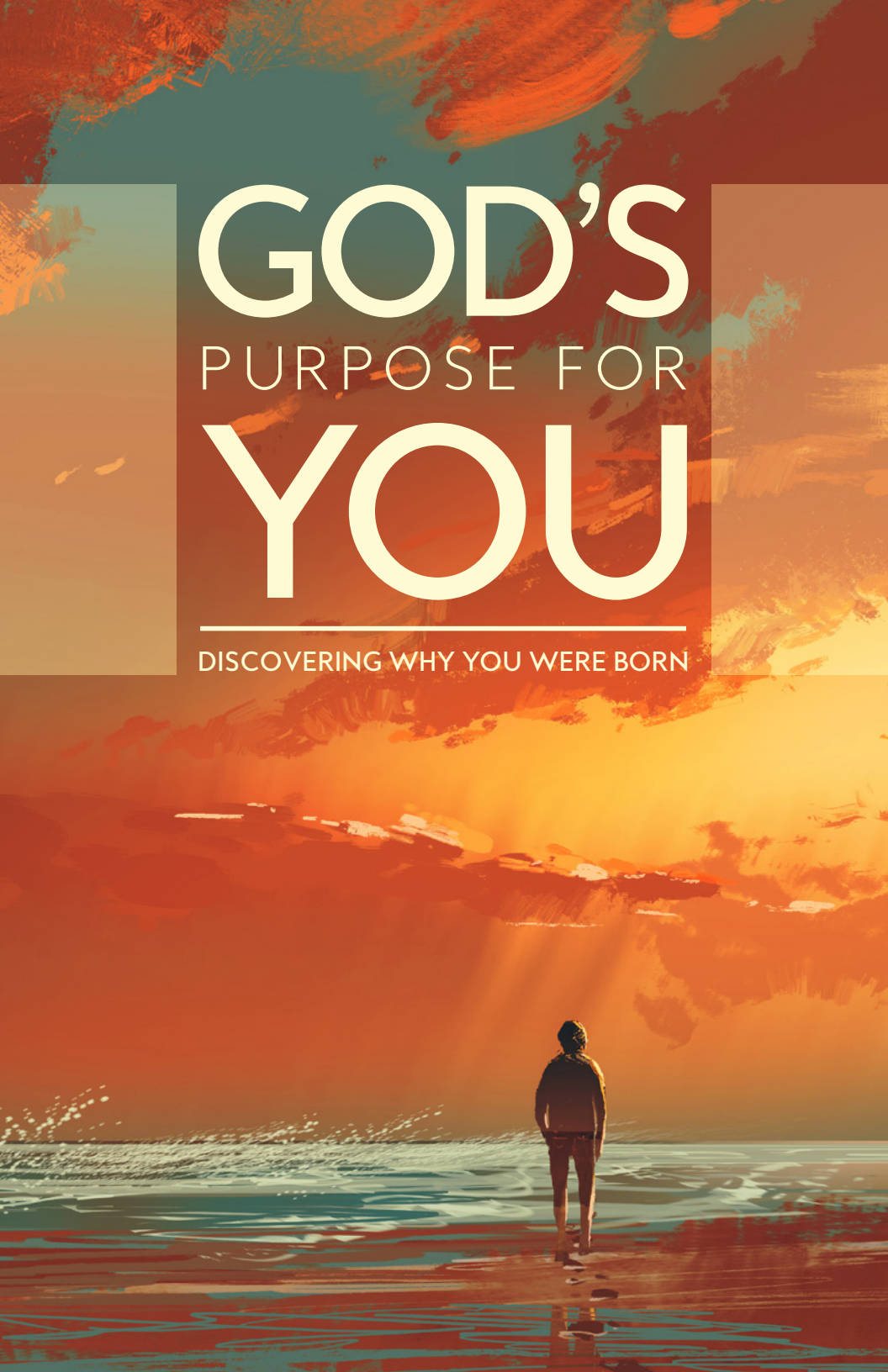


A person stands on a beach, looking out at a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, with rays of light breaking through. The person's reflection is visible in the wet sand.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU

DISCOVERING WHY YOU WERE BORN



God's Purpose for You

Discovering Why You Were Born



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Author: Erik Jones

Publication Review Team: Peter Hawkins, Jack Hendren, Don Henson, Harold Rhodes, Paul Suckling

Editorial Reviewers: Mike Bennett, Clyde Kilough, David Treybig **Doctrine Committee:** John Foster, Bruce Gore, Don Henson, David Johnson, Ralph Levy **Design:** David Hicks

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Introduction: The Mystery of You

Life is full of great mysteries.

And for thousands of years philosophers, theologians and scientists have grappled with them. Science has opened up our understanding of our universe, planet and physical bodies—but it hasn't answered the biggest questions: *What is the purpose for humanity? Why are our abilities so far superior to the rest of the creation? Do we have a future after we die?*

It all comes down to one question, one that every person must consider at some point. It's the question that philosophers and religions have tried to answer and one that science will never be able to answer. That simple, yet profound, question is:

Why were you born?

Searching for answers

How would you answer? People generally approach it one of three ways:

Some believe in a purpose *beyond this life*. But their answers vary widely, ranging from going to heaven, becoming an angel or being reincarnated into another life-form.

Others believe purpose exists only *in this life*. Their answers also vary—such as fulfilling a personal calling, loving and being loved, or attaining some form of personal enlightenment.

Still others believe there is *no transcendent purpose for life*. The theory of evolution directly shapes this belief. After all, if there is no God and life is due to random evolution, then there can be no purpose for life. We simply live, die and are forgotten.

Where can you find the answer?

Maybe you have accepted one of the common answers above, but are not entirely satisfied. Or, possibly, you have never really dealt with the question.

Regardless, “*why were you born?*” is one of the most important questions you will ever address. The answer can change your life and fill it with newfound hope and meaning!

To help you with this search, let's explore what God reveals about Himself, His plan and His purpose

for your life in the pages of the Holy Bible. In these scriptures:

- You will see what a human being really is and why we are so much more than a highly evolved animal.
- You will understand the gap that exists between God and man—why it exists and how it affects your life.
- You will see the purpose of your life today and how that connects with your destiny.
- You will then discover the truth about your ultimate purpose—what God is calling you to become and do.
- And you will learn that the common ideas—going to heaven, becoming an angel or being reincarnated—are *not* a part of His purpose for us. What God has in store is something far better!

Please don't take our word for it—open your Bible and read the scriptures for yourself. When you have finished reading this booklet, these scriptures will have unlocked the biblical answer to one of the greatest mysteries of the universe:

The mystery of you.





Chapter 1

What Are You?

“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:4).

A few thousand years ago, King David pondered the countless stars and asked this question: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, ...

“*What is man* that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit [pay attention to] him?” (Psalm 8:3-4, emphasis added throughout).

Today we understand far more than David about how infinitesimally small we are within the immensity of space. But his question remains as big: Do our lives hold any significance in this vast universe?

According to science, you are a member of the *Homo sapiens* species—categorized under the broad taxonomic classification of “Mammalia,” placed in the “Hominidae” family, right next to orangutans, gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos.

Evolutionists say *Homo sapiens* evolved from a long line of primates hundreds of thousands of years ago. Evolution theorizes that *all* life formed out of a primordial soup of chemicals brought together in a perfect mixture when comets and meteorites struck the earth perhaps 4 billion years ago.

If true, then we are nothing more than an organic conglomeration that somehow came into being and gradually evolved into more complex life-forms—eventually into a primate that developed a brain that surpassed all other life in intelligence. If this theory is true, then the entire question—*why were you born?*—is moot.

If, on the other hand, human life was generated by a Creator who made everything *for a purpose*, it is not meaningless. But what could the meaning be?

To begin unlocking the mystery of *you*, we must first ask, What exactly is a human being? To answer, we must go back to the beginning.

The *real* beginning— necessary context

The logical place to start is in the Bible’s book of origins, Genesis, which takes us back to the beginning of the created order. First, though, we must make a slight detour.

The Gospel of John actually describes a time that predates Genesis 1. This book opens with, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

Before the creation of anything, *only* these two divine beings existed. Both known as God, they existed together for eternity, composed of immortal spirit, perfect in character and in total loving harmony. Though equal in spiritual power, the Word submitted to the direction and authority of the being known as the Father. The Word would later come to earth as the Son of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Their relationship was one that we can, considering additional scriptures we will see, best describe as a *family*.

Among the most amazing of God's capabilities is one revealed throughout the universe—creativity. John addressed that in verse 3: “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Given this responsibility, the Word first created beings known as angels. These beings were given spirit life in the heavenly realm, but were created inherently different and at a lower level than God (Colossians 1:16). They were servants, or agents under His direction, to assist Him in the care of the created order (Hebrews 1:5, 7, 14). He created millions (perhaps billions or trillions) of these beings (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 5:11). He gives them orders, and they obey (Psalm 103:20-21).

Then the Word created the physical universe. He “created the heavens and stretched them out” (Isaiah 42:5)—all the vastness of space, with its uncountable galaxies, stars and planets. He then chose a spot within the physical universe to fashion a unique planet—



earth—designed to be inhabited by physical life (Isaiah 45:18). The angels, upon seeing the earth, “shouted for joy” (Job 38:7). The habitation for humanity was set, and God’s plan was ready to move forward.

But at some point before humans were created, something happened.

The angels God had created served in various functions in His government. The highest-ranking and most powerful were called *archangels* or *chief princes* (Daniel 10:13; Jude 1:9). The Bible identifies three: Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer. They served at the very throne of God, and Lucifer, it seems, had responsibility over beautifying and caring for the earth after its creation.

But something terrible happened. Lucifer allowed pride to enter into his thinking, which eventually led to horrific actions. He became convinced that *he* should rule all things instead of God, and then convinced one-third of the angels to follow him in a deluded attempt to overthrow God (Isaiah 14:13-14; Revelation 12:4). Their combined power was no match for their Creator’s. Their effort was crushed, and Lucifer and his angels were cast out of heaven (Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18).

The Original Gap Between God and Man

Man	God
Composed of physical matter	Composed of unlimited spirit
Mortal	Immortal
Able to choose right and wrong; all have sinned	Perfect spiritual character

It seems that this titanic battle left the created order in ruin. Lucifer became known as Satan (the adversary), and his angels became demons.

The pinnacle of God’s creation

We now come to Genesis. The first chapter tells how God re-created the earth after it had been laid waste (Genesis 1:2). He spent five days preparing its environment for human habitation. On the sixth day, He created human life—the pinnacle of His physical creation.

Throughout Genesis 1, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*, which is the plural version of *Eloah* (meaning “mighty one”). Verse 26 illustrates this well: “Then God said, ‘Let *Us* [plural] make man in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness.’”

The use of this word introduces a wonderful truth that fully emerges later in the Bible: that God is a family and that the two members of that family, the Father and the Word, were both intimately involved in the creation of man. “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27). Considering this along with John 1:3, we see that the Father gave the direction, and the Word carried it out.

But what does it mean to be made “in the image of God”?

Created after the God kind

Before creating man on the sixth day, God made plant and animal life. Animals, insects, birds and sea creatures were each created “according to its kind,” each unique and different, demonstrating God’s incredible creativity and love of variety. But they were fundamentally different from Him in two areas: image and instinct.

The creatures of the earth were not made in God’s image. They were imbued with *instinct* instead of the higher level of intelligence that is found in humans. He gave the animals certain programmed aptitudes, such as a bird’s ability to build a nest, but nothing like human intellect.

But with man, God used an entirely different pattern, creating Adam “in His own image” (Genesis 1:27). The Hebrew word translated “image” is *tselem*, and it means a representation, likeness or resemblance. In the New Testament, we read that we were “made in the likeness of God” (James 3:9, English Standard Version).

So God took earthen matter and shaped it in His likeness—using *Himself* as the pattern. The Bible describes God as having a face, eyes and nose (Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 18:8), so He shaped us with a face, eyes and nose. God’s arms, hands and fingers are the model for our arms, hands and fingers (Isaiah 40:10; Psalm 110:1; Exodus 31:18).

God also created us different from animals in a second way. Instead of giving us instinct alone, He gave us advanced mental abilities similar to His—though on a finite and limited scale. We were given the ability to engage in higher-level cognitive activity—to think, reason, use logic and make decisions.

Just as God is a designer and builder, so He gave humans the same capabilities. As God loves beauty and music, He gave us the ability to





create and appreciate beauty and music. As God feels emotions like joy and anger, He gave us a wide range of emotions. As God is love and desires relationships, He gave us the ability to love and a desire for relationships.

All of these mental and emotional abilities were given to us through the “spirit in man” (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11). To learn more about this, read “The Spirit in Man and the Spirit of God” on page 17.

Yes, animals were created after *their* own kind—horses after the horse kind and birds after the bird kind, for example—but humans were different. When God formed Adam from the dust of the ground He used a very specific design—Himself! We were created in God’s image and likeness—after *the God kind*.

The gap between God and man

Even though we were created in God’s image and likeness, there yet remains an enormous *gap* between Him and us.

Consider this analogy: Imagine a sculptor crafting a clay bust of himself. He spends hours studying his own features and measuring the dimensions of his head to shape an exact replica. But no matter how strong the resemblance is, there is a huge gap between him and the sculpture. The bust is clay, but he is flesh. The bust is inanimate, merely his likeness, but he is a living human being with creative intellect.

Likewise, although we were created after the God kind, there are three major differences between us and our Creator.

Photo: iStockphoto.com

First, God formed us out of the “dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7). Our bodies, composed of physical flesh and blood, eventually wear out (Genesis 3:19; Job 10:9; Psalm 104:29).

God, on the other hand, is composed of nonmaterial, limitless spirit (John 4:24). Spirit is invisible to us and is all-powerful—not bound by the laws of the material universe (Psalm 115:3; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17).

Second, God made us mortal. He told Adam that if he sinned he would “surely die” (Genesis 2:17). When God first breathed life into Adam, he became a “living being” (the Hebrew word *nephesh*), which essentially means a living, breathing, mortal life (Job 4:17; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:12). Upon death, we return to dust (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20; see our online article “[Did God Give Adam an Immortal Soul?](#)”).

God, on the other hand, has existed and will continue to exist for all eternity (Psalm 90:2; Micah 5:2).

Third, God formed man with the ability to think and choose. This is often called *free moral agency*. The most critical choices in life are those of morality. Each of us has the freedom to choose to

live according to the moral laws of our Creator *or* according to our own ideas.

God, on the other hand, is perfect in character, “righteous in all His ways” (Psalm 145:17). His nature is totally characterized by *love* (1 John 4:8; Exodus 34:6).

These are huge differences between God and us, but they don’t have to be permanent. As we will see, God desires to enable us to bridge this gap.

Why were we created physical?

So, why didn’t He simply create perfect spirit beings like Himself? Why did He first create us as physical, mortal beings?

Consider that He first created the angels of immortal spirit—but much lower than Himself in power and potential (Luke 20:36; Hebrews 1:5-14). They lived in a perfect universe, but given the ability to make their own choices, one-third of them willingly rebelled by following Lucifer (Revelation 12:4). Satan and the demons will live forever as corrupted, sinful beings.

We might think that God could have created spirit beings without free choice—like robots preset to behave only in perfect

obedience. But such programmed beings would never truly be His children, made in His image. It was not God's purpose to share eternity with a "family" of spiritual automatons. He would not view such as children any more than we would consider household robots to be our children.

So He created us as beings after His kind—yet incomplete. We have His form,

mental characteristics and free choice. But we do not have the fullness of His divine existence. According to His perfectly designed plan, we must first develop His spiritual character before we can be entrusted with eternal life at His level.

As we will see in the next chapter, God gave the first human beings the opportunity to make this choice.

The Spirit in Man and the Spirit of God

The "spirit in man" is the spirit essence that God gives every human being. It's what separates us from animals and gives us the mental capabilities that make us uniquely human (1 Corinthians 2:11). It gives us abilities like creativity, emotions, the capability to understand advanced concepts—all patterned on divine abilities.

This is a major way we are made in God's image. The "spirit in man" is undetectable by any physical means, but its effects are very easy to observe by comparing a human being to an animal.

The "spirit in man," however, only gives us the ability to understand the things of our realm ("the things of a man"). In order to truly understand God, we need *another spirit*. "No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God ... [by which] we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:11-12).

When people receive the Spirit of God, they are given access to the very mind of God. It is the power God uses to reveal His truth (John 16:13) and through which He helps us obey Him and develop His character (2 Peter 1:3). It is *how* we can partake of the "divine nature" in this life (verse 4).

But it also performs another important function: It begets us as God's children (Romans 8:14, 16). When we are baptized and receive the laying on of hands, we are begotten into the God family (1 Peter 1:3-4). It is through that Spirit that we have the opportunity for eternal life (Romans 8:11; Ephesians 1:13-14).

If we remain faithful, Jesus Christ will transform us from physical beings *with* His Holy Spirit to fully born children *composed* of spirit (John 3:6).



Chapter 2

How the Gap Between God and Humans Widened

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the
glory of God” (Romans 3:23).*

God formed Adam out of dust, gave him the breath of life, and then placed him in Eden, a tranquil garden of peace and beauty.

But no matter how good life was, God wanted Adam to realize that he was alone. To emphasize Adam's need for a companion, God paraded all the animals before him to be named. In doing so, Adam realized he had no one to relate to, share life with and love *at his level*. The animals may have given him joy and entertainment, but not true companionship. He was incomplete.

After placing Adam in a deep sleep, God removed one of his ribs and from it created a woman to be his wife and

companion. With Eve by his side, Adam now had “a helper comparable to him” (Genesis 2:18).

They became the first married couple, living together completely pure and sinless. But in this perfect environment of a beautiful garden and a personal relationship with God, they would soon face a test—a test of choice.

God had also placed in the garden two trees—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life symbolized the way to eternal life through submission to God and receiving His spirit (John 6:63). If Adam and Eve chose to eat of this tree, they would have the opportunity to receive eternal life.



The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented rejection of God and His way in favor of following Satan's way of self-determination.

God spelled out to them the choices and consequences. They could choose the tree of life, the way of living that would allow them to live forever. Or they could choose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of which He clearly commanded them not to eat because it would lead to death.

He instructed them to do what was right, but He didn't program them. They had a choice.

This was an essential test. God would only entrust Adam and Eve with eternal life *if* they demonstrated total submission and faithfulness to

Him. He clearly desired that they and their descendants choose the tree of life and live forever. But the key was that, fully understanding the two choices, they had to *willingly* decide which path they would follow.

Enter the adversary

But Adam and Eve also had an adversary—Lucifer (now called Satan the devil), the one who had already chosen to reject God's way.

Satan was determined to see them fail—to think like him and reject God. After all, since part of his motivation for rebelling was to take God's authority for himself, it's natural that he would want to influence humans to obey him instead of their Creator.



Appearing to Eve as a serpent, he cleverly and subtly reasoned with her to eat the forbidden fruit. He lied to her that she would “not surely die” (in other words, that she already had an immortal soul), planted doubts in her mind about God, and convinced her that she could attain greater enlightenment by freeing herself from God’s guidance (Genesis 3:4-5).

So, deceived and persuaded, she ate. Then she offered the fruit to Adam and he ate.

All choices have consequences, and from the moment they chose to disobey God, everything changed. They could not have God’s blessing of eternal life *and* live in sin.

Imagine their shame when God confronted them with that reality! Created with the most astounding potential imaginable, they had thrown it all away. They found themselves banished from the Garden of Eden and cut off from the tree of life (Genesis 3:24)—the way that would have resulted in a life of peace, joy and, ultimately, eternal life.

The gap between God and man had now become immensely greater.

Adam and Eve were only the first. Ever since, all humans have rejected

The suffering and evil in the world today result from humans choosing sin.

God and opted for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the way of sin. Our minds are described as carnal by nature (that is, of the flesh)—in opposition to the spiritual ways of God (Romans 8:7).

Instead of being driven and motivated by God’s love, humanity has been driven by selfishness, greed, lust and many other destructive characteristics.

Humanity has followed the same path

Adam and Eve, now removed from the garden, continued living separated from God and suffered the consequences. One of their sons, Cain, murdered his righteous brother, Abel. Society continued downhill as both the Bible and human history document.

Because of this choice, man’s mind became diametrically opposed to the way God thinks and lives (Isaiah 55:8; 59:2). The suffering and evil in the world today result from humans

choosing sin—sometimes knowingly, sometimes blindly—instead of obedience.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12; see also 3:23).

Deceived by Satan, humankind has followed Adam and Eve’s lead. We have devised our own ways of

living, religions, philosophies and governments, and we are reaping the same consequence—being cut off from God (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:18; Revelation 12:9).

But despite our going in this direction, *God is not finished with us.*

Yes, He still has a purpose for *you* and all of humanity—and is working out a plan to close the gap between Himself and us.



Chapter 3

Bridging the Gap Between You and God

*“As His divine power has given to us all things
that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).*

Since Adam and Eve, humanity has only widened the gap between us and God—choosing sin and reaping the penalty of death (Romans 6:23).

Thus, there is a dilemma: We cannot fulfill God's purpose for us if we are dead, and He won't give eternal life to those with sinful character—that would only lead to an eternity of suffering for everyone.

Those two problems, death and sin, have to be dealt with before we can fulfill God's ultimate purpose for us.

Jesus Christ and the conversion of the human mind

The first step in solving these problems came when the Word (John 1:1) gave up His spirit existence and came to earth as a Man—Jesus Christ (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-7). He is called the *second Adam*, because His work began the process of reversing mankind's course started by the *first Adam* (Romans 5:12-21). Through Him, God's plan to bring humankind into His family is being accomplished.

Throughout His 33½ years on earth, Jesus lived a perfect life—resisting all temptation to sin, obeying both the letter and the spirit of God's law, and setting a perfect example. Because He

Conversion is what narrows the character gap between us and God.

perfectly accomplished what Adam (and the rest of us) failed to do, and then gave His life for us, His death provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven through the process of repentance.

Through Christ, we can be reconciled with the Father and have access to eternal life through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11; Colossians 1:21-22). Repentance and receiving God's forgiveness of our sins begins closing the gap between us and God.

After one receives forgiveness and God's Spirit through baptism and the laying on of hands, he or she then embarks on a lifelong process of repentance and change. The Bible calls this *conversion* (Acts 3:19).

Conversion is what narrows the character gap between us and God. In simple terms, it means *converting* our mind from our natural sinful ways to God's spiritual ways (Romans 8:5). Through Jesus Christ's teaching and example, we learn *how* to think and live just like God (Hebrews 1:3).

The pursuit of spiritual perfection

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that we are to “be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). That simple statement encapsulates the immediate purpose of our lives in the here and now—to change our character to be more like His. In essence, to develop His perfect, holy, righteous character.

Just as a good human father seeks to instill honorable character into his children so they will become

responsible adults, God the Father seeks to build His character in us. The Bible likens Him to a potter and us to clay (Isaiah 64:8). He wants to mold and shape our minds and lives to perfectly reflect Him.

One of the prominent words the Bible uses for developing God’s character is *godliness* (Psalm 4:3; 2 Peter 3:11). God wants us to develop His exact character—to think and live godly—to strive to elevate our character from the human level to the *God level*.



How to begin developing God's character in your life

The idea that we can change our thoughts and actions to reflect God's divine character may seem impossible. But God gives us two wonderful tools to help: His Word and His Spirit. God's Word (the Bible) gives us guidance on *how* to become like God, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to *do* it.

How can you start changing your life to live like Him? The entire Bible is fundamentally about *how* to develop God's character, but here are four specific areas to begin with:

- **Keep the 10 Commandments** (Exodus 20:1-17). God reveals His character to us in these 10 basic laws. They define *how* humans can express divine love (1 John 5:2-3). The first four show how to love God, and the last six show how to love other people.
- **Follow the example of Jesus Christ** (1 Peter 2:21). One of the reasons Christ came in the flesh was to set a perfect example for us. He perfectly demonstrated the Father's character in His life (John 14:9). In order to develop godly character, we have to study and imitate how He lived (1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1).
- **Live by the Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5-7). This message is Christ's longest recorded sermon. In it, He elaborated on the essential characteristics of godly character and how to apply the spiritual intent of the 10 Commandments in everyday life.
- **Develop the fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23). These nine core character traits of God will be growing in the life of a person who has God's Spirit and is diligently striving to become like Him.

Why developing godly character is so important

God wants us to live forever at His level of existence. But He will only entrust that power and responsibility to those who faithfully strive to develop His character.

As we will see, His purpose for us extends beyond simply receiving eternal life. In addition to giving us immortality, God is preparing important roles for us that require His character.

But first, how do we get from our level of existence to His?

Were You Born to Become an Angel?

Some believe human beings are born to go to heaven and become an angel after they die. Sometimes people will use this to comfort the bereaved, saying something like, “he (or she) is now one of God’s angels in heaven watching over us.”

But the Bible shows that you were born for a much greater purpose. As we covered earlier, angels were specifically created to serve God and His creation. The Bible describes some as having features very different from us. For instance, some angels are described as having eyes around their body and heads resembling various animals (Ezekiel 1:6, 10; Revelation 4:6-8). They were created after their own kind (the angelic kind)—not in God’s image.

Human beings were made “a little lower than the angels” (Psalm 8:5)—because in our current form, we are physical and mortal, whereas angels are spirit. But when we are born into God’s family, we will become sons and daughters of God and be exalted above the angels to the God level—as Christ was (Hebrews 1:4).

Though some scriptures show God referring to angels as “sons of God” (Job 38:7), other scriptures are clear that they are not, and never will be, born into God’s family and share life at His level (Hebrews 1:5). Human beings are destined to “inherit all things” (Revelation 21:7)—a future never promised to the angels. In fact, those born into God’s family will be tasked with the responsibility of judging, or governing over, the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3).

To learn more about angels, read our online article [“Angels.”](#)



Chapter 4

Closing the Gap for Eternity

*“When He is revealed, we shall be like Him,
for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).*

By giving His Holy Spirit, God not only gives us the help we need to develop His righteous spiritual character, but also makes us begotten children in His family. God becomes our spiritual Father, and Jesus Christ, our elder Brother (Romans 8:14; Ephesians 3:15).

God's purpose for creating human life is to build a family of beings *like Himself*—living life at His level. But something is still missing. No matter how godly we become in this life, we simply cannot bridge the massive chasm between our mortal lives and His all-powerful Spirit existence.

Let's now discover how this final gap will be closed—for eternity.

Jesus' revealing discussion with Nicodemus

Jesus once had a remarkably enlightening discussion with a Jewish ruler named Nicodemus. He began with a statement that totally confused Nicodemus: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In verse 6, He clearly explained what He meant: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

In the first part of this statement, Jesus was describing the state of every human being—when we come out of our mother's womb, we are "born of the flesh." We are born into a physical



family and share the genetic makeup of our human parents.

But when God calls and spiritually converts us, we begin heading toward a new life of being “born of the Spirit” into a higher family—the God family. When that finally happens, we will be transformed into the same image and composition as God—unlimited, immortal spirit.

Jesus then drew an analogy to describe life at this level: “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (verse 8). Like wind, spirit-born beings can be invisible to the human eye and

will have tremendous power. (See the sidebar “What Will Life as a Glorified Spirit Being Be Like?” on page 39.)

Ultimately, being “born of the Spirit” describes a transformation from physical flesh into immortal spirit. Jesus continued the theme of *eternal life* in verses 14-15.

But *when* will this transformation from flesh to spirit happen?

Not immediately after death

Many religions offer a simple, but flawed, answer to the question of *when*. Immediately after death, they say, good people, go to heaven to live with God. But in John 3 Jesus contradicted that belief by saying, “No one has ascended



to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (verse 13).

Can it be stated any more plainly? No one except Jesus has gone to heaven after death!

Remember, humans were created mortal, subject to death, and when the Bible discusses death, it likens it to sleep—total unconsciousness and cessation of thoughts (Ecclesiastes 9:5; Job 3:11-13; Psalm 146:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13). These scriptures plainly show that when we die we don't go to heaven, but sleep in the grave awaiting a resurrection!

Our only hope for future life is to be *resurrected from the dead!*

Thankfully, the Bible is very clear that resurrections—more than one—lie ahead in God's plan of salvation for all humanity. To learn more about the Bible's teaching on what happens after death, download our free booklet *The Last Enemy: What Really Happens After Death?*

For those who have chosen to follow God, who have repented and to whom God has given His Spirit, the Bible reveals exactly what will occur—and when. The apostle Paul wrote, “For the Lord Himself will descend from

Those whom God has called will be resurrected to eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ—when He descends from heaven with the sound of a trumpet!

heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And *the dead in Christ will rise first*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16). This occurs at Christ's return to earth.

Paul elaborated in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53: “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and *the dead will be raised incorruptible*, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

These two passages paint a clear picture. Those whom God has called to salvation in this age will be resurrected to eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ—when He descends from heaven

with the sound of a trumpet! Those who are “dead in Christ,” now sleeping in their graves, await that moment.

“Bringing many sons to glory”— birth into the God family

The book of Hebrews provides a succinct description of God’s incredible plan to expand His spiritual family: “For it was fitting for Him [Jesus], for whom are all things and by whom are all things, *in bringing many sons to glory*, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Hebrews 2:10).

What does “*bringing many sons to glory*” actually mean?

Currently, the God family is composed of two Beings, the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. Before Jesus came to earth as a Man, He was called the Word. When He was conceived in Mary’s womb, He was begotten as God’s Son (John 1:14, 18). Later He was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

At His resurrection Jesus was transformed from physical flesh into divine, all-powerful Spirit. Colossians 1:18 refers to Him as “the firstborn from the dead.” He is the *firstborn*—the first

to be born into the God family through a resurrection to eternal life.

But other sons will be born later—which is why He’s also referred to as the “firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:29, ESV). We are called to follow His footsteps—to obey our Father, to overcome sin and temptation, and to stay faithful to the end—so we can also be born into the God family through the resurrection.

This is how God is reproducing Himself—by expanding His family to include many glorified “sons and daughters” (2 Corinthians 6:18).

All babies are born into the same kind of existence as their parents. Humans don’t have dogs or cats as children; they reproduce human beings just like themselves.

Likewise, those who are born into the God family will not be humans or angels, but will be elevated to the same level of existence as God. They will be divine spirit beings like the Father and Jesus Christ. Of course, just as a child born into a human family is under his or her parents’ authority, those born into the God family will always be under the authority and loving guidance of their Father and elder Brother, Jesus Christ.

What an amazing potential!



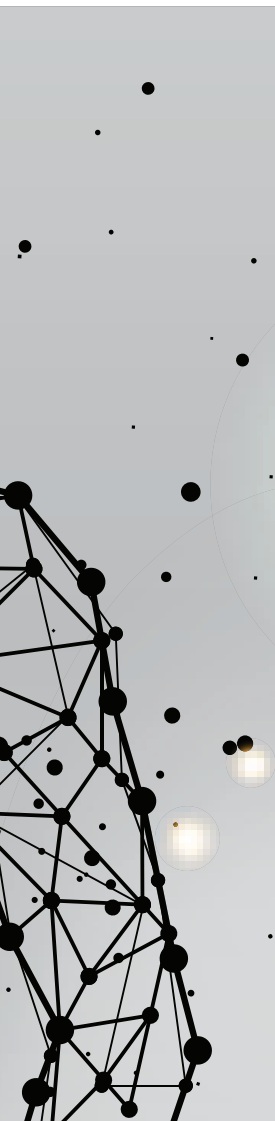


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Seeing God as He is

Notice John's description of the transformation from flesh to spirit: "Beloved, now are we children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be *like Him*, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

Consider the magnitude of what this means. Exodus 33 records a fascinating account of Moses asking God to show Himself in His full glory. God replied, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (verse 20). God's fully glorified form is so awesome that it is impossible for a human being to see Him face-to-face and survive (see also 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:16).

But when we are born into God's family, we will be able to see God in all His glory because we will be divine spirit beings like Him. The prophet Daniel described God's resurrected people as shining "like the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). Jesus said the righteous "will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:43). Imagine the energy and power of our sun, and then imagine how our destiny is to possess far greater power for all eternity! God's children will radiate power and energy just like God does in His fully glorified form.

Paul was also inspired to write about the transformation from human to the divine spirit level of existence in 1 Corinthians 15:49: "And as we have borne the image of the man of dust [mortal human life], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man [God]."

How amazing will it be to be transformed from physical flesh into a glorified divine spirit? Paul also noted that Christians “are being transformed into the same image [of Jesus Christ] from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18). He was describing the entire process, starting with the transformation of our character and culminating someday in the future with the transformation of our body to be like Christ’s.

In Philippians 3:21 he wrote, “Who will transform our lowly body that it may be *conformed to His glorious body*, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

Again, in Romans 8:29 we read, “For whom He foreknew [those called in this age], He also predestined to be *conformed* to the image of His Son.” The Greek word translated “conformed” is *symmorphos* and literally describes a metamorphosis into the very likeness of Jesus Christ’s glorified divine existence—the culmination of the process begun with our being *conformed* to His character in this life (Romans 12:2).

In Ephesians 4 Paul wrote that our ultimate goal is to become “a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of

the fullness of Christ” (verse 13). We were not born to be mediocre or just a better version of ourselves; we were born to become as perfect as perfect can get—fully and completely like the glorified Jesus Christ!

In the Old Testament King David understood the same truth, writing in Psalm 17:15, “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake *in Your likeness*.”

Yes, if we repent of our sins and allow God’s Holy Spirit to work within us to develop righteous character, that enormous gap between us and God will be closed for all eternity. We were born to be reborn into His family and live forever as sons and daughters in the eternal God family—sharing God’s level of existence. We will see God as He is and live forever possessing divine power that is now beyond our ability to even comprehend!

But one more question must yet be answered: What will we *do* for the rest of eternity after we enter God’s eternal family?

What Will Life as a Glorified Spirit Being Be Like?

The Bible says a lot about eternal life. But what will life be like as an eternal being? Though the Bible gives some details, it is impossible for us to fully comprehend what spirit life will be like. The apostle John wrote, "It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

In other words, God hasn't given us all insight about spirit life (because we couldn't fully grasp it), but He does give us a major piece of knowledge—we will share the same kind of existence as the resurrected, glorified Jesus Christ.

By studying what the Bible says about Jesus Christ today, we can learn about our future.

- 1. He shines with radiant power and energy.** Christ's present form is described in Revelation 1:14: "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire." At His transfiguration, His clothing is described as "shining, exceedingly white, like snow" (Mark 9:3). Our appearance will be similar; God's people are described as shining like the stars (Daniel 12:3)—a metaphor for magnificently powerful and radiant spirit bodies.
- 2. He has the ability to appear to human beings.** Though Jesus became spirit at His resurrection, He manifested Himself as flesh and blood when interacting with human beings (John 20:27-28). He could easily appear as flesh at will. After His resurrection, He could suddenly appear in a closed room in the midst of people (verse 26) and also suddenly disappear (Luke 24:31). While manifested as a Man, He could even enjoy a meal with His disciples (John 21:1-14). He could also speak to human beings with His voice, but remain invisible (Acts 9:4-5). As spirit beings, we will also have these same abilities. We will be able to be seen and heard by human beings at will and manifest ourselves as physical human beings (Isaiah 30:20-21). Though spirit beings will live outside the laws of the physical universe, we will have the power to appear physical at will.
- 3. He is perfect in every way.** Jesus set the ultimate example of being perfect and sinless. After demonstrating His spiritual perfection, He was transformed into perfect, immortal spirit at His resurrection. Because of His perfection, we can also become perfect (Hebrews 5:9). During our physical lives, God offers us repentance and His Holy Spirit to help us grow toward His perfect character (Ephesians 4:23-24; 2 Corinthians 7:1). If we remain faithful, at His return we will be resurrected and transformed from imperfect flesh to perfect spirit (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). When this happens, we will be "made perfect" (Hebrews 11:40, see also Ephesians 4:13). Currently, only God the Father and the Son are perfect—perfection is their primary characteristic—and we will fully inherit this characteristic when we are born into that family.



Chapter 5

What Will You *Do* for Eternity?

*“He who overcomes shall inherit all things,
and I will be his God and he shall be My son”
(Revelation 21:7).*

Why live forever? Think about it: When you study different religions, you find that nearly all of them teach some kind of afterlife for humans, usually including the opportunity to experience eternal bliss. Some talk about gazing into the face of God in heaven for eternity. But did God really create you to just live forever without anything to do?

Thankfully, God has revealed that the future He wants to give us is much more exciting than that!

As we've seen, God's desire and purpose for your life is that you will eventually be changed to a divine spirit being in His family.

That is what God wants you to *become*, but now we must consider what you will *do*.

The message of the Kingdom of God

When Jesus walked this earth, He came "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14). Gospel simply means good news. Sad to say, the gospel Jesus preached then is largely ignored by those claiming to preach in His name today. That is

why most people don't understand the real meaning of life. The purpose of your life can only be grasped by understanding the true gospel.

Simply put, the Kingdom of God is a literal kingdom—a *government*—under the rule of God. When Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven, He was seated at the Father's right hand and was granted authority over that Kingdom (1 Timothy 6:15). The Kingdom of God currently rules from God's throne in heaven, but Jesus preached that God's Kingdom is coming to earth and explained how human beings can enter it.

When Jesus Christ returns, He will come as a powerful, conquering King who will destroy His enemies and begin ruling over the entire earth. "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15).

Revelation 19:11-14 gives us a glimpse of Jesus' appearance at His return, and it won't be the way He has traditionally been portrayed. He will return in His glorified, divine form, and "He Himself will rule them [the nations] with a rod of iron" (verse 15).

At Christ's return, a wonderful 1,000-year period (commonly called

Heirs Now—Inheritors Later

Since God is building a family, He often uses family terms to describe His plan. One of the ways He teaches us about our future is through the concept of *inheritance*.

In the human realm, when someone is designated to receive an inheritance, he or she is called an *heir*. Inheritances are typically property, money or physical possessions and are not inherited until the *death* of the one who left the inheritance.

In God's realm, inheritance works differently. God the Father is the One who gives the inheritance—He possesses all things, which He created through Jesus Christ. He wants to share the creation with His family—including you. Since the Father is eternal and immortal, what He is giving to us is not dependent on His death. It did require Christ's death, but our inheritance is primarily given through His *life*.

The Bible describes the inheritance as a free gift, but there are conditions. God is offering *all things* to those who faithfully strive to overcome sin and build His character throughout their life (Revelation 21:7). Jesus Christ came to show the path and set a perfect example as a forerunner (John 14:6; Hebrews 6:20). His sacrificial death and resurrection made it possible for us to receive the inheritance despite our past sins.

When Jesus was resurrected, He became the firstborn Son of God and received the inheritance—authority over *all things* (Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:21-22). But He didn't inherit *all things* to keep all to Himself! God has destined *all things* to be inherited by the entire family. God's spirit-begotten children are now *heirs* of that inheritance—not yet inheritors (Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:29; Titus 3:7; James 2:5). "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 15:50)—so human beings can only be *heirs* while they are still physical. We, like the patriarchs of the Old Testament, have not yet "received [or inherited] the promises" (Hebrews 11:13).

Our inheritance is currently "reserved in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4). Jesus Christ will bring it with Him when He returns to earth (Revelation 22:12) to give it to us when we are resurrected and born into His family (John 3:6). Unlike in the human realm, in God's family the inheritance will be given *at birth!* God's faithful children will be glorified and given the inheritance together (Romans 8:17; Hebrews 11:39-40).

The inheritance God is giving His spirit-born children is greater than anything we could possibly imagine. It includes eternal life and rulership over *all things* (Revelation 21:7). But Jesus Christ, as the firstborn, will always have preeminence in the family (Colossians 1:18).

the Millennium) will begin on earth (Revelation 20:1-6). During that time (and beyond), “the government will be upon His shoulder. ... Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

But the message of the Kingdom of God isn’t about Christ ruling alone. He is calling people now to prepare to rule with Him!

The prophet Daniel was inspired to describe this time: “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom *shall not be left to other people*; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

Who will it be left to? Daniel later identifies them: “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 7:27, see also verses 18 and 22).

The saints—those in God’s family—will be given dominion and rulership, under Christ, of that Kingdom. God is not calling people to simply live blissfully in heaven, but to be a part of a family that will

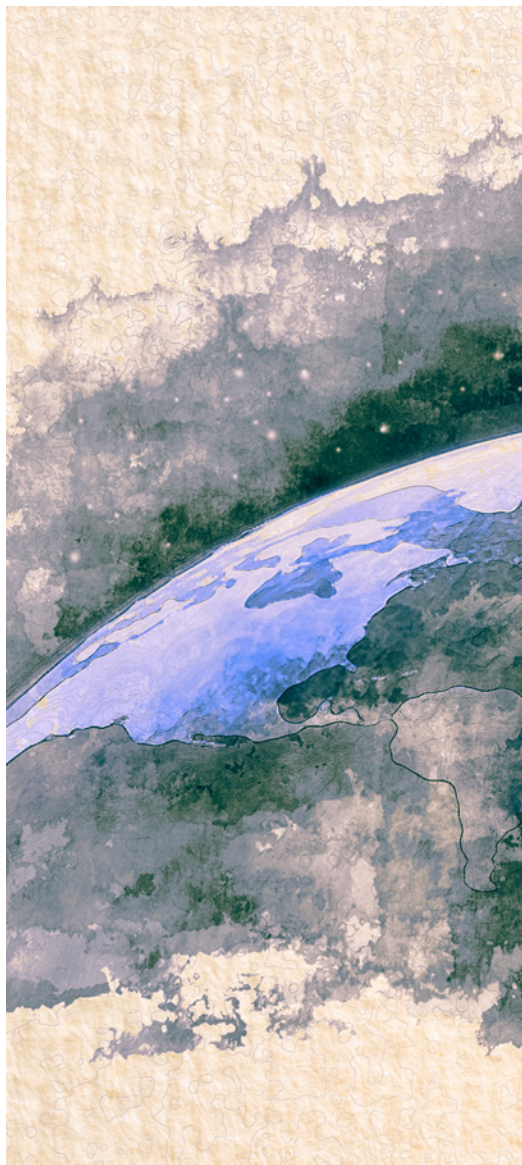




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govern this earth. This government will not be a tyranny, but will rule with righteousness and justice.

Kings and priests

Let's look a little deeper at what "the saints of the Most High" will do in that Kingdom.

We have already seen that Jesus Christ will be the *ultimate authority* in the Kingdom (Daniel 7:14; Revelation 19:16).

He will be King of Kings over the earth and the firstborn of the God family. He will be given supreme authority and glory and will rule over "all things"—the entire created order (Hebrews 1:2; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28; Ephesians 1:22; Philippians 2:9-11). From Jerusalem, His law will spread throughout this earth and transform it (Isaiah 2:3).

But He isn't going to do that alone.

He will be the King of Kings, and God's spirit-born children will also rule as "kings and priests to our God" and will "reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10). Throughout the 1,000-year rule of Christ on earth, we will be "priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

The Kingdom of God will be a literal government of kings and priests who will rule the earth under Jesus Christ's direction.

With Him, they will be leading and teaching the humans who are still living on the earth. One of the most familiar sections in the Beatitudes reads: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall *inherit the earth*" (Matthew 5:5). The book of Revelation describes them as being given "power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26) and granted the opportunity "to sit with Me [Christ] on My throne" (Revelation 3:21).

Jesus indicated that some will even govern whole cities (Luke 19:17-19). In fact, some of God's past servants have already been assured of specific responsibilities. For example, the resurrected King David will rule over the restored nation of Israel (Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24; Hosea 3:5). Under David, each of the 12 tribes will be governed by one of the 12 apostles (Matthew 19:28).

The prophet Isaiah prophesied to Israel about how they would be taught and served by those with this future responsibility: "Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,

'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:20-21).

God's family will teach and guide people during this future time—not only giving direct instruction but also mentoring people one-on-one in the right way to live.

The character connection

Is God calling *you* to be a part of this glorious future? The idea of leading and teaching may be intimidating to you. You may be asking, *How could I possibly be qualified for that kind of responsibility?*

The answer is that God has given us this life today as a training ground for these future responsibilities. When we understand the truth about our future, we discover why our character is so important to God—and why it must reflect His as closely as possible.

Right now, Jesus Christ is in heaven *preparing a place*—including positions of leadership—for us in His Kingdom (John 14:2-3). God the Father and Jesus Christ are using the character we build today—as well as our personal experiences and challenges—to determine the best place for us to serve in God's Kingdom.

The Crucial Role of God's Church

Building God's character and preparing to lead in His Kingdom is a lifelong effort—one that requires repentance, baptism, God's Holy Spirit, prayer, Bible study and fasting. But God also gave us another tool to help us fulfill our purpose: His Church.

Jesus Christ established the Church on the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after His resurrection. Acts describes its dramatic beginning where God used a great miracle and Peter's powerful preaching to lead many people in Jerusalem to repent and be baptized, thus beginning their journey toward God's family (verses 38, 41). They weren't left to navigate that journey alone. They were brought into a spiritual community called *the Church* (verses 41-47). We are told that "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (verse 42).

This community is also called "the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19)—another way of saying the *family of God*. When a person is called and receives the Holy Spirit, he or she is begotten as a child of God and is placed into His Church. The Church is not *the Kingdom of God* because it is composed of flesh-and-blood human beings (1 Corinthians 15:50), but those who form the Church will eventually be born into the Kingdom. In that sense, the Church can be likened to the Kingdom of God in embryo. It is the body God established to assist His children in learning, practicing and growing in His way of life in preparation for their future role in His family. It is also the tool God uses to spread His true gospel to the world.

The apostle Paul described to the Ephesians the spiritual offices in the Church and explained that the purpose of their work was "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13).

God has placed His people in His body (as the Church is referred to in many places) in order to help the members grow closer and closer to the fullness of Christ's perfect character and be prepared to serve others in God's Kingdom. If you are serious about fulfilling God's purpose for your life, you should consider seeking out His Church today.

The publisher of this booklet, the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, strives to reflect the teaching and practices of the early New Testament Church of God. To learn more about the Church, read our Life, Hope & Truth article "[What Is the Mission of the Church?](#)"



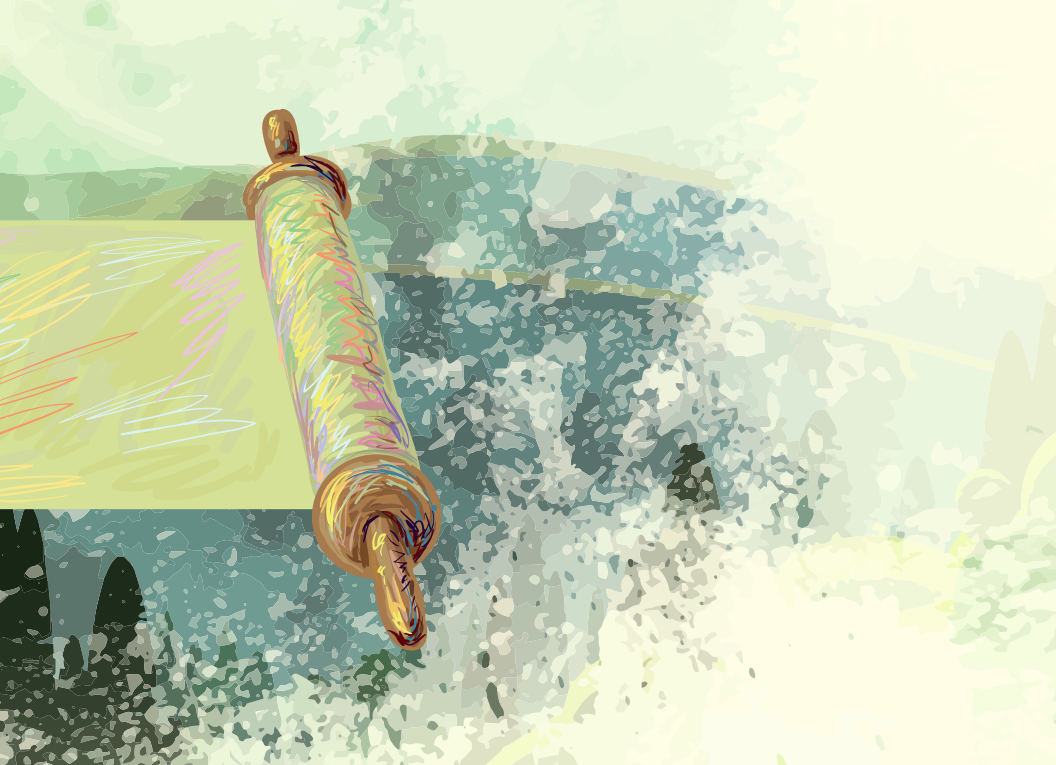
That Kingdom will be based on His righteous law and principles found in His Word. In order for us to help administer His government based on those standards, we have to practice righteous living today.

Think about what is required to be a king and a priest.

A godly *king* is responsible to lead his subjects not as a despot, but as a servant. In ancient Israel a king was expected to write out God's entire law by hand and continually study it and practice it (Deuteronomy 17:18-19). The reason was simple: "That his heart may not be lifted above his brethren,

that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom" (verse 20). He was expected first to mold and shape his own character in order to be qualified to lead his subjects. In the same way, God is calling us to reshape our character according to His law in order to govern and lead people in the world to come.

A *priest* is responsible for working with human beings to help them understand God, seek His law and understand His will (Malachi 2:7). In the Old Testament, priests were expected to be morally clean and



living examples of holiness (Leviticus 21:6). In order to teach God's law, a priest must first prepare "his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it" (Ezra 7:10).

God is preparing His people to fill the function of priests in His Kingdom, to teach and model godly living based on His law in a new world where that law will be universal. Prophecies of this future world describe God's law spreading from Jerusalem and eventually encompassing the entire earth (Isaiah 2:3; 11:9). This will be accomplished by the resurrected saints, who will serve and teach all around the globe on behalf of Jesus Christ.

A future beyond imagination

If you humbly respond to God and choose to follow Him, this can be your future! Just imagine the opportunities and experiences you can have in helping administer God's government. As a divine spirit being, you will be able to witness the transformation of our world. Our polluted planet, which will have been nearly destroyed by human warfare, will become a beautiful utopia where human beings live happily together in peace and safety (Isaiah 65:25).

You—together with the rest of God's family—can have a part in building that world.

Whom Will You Be Leading and Teaching?

This final chapter has covered the exciting truth that God is calling people now, preparing them to lead and teach others in the new world that will be established after Jesus' return. But whom exactly will they be teaching?

God is essentially preparing them to serve three groups of people:

- 1. Human beings who live into the millennial (1,000 year) reign of Christ.** Before Christ's return, much of the earth's population will die from warfare and natural disasters (Revelation 9:15). But He will return just in time to save humanity from total destruction (Matthew 24:22). The earth will still be populated by millions of human beings who survived these trying times and will live into a new, better world led by Christ and His family. One of our first orders of business will be to provide these people with comfort, guidance and education (Jeremiah 31:9-13).
- 2. Those born during the millennial reign of Christ.** Jesus Christ and His family will help humanity rebuild the earth and society after the destruction of the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 61:4). One of the tasks will be to teach the biblical laws about marriage and family. A new education system will be established to teach the children (Isaiah 54:13). One prophecy describes the millennial scene of children playing safely in the streets of a formerly dangerous city (Zechariah 8:4-5).
- 3. The resurrected "rest of the dead."** After the Millennium, another resurrection will occur—one for the "rest of the dead" (Revelation 20:5), the billions upon billions who died throughout history without the opportunity to know the true God. They will be restored to physical life and receive the chance to have "the books" (of the Bible) "opened" to them (verse 12). The God family will teach these people—helping them to enter God's family themselves.

Yes, if you faithfully embrace your opportunity to be born into God's family, you have ahead of you an exciting future of service to countless people! They will be there waiting for you. Will you be there for them?

But even more meaningful, imagine meeting and working with people of all walks of life and cultures—getting to know them, leading them, guiding them, teaching them the way of God and helping them fulfill the purpose for their life.

Your future won't be limited to this earth either!

The apostle Paul wrote that the “earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19). God’s *entire* creation is eagerly waiting for the birth of God’s children (verse 22).

Why? Because our future includes more than just this earth. The 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth is only the beginning of the Kingdom of God. God is calling human beings to “inherit all things” (Revelation 21:7). This means the entire universe! Beginning with the earth, the entire universe will be restored to beauty and perfect order. “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17; see also Revelation 21:1).

The Bible tells us, “Of the *increase* of His government and peace there will be *no end*, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and

justice from that time forward, *even forever*” (Isaiah 9:7). God’s Kingdom will become more and more glorious as it grows and expands for eternity.

The Bible does not give us all the details about our future in limitless eternity. Restricted as we are to our physical realm, many things about our future are simply beyond our comprehension. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Simply knowing that our loving God has so much in store to reveal to us should motivate us to seek to fulfill His purpose!

Putting it all together

This booklet has taken you step-by-step through the answer to one of life’s greatest questions: *Why were you born?* Through the pages of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, we have learned that you—and all human beings—were created in God’s own image. And we’ve learned about the enormous gap between humans and Him.

But the greatest thing we have learned is that God has created every human being with the incredible

potential to bridge that gap. That process begins when you commit to following Him and developing His holy, righteous character in your life.

God wants you to become like Him today so you can be prepared to become fully like Him tomorrow. He is working out a plan to reproduce His kind through human beings. He wants you to be a son or daughter in His eternal family—experiencing eternal spirit life at His level of existence!

He wants you, as a glorified spirit being, to enjoy eternity in a perfect body that will never age or tire and will radiate majestic, limitless power and beauty. He wants you to serve with Jesus Christ to help others fulfill their potential and help expand God's Kingdom throughout the earth and universe. He wants you to share with Him an eternity of productivity, excitement and happiness.

Discovering why you were born changes everything! It can change your daily life, your attitude, your goals, how you treat others and how you relate to God. Having this hope and purpose can totally transform your life today. You truly have *everything* to live for and a *future* beyond imagination. Embrace that future and begin fulfilling God's purpose for you.

That is *why* you were born!

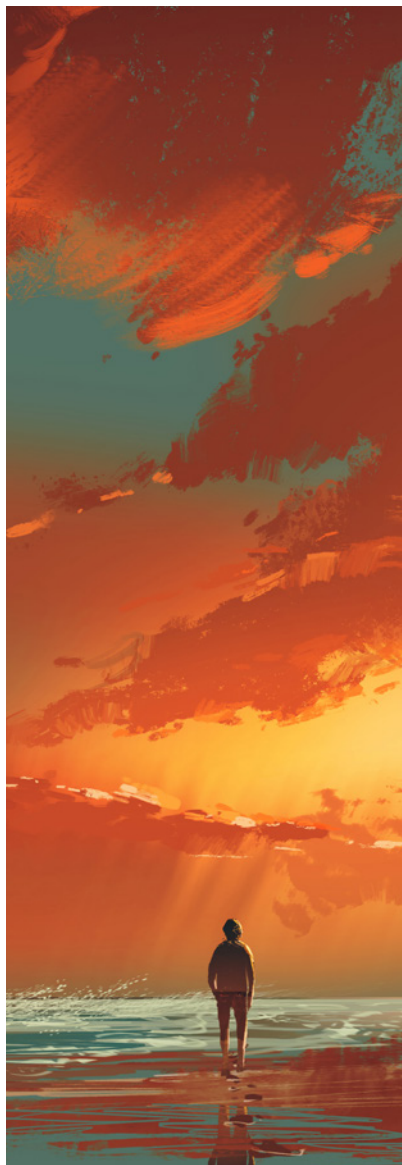


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What Should You Do Now?

You have just taken a journey of discovery through God's Word, answering the question *Why was I born?* The next natural question is, *What should I do now?*

Here are four action steps you can immediately take:

1

Begin studying about repentance and baptism.

The greatest barrier to your potential is *you*. We all sin, and sin ultimately leads to eternal death. To begin your journey toward eternal life in God's family, you must first deal with this problem. Our free booklet *Change Your Life!* will take you step-by-step through the process of dealing with sin and responding to God's calling in your life.

2

Learn more about God and what He's like.

God wants you to become like Him, developing His character in your life today. In order to begin closing the character gap between you and God, you must learn about Him and what He is like. Our booklet *Getting to Know the God of the Bible* explains God's nature in detail. We also offer a seven-day Journey on *Knowing God* to help you learn more about His character and power.

3

Practice God's character in life.

When you understand God's character and the necessity of building His character in your life, you see that it requires application and action. How do you apply the character of the eternal, all-powerful God to your life? Thankfully, the Bible gives us plenty of guidance! Study the 10 Commandments, the example of Jesus Christ, the Sermon on the Mount and the fruit of the Spirit (see page 28). These passages show us how to begin building God's character of love in our lives. Our booklet *God's 10 Commandments: Still Relevant Today* explains how they can be applied to life in the 21st century.

4

Connect with God's Church.

Thousands of people around the world have learned and embraced God's purpose for their life. Collectively, they make up the Church of God. They are striving together, as a family, to build God's character by living His way of love. In fact, it is their love for others that makes it possible to provide, absolutely free of charge, this booklet along with all of our other materials. To learn more, read our booklet *Where Is the Church Jesus Built?*

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, has published many related articles on its website LifeHopeandTruth.com. Here are some of them:

- What Is a Human Being?
- Do Humans Have an Immortal Soul?
- Spirit in Man: What Is It?
- The Fall of Satan
- God vs. Satan
- The Tree of Life
- What Is Conversion?
- How to Become a Child of God
- The Fruit of the Spirit
- What Is Spirit?
- The Purpose of Man
- Why Were You Born?
- The Gift of Eternal Life
- Born to Be a King
- Messiah's Message: The Gospel of the Kingdom
- What Is the Kingdom of God?

We also welcome your questions, which you can send using the form on our [Ask a Question](#) page.



About **LifeHope&Truth**

LifeHopeandTruth.com exists to fill a critical void in this world: the lack of understanding about the purpose of life, the lack of realistic hope for a better future and the lack of truth!

Neither religion nor science has satisfactorily addressed these issues, so people today are of divided opinions, confused or, worst of all, don't care anymore. The ancient words of the prophet Isaiah ring so true today: "Truth is fallen in the street." Why? Is it because God was right when He warned that humans are inclined to reject Him and usually choose not to know Him?

We are here for people who are searching for answers, who are ready to prove all things or who are hungry for more than what they've been taught most of their lives about God, the Bible, the meaning of life and how to live. We want to help you truly understand the good news of the gospel and fulfill Jesus Christ's admonition to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

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The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, has congregations around the world in more than 50 countries, with headquarters in the United States near Dallas, Texas. To learn more about the Church, please visit our website **cogwa.org**.

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info@cogwa.org