

Keeping on Track through Prayer

Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#)

TRUTH # 3: MY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO GLORIFY GOD

[Matthew 6:13 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ **And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]**

The last thing Jesus told us to pray when we get up from prayer is, “*yours is ... the glory.*” When we get up from prayer and head out into the world, we’re to keep in mind that our goal in life is to glorify God.

What does it mean to glorify God? It means to live in a way that honors Him. Jesus referred to this when he said, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven*” ([Matthew 5:16, NKJV](#)).

If our goal in life is to glorify God, it will have some practical results. Let’s look at them.

First, if my goal in life is to glorify God, I will want to do the right thing—and this will simplify my life and keep me out of a lot of trouble

You may have heard about the man who, in September of 2003, decided to ship himself from New York City to Dallas—in a wooden crate! He somehow packed himself in the crate. The crate journeyed by truck, plane, and delivery van—until it finally arrived at his parents’ house. Then he began to break out of the box. When the authorities caught up to him, he explained that he was homesick. He thought it would be cheaper to get home by crate, rather than buy a ticket like everybody else.

What did he get for his troubles? A fine of \$1,500 and 120 days of house arrest. At the cost of the fine, he could have purchased four roundtrip tickets to see his parents. How much simpler, and cheaper, it would have been to do the right thing in the first place.

When we fail to do the right thing, we complicate our life. The speeding ticket raises our insurance rates, or costs us a day in traffic school. The unkind comment leads to a strained relationship. The lapse at work causes a mess of trouble. Sin complicates things.

On the other hand, if our goal in life is to glorify God, we will want to do the right thing. This will simplify our life and keep us out of a lot of trouble.

Second, if my goal in life is to glorify God, I will get my needs met.

Jesus said that living to please God has a very practical result: ***“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”*** ([Matthew 6:33](#)). The practical result of living to please God is having ***“all these things”*** given to us. The ***“things”*** he is talking about in that passage are material things: food, clothes, and drink ([Matthew 6:25–34](#)). Living to please God will get our needs met.

In my recent trip to the country of Brazil to teach pastors we passed by and stopped in front of a military base. I told the pastors to take a very close look at the base. A number of airmen and women worshiped at the church over the years. I told the pastors that I’ve noticed something about them (military personnel). They never worry about where their next meal is coming from. They never worry if they’ll have anything to wear to work that week (uniforms are supplied). They never worry about getting the training and equipment they need to do their jobs. If they get sick, there’s a base hospital. When they retire, there are benefits. They aren’t rich, but these servicemen and women have their needs met. Because they’ve committed to serve the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Air Force has committed to take care of them. Civilians—well, we’re on our own.

This is the way it works with God, too, according to Jesus. If we are living to please Him, He will see to it that we are taken care of—***“all these things will be given to”*** us. The second practical result of living to glorify God is getting our needs met.

Third, if my goal in life is to glorify God, it will result in a close relationship with him.

The Bible says that God looks at our motivation: ***“All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD”*** ([Proverbs 16:2](#)). When God looks at our motivation and sees that it is to please Him, it touches His heart—and He draws close to us.

I once preached a series of services at an Indian church in Port Elizabeth, South Africa (“Indian” as in people from India). Over the course of the weekend I learned that the pastor’s marriage had been arranged, and that this is a common practice among Christians in India. I asked the pastor’s wife, Sucheta, about it.

She told me that when a man comes to ask for a Christian girl’s hand, the girl has a question she asks—a question Sucheta herself asked the pastor. If the man gives the correct answer, the marriage is on. If not, the girl opposes the marriage.

The question the girl asks: “Do you want a dowry?” A dowry, of course, is a gift of goods or money that the bride’s family gives the groom for the trouble of taking this female off their hands. If the man answers, “Yes, I require a dowry”—*bzzzzzz*, wrong answer! No marriage. If he says, “No, I only want the girl”—*ding, ding, ding*, right answer! The girl agrees to the marriage.

Why this question? The marriage may be arranged, but the girl wants to know the man's motivation. Does he want her for herself, or for some gift or money he's going to receive?

In the same way, God looks at our motivation. If it is to bring him glory—to please Him above all else—He draws close to us. Can there be anything more important than that?

SUMMARY

As we travel the road of life, we receive many conflicting messages about which way we should go and how we should live. But at the end of the **Model Prayer** Jesus gives us three “**road signs**” for life that we can trust—three truths that will keep us on track as we get up from prayer and head out into the world.

Truth # 1: God is in charge (“*yours is the kingdom*”).

Truth # 2: God has the power I need (“*yours is ... the power*”).

Truth # 3: My goal in life is to glorify God (“*yours is ... the glory forever.*”).