



# Planned for God's Pleasure

BibleTract.org

## Chapters 12 & 13

Notes: This Bible Study is intended to be a companion to "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The Scripture references in this Bible study are taken from the New King James Version.

### Chapter 12 – Developing Your Friendship with God

#### **Do relationships develop naturally between friends or is it necessary to work at it?**

For relationships to happen, you must work at it even between friends.

#### **How do we know that God does not require perfection from us to be his friends?**

None of God's friends in the Bible were perfect. Jesus was even called "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matthew 11:19).

#### **What characteristic does God insist on from His friends?**

God insists on our being completely honest with Him because genuine friendship is built on disclosure. God listens to the passionate words of His friends and is bored with predictable, pious clichés.

#### **What kinds of things were God's friends in the Bible honest with Him about?**

Abraham challenged God over the destruction of Sodom, God listened to David accusations, Job was allowed to vent his bitterness, Moses argued with God and Jacob wrestled with Him.

#### **How does it affect your relationship with God if you feel He has cheated or disappointed you in some area of your life?**

Such feelings will cause a rift between you and God. Bitterness is a barrier to friendship with God. Why would you want to be a friend to someone who caused or allowed some difficulty into your life?

#### **How do you overcome bitterness toward God for what He has allowed in your life?**

You must first realize that God always acts in your best interest even if it is painful and whether you understand it or not. Then talking to God about your feelings in the matter is necessary to be healed from your bitterness.

#### **How can the Bible help in healing your bitterness toward God for what He has allowed in your life?**

You can find passages that address what you are experiencing in the Psalms. The Psalms are a worship manual full of ranting, raving, doubts, fears, resentments, and deep passions combined with thanksgiving, praise, and statements of faith. This helps us see how we should worship God during these times. God wants you to worship Him and not hold back any of our feelings...

Psalms 142:2-3 - I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path.

#### **What is a key to friendship with God that does not apply to friendships between peers?**

If we are to be friends with God, we need to obey Him. This is an important aspect in relationships with a boss or a superior but not to someone who is your peer. But Scripture is clear in this...

John 15:14 - You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

#### **What do unbelievers generally think the reason Christians obey God?**

Unbelievers often think Christians obey God out of obligation or guilt or fear of punishment. But we do not obey God out of fear or compulsion, instead we obey God out of gratitude for all He has done for us.

#### **What does God value more than our prayers, praise and offerings?**

God treasures simple acts of obedience more than our sacrificial acts...

1 Samuel 15:22 - Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

#### **When Jesus was baptized prior to beginning His teaching ministry, God spoke from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). What had Jesus been doing for 30 years that gave God so much pleasure?**

The Bible says nothing about those hidden years except for a single phrase in Luke 2:51: "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them." Jesus

lived in obedience to his earthly parents in accordance with God's will.

**What aspect of being a friend of God did David exhibit in Psalm 69:9?**

Psalms 69:9 - Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

David expressed how God's interests are his interests. Shared interests characterize friendships. The more you become God's friend, the more your values will be aligned with His, you care about the same things, grieve over the same events, and rejoice over the same developments.

**What is the number one thing that God cares about?**

God is most concerned about the redemption of His people, which is why Jesus went to the cross.

**So if the redemption of people is God's greatest desire, what should our highest priority be?**

Our highest priority should be the same as God, helping people be redeemed to Christ. When I realize that this is usually not the case, I am convicted of how much closer I can be to God if I pay more attention to my helping others to know Him.

**What aspect of being a friend of God did David exhibit in Psalm 27:4?**

Psalms 27:4 - One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

David desired to be a friend of God more than anything else in life...

Psalms 63:3 - Your lovingkindness is better than life

Paul expressed his desire to grow more intimate with God...

Philippians 3:10 - that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

**How may we be more intimate with God?**

We must choose to be, the ball is in our court. By making this choice, we must give up other things and spend time developing the habits and skills required to grow closer to God. God promises us that if we act on our desire to be closer to Him that we will be...

Jeremiah 29:13 - you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

**How does God often show us He wants to be closer to us?**

God often allows pain in our lives as a wake-up call to us to stop neglecting our relationship with Him. C.S. Lewis said,

"pain is God's megaphone." It's God's way of arousing us from spiritual lethargy.

**How is a friendship with God similar to any other friendship?**

Our friendship grows as we spend time together, the more we talk, the closer we become.

**How is a friendship with God different from any other friendship?**

We are not equals with God thus obedience is an important factor in our relationship with God. This is not the case with peer-to-peer relationships.

**What practical choices will I make today in order to grow closer to God?**

I was convicted to start carrying a pocket journal to record the insight God gives me about His Word as I meditate on it during the day. I need to be more diligent about memorizing Scripture and meditating on it.

## **Chapter 13 – Worship That Pleases God**

**What does Mark 12:30 tell us about how we should worship God?**

Mark 12:30 - love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

We should worship God with all that we have. Our values should glorify Him, the expression of our emotions should honor Him, our thoughts should be from His perspective, and our bodies should be subject to His precepts.

**Is there any wrong way to worship God?**

There is a right and wrong way to worship God. The Bible says that we should be grateful and worship God in a way that pleases Him...

Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**This chapter describes for proper ways of worshiping God, what are they?**

Our worship should be accurate, authentic, thoughtful and practical.

**What are people doing when they do not have an accurate view of who God is?**

This is idolatry. If we are not honoring the God the Bible describes, we are following a false facsimile. Jesus said we should worship in with the correct understanding of who God is...

John 4:23 - true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth

**What was Jesus referring to when He said we should worship in spirit?**

This is not a reference to the Holy Spirit, Jesus was talking about our human spirits, that non-corporeal part of us that is able to relate to God. This is the part of us that is able to respond to the Holy Spirit, that God breaths life into when we are born again. It is only possible to worship God if you have a born again spirit.

**Back to Mark 12:30, what was Jesus referring to when He said we should worship God with all our heart and soul?**

This means that our worship should be genuine and heartfelt. We aren't just to pay lip-service to worship by saying the right words, we must understand and mean what we say. Heartless praise is no praise at all. God looks at our motivation for why we say what we say and do what we do...

1 Samuel 16:7 - the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

**Can you be totally sincere in our worship and still not please God?... How so?**

The world thinks that proper intentions are enough but it is possible to be sincerely wrong, even in worship. That is why Jesus said that we should worship both in spirit and truth. God-pleasing worship must be both accurate and authentic, both deeply emotional and deeply doctrinal.

**What is the best way to worship God?**

Whatever authentically represents your love for God based on the background and personality God gave you. The implications of this is that we all will worship God differently.

**Back to Mark 12:30, how do we love God with all your mind?**

We need to be thoughtful in our worship.

**What kind of thoughtless things to people do in their worship?**

Thoughtless singing of hymns, perfunctory praying of clichés, careless exclamations of "praise the Lord" are all examples of mindless worship. Jesus called such thoughtless worship "vain repetitions."

**What are some techniques we can use to keep from falling into a rut in our worship?**

Use different Bible translations and paraphrases for finding fresh words and phrases. Try to use synonyms instead of

over-used words like praise, hallelujah, thanks, amen... Be more specific in our worship.

**How should our corporate worship be thoughtful?**

It should be planned well in advance so that it will proceed orderly...

1 Corinthians 14:40 - Let all things be done decently and in order.

It should be understandable to unbelievers so that it may serve as a witness to them. In a reference to speaking in tongues, Paul said...

1 Corinthians 14:16-17 - if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

**How does Romans 12:1 show that our worship should be practical?**

Romans 12:1 - present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

This says we should offer our bodies as the sacrifice, it does not say we should offer our spirit. Without your body, you could do nothing in this world. It is all we have... God is saying, "Give Me what you've got."

**Is worshiping God costly?**

Real worship is an act of the will and does cost us something. That is why we are commended to worship God with all our strength in Mark 12:30. That is why David refused to offer sacrifices that cost him nothing...

2 Samuel 24:24 - nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.

**Which is more pleasing to God, my public worship or my private worship?**

We spend more time outside of venues for corporate worship so this should be more important. But this does not mean that we should neglect the opportunity to worship corporately. If nothing else we should see opportunities for corporate worship to be opportunities to practice having the right attitude in our worship. We should not be motivated to worship to be seen by others or to please ourselves.

**Which is easier for you, public or private worship? In which do you usually feel closer to God?**

Public worship is easier because I generally just go along with what the worship leader is doing or follow an agenda that has already been determined. But I usually feel closer to God in private worship.

**What can I start doing to improve my worship?**

Be more diligent in diversifying the way I pray. Start using different words and names for God.