

UNLIKELY HEROES *Ordinary Life, Extraordinary Purpose* August 19, 2018
“**Daily** using your ordinary life to live out your extraordinary purpose”

*Your purpose is to bring God **pleasure**. Let's be God pleasers!*

Psalm 147:11 CEV The Lord is **pleased** only with those who **worship Him** and trust His love.

Romans 12:1 MSG ...Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work & walking-around life & place it **before God as an offering**.

5 ACTS of Purposed Worship that Bring God Pleasure

1. God experiences pleasure when we **LOVE** Him supremely.
2. God experiences pleasure when we **TRUST** Him completely.
3. God experiences pleasure when we **OBEY** Him wholeheartedly.
4. God experiences pleasure when we **PRAISE** Him continually.
5. God experiences pleasure when we **USE OUR ABILITIES**.

*Your extraordinary purpose is to give God **ALL** of you. God's purpose for you isn't to give Him a halfhearted commitment, partial obedience, or leftovers of your time & money. He desires your full devotion.*

Mark 12:30 ...you must love the Lord your God w/ all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, & all your strength.

Why you worship & how much of yourself you offer to God when you worship is a very important part of fulfilling your purpose.

Hebrews 12:28 TPT Since we're receiving our rights to an unshakeable kingdom we should be **extremely thankful** & offer God the purest worship that delights (or pleases) His heart as we lay down our lives in absolute surrender, filled w/ awe.

4 CHARACTERISTICS of Purposed Worship That Bring God Pleasure

1. God experiences pleasure when our worship is ACCURATE. *We can't create our own comfortable or politically correct image of God & then worship it; that's idolatry.*

John 4:23...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & in TRUTH. *The Father's looking for those who'll worship Him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit & in TRUTH."*

True/Truth worship, God pleasing worship must be based on the Truth of the Word, not our opinions.

2. God experiences pleasure when our worship is AUTHENTIC. *We should be genuine, honest, heartfelt, & transparent. It's the attitude of our hearts that matters.*

1 Samuel 16:7b *The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

Purposed Worship should engage our emotions; deep feelings; genuine, not fake. Real love. Not perfect worship, but sincere worship.

God pleasing worship is deeply emotional & deeply doctrinal (accurate). Both our hearts & our heads; spirit & truth.

Your biggest distraction in worship is you – your interests & your worries & what others think about you.

Your worship should most authentically represent your love for God.
So... You should enjoy intimacy with Jesus by: studying; singing; being outdoors; reading; dancing; creating art; serving others; having solitude; enjoying fellowship; & dozens of other various activities.

Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas 9 ways to draw near to God:

1. Naturalist – outdoors, natural settings
2. Sensate – perceive through their senses
3. Traditionalist – rituals, liturgy, symbols, structures
4. Ascetic – solitude, simplicity
5. Activist – battling evil & injustice, work to make the world better
6. Caregiver – loving others, meeting needs
7. Enthusiast – celebration
8. Contemplative – adoration
9. Intellectual – studying, using your mind

John 4:23 MSG It's who you are & the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply & honestly themselves before Him in their worship.

3. God experiences pleasure when our worship is THOUGHTFUL You must engage your mind. If worship is mindless, it's meaningless.

Honor God with fresh, thoughtful words & ways. Not "vain repetitions". Words like admire, respect, value, revere, honor, & appreciate.

1 Corinthians 14:16 GNB When you give thanks to God in spirit only, how can ordinary people taking part in the meeting say "Amen" to your prayer of thanksgiving? They have no way of knowing what you're saying. 17 Even if your prayer of thanks to God is quite good, other people are not helped at all.

4. God experiences pleasure when our worship is PRACTICAL. What you have – your body. Spirit, and body too. You can only be where your body is. That's deep. We offer our bodies a living sacrifice!

Romans 12:1 ...I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He's done for you. Let them be a living & holy sacrifice—the kind He'll find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.

Sacrifices of worship: thanksgiving, praise, humility, repentance, offerings of money, prayer, serving others, & sharing with those in need.

Worship takes energy & effort. Passive worship is an oxymoron.

Is pleasing Him the attitude of your heart? Is it your deepest desire?

2 Corinthians 5:9 MSG Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions.

We don't ask, "How much pleasure am I getting out of life?" We ask, "How much pleasure is God getting, out of my life?"

Will you make pleasing God the goal of your life?

"Life In Action" - Prayer/Confession of devotion to being a God pleaser

"Jesus, I love You w/ all of my heart, soul, & mind. I commit to using my ordinary life to live out Your extraordinary purpose. Worshipping You is my life. I will bring You glory here on earth by completing the work You gave me to do. I give You my everyday life & place it before You as an offering. I will love You, trust You, obey You, & praise You. I desire to bring You pleasure. Thank You for filling me w/ Your joy. I will cheerfully seek to please You. I am thankful for You. In the name of Jesus, amen."