

# What Does it Mean to Glorify God?

You hear it said often, don't you? You need to glorify God! But what does it mean exactly?

How can someone glorify God?

Perhaps one of the best pictures of glorifying God in the Bible is found in [Luke 9:9](#). Herod says, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And he tried to see him (Jesus).

The context around this verse is clear. Jesus sends out the twelve on their first evangelistic trip. They go out to preach about the kingdom, but they do so in a way that brings glory to Christ. I say this because as people watch and listen to the twelve, they can't help but wonder about who Jesus is.

In other words, they think to themselves that these twelve men couldn't possibly believe these things that they were declaring; that they couldn't do the things they were doing unless God had enabled them to do so.

Bringing glory to God with our lives means that we are doing things that can only be attributed to Him. And I'm not talking about miraculous signs; I'm talking about things that can only happen in the minds and hearts of regenerated Holy Spirit-filled believers.

## We glorify God by what we believe.

We believe in the Gospel. To be able to say "I am a sinner and there is nothing I can do to save myself" is an absolute miracle. Many might admit that they have sin in their lives, but they will deny the fact that their sin separates them from God.

By simply believing this truth, we give glory to God. We didn't believe this truth because we were smarter than others, it was simply because of the grace of God.

We also give glory to Christ by believing that He is truly God and truly man. That He lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

## We glorify God in our decision-making.

Whether it is by choosing to say no to sin, or to store up for ourselves treasures in [Heaven](#) rather than on earth; believers are able to glorify God in their decision making.

My mind goes to Elizabeth Elliott, who, despite great peril and the fact that her husband had been recently murdered by the Houaroani people in Eastern Ecuador, decided to go and still reach the murderers of her husband with the Gospel.

It would be tough for someone to look to Elizabeth Elliot as though she were some incredible angel. Instead, we believers know that it is God who softened her heart and miraculously caused her to love those who took the love of her life away.

When we decide to be counter-cultural, to go against the flow of the world, that is when we truly are glorifying God – because it is unnatural to say no to sin, and it is unnatural to live with our eyes set on eternity.

## **We glorify God in our response to trials.**

There are few things more miraculous than Paul's words in [Philippians 1:18](#), where he says, "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice."

To be in prison and to be maligned by other believers is already difficult, but to be there with the possibility of facing Nero at some point is unbearable for a human to withstand. Most humans would be depressed, even suicidal.

And yet, Paul is rejoicing. He is the opposite of what a human being typically is.

You probably know some Christians who experienced serious physical pain, spent many days in the hospital, and couldn't stop talking about all the evangelistic opportunities that their trial enabled them to have. I can think of over a dozen people in the past few years who told me this.

When we see our trials in light of eternity, we are able to truly glorify God with our lives.

## **We Glorify God in our words, thoughts and actions.**

We can glorify God by exalting Him with praise, with acts of gratitude, and with prayer. We glorify God by magnifying Him — that is, by making Him more visible to others. In simple terms, to glorify God is to reveal Him to those we encounter and throughout our lives. We are primarily made for God's glory, to be His reflection in the world. If we really take God as our highest treasure, then nothing will ever take His place in our lives. In fact, we will be willing and ready to sacrifice everything, including our lives, for God's cause.

## **Glorifying God is living by the Spirit.**

You will glorify God when those around you will hear your beliefs, watch your decisions, and observe your responses to trials, and will be prompted to worship God for His power to enable you to live in a spiritual way.

God has made us for Himself, and the glory of humanity is a society that glorifies God. When we glorify God, we become the best we can be and achieve harmony in a world ruptured by sin and wickedness. Otherwise, God's name is made an object of scorn among people and the revolt against Him makes humanity the most vulnerable of all creatures. The result is conflict between a person and his neighbor, and between mankind and the natural world.

The story does not end this way for the person who has undertaken the life journey of faith. Instead, we experience joy and fulfillment as God is praised, worshipped, and magnified through us. Faith, by glorifying God, makes us the very best we can be.

The life of faith and the journey of faith are one and the same: humanity living the way God has made us to be, experiencing the joy of salvation in anticipation of blessed eternity. This is glory at its best.

*Adapted from articles written by: Jordan Standridge and Fr. Maurice Emelu*