To
VALUE
WORSHIP
LOVE
OBEY
Him!

- Am I promoting God's glory by glorifying him?
- Here are 3 ways to measure our success!

1) Do I consider God's glory to be more important than anything else in my life?



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- Careers, goals, friends, possessions, reputation...
- IF there is a conflict between these things and God's glory, do I choose God over them?

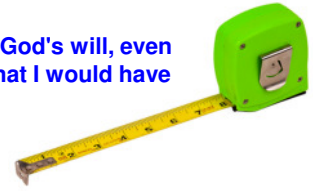
- (Example) What Jesus asked Simon Peter:

"... do you love me more than these?"
John 21:15b (NLT)

- A guideline for evaluating the things of life:

... I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.
Philipp. 3:8 (NIV)

2) Am I willing to do God's will, even if his will is not what I would have chosen?



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- Sure, I would like to be rich, famous, healthy, accepted by others, etc. ...
- But what if it's God's will for me have the opposite – sickness, poverty, etc.?

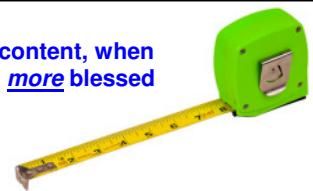
- Jesus' attitude before going to the cross.

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."
Luke 22:42 (NLT)

- You cannot lose what is most important.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
Psalm 73:26 (NIV)

3) Am I willing to be content, when others seem to be more blessed than I?



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- I would like to have spiritual gifts, many abilities, a good reputation, fame, etc. ...
- What if God wants me to be an insignificant "nobody," and let everyone else get the attention and respect?

- Perhaps God wants me to glorify him by simply learning to be content in all circumstances.

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Philipp. 4:11b-12 (NIV)

- I might not like this verse; but maybe that's because I need it most.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
Psalm 84:10b (NIV)

I understand the part about not dwelling with the wicked...

But "doorkeeper"??? I'd rather be inside, enjoying things with everyone else!

- And if past events in life are an issue that influences the present...

But one thing I do: *Forgetting* what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal ...
Philip. 3:13b-14a (NIV)

- Whether success or failure.
- Even if it's failure that was caused by others, who are now enjoying a place of preeminence and honor.

YOUR MISSION ...

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THIS WEEK:

- Work on this first "How":
Make it your goal to promote God's glory in the things you do.
- (Next time, we plan to look at some more "Hows.")

YOUR MISSION ...

TO GLORIFY:

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For greater success:

- Remember the importance of values and choices in glorifying God.
- Encourage each other; because circumstances and feelings lie to us, and want to control our choices!

THE "GLORY" MANIFESTO

- **I want God's glory to be the goal of my life.**
 - I consider his glory to be more important than my own personal goals for life.
 - I want his will to be done, even if it is not what I might desire.
 - I want his will to be done, even if he chooses to use and to bless others more than me.

Credits (1)

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