

# The Five Goals Of A Believer

**How can we personalise the purpose of God's church?**

I feel this can be done by understanding the five goals that God has communicated in His Word, the Christian Bible, that He desires every believer to embrace.

**These goals express what God wants us to do with our lives while in this human existence.**

## 1 God wants us to become a member of His created family

**1 Peter 1:3-4** [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into **an inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you,”*

God has through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ given us a new birth.

**Every normal physical birth is into a family, so is this new birth.**

**Ephesians 2:19** [NIV] *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and **members of God's household,**”*

**We as believers belong to the household or family being created by God.**

**Romans 6:1-4, 10** [NIV] *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too **may live a new life.**” ... “The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.”*

Since our baptism we live a new life, a life that is dedicated to serving the Head of this new family, God.

**The Christian Bible is very clear that following Jesus Christ is not only a matter of believing, it also includes belonging.**

The Christian life is **not** a solo act.

God has given us the Christian church fellowship as a spiritual family for our support.

**Galatians 6:1-2** [NIV] *“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. **Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.**”*

Each member has the responsibility to be supportive of others in the spiritual family.

## 2 God wants us to be a model of His character

**Genesis 1:26-27** [NIV] *“Then God said, **“Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**”*

The image of God all human beings resemble [Hebrew means a shadow of the original] but as we see the likeness [Hebrew means model character or son] was **not** created in the original physical creation.

We all as human beings have been given life as a time for us to submit to God's moulding into a being who reflects His likeness or character.

**1 Peter 2:21** [NIV] *"To this you were called, because **Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.**"*

Part of this moulding by God, through the Holy Spirit, is to follow the example of Jesus Christ the very Son of God.

**This may often include trials and suffering, which are part of that moulding.**

**Hebrews 12:4-12** [NIV] *"In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: **"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; **but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees!"*

**This discipline by God is a sign of the great love He has for each of us as human beings, potential children in His created family.**

**1 Timothy 4:12** [NIV] *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."*

**Listed here as specific areas of our life in which we are to reflect Jesus Christ.**

To react in the same way as Jesus did on earth when He also lived a life of a human being.

## **Speech:-**

**Psalms 19:14** [NIV] *"**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**"*

How well we have represented Jesus Christ will be judged by every word we utter.

**Matthew 12:36-37** [NIV] *"But I tell you that men **will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.** For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

"Careless word" I like the NIV translation of the Greek for it describes the type of words that God is referring to.

Words that do **not** have the care or welfare of the recipient in mind.

**The Greek word translated "speech" is "lōgōs" includes what is thought as well as said.**

## Life:-

The Greek word translated “life” is “*anastrōphē*” from root word referring to behaviour, what we busy ourselves with.

**Everything we become involved in must reflect Jesus Christ, our work, recreation, family life, etc., etc.**

## Love:-

**The Greek word translated “love” is “*agapaō*” from a root word expressing “much”, and is based on the brotherly love that the Greek word “*phileō*” expresses.**

This is **not** directly referring to the love of God the Greek word “*agapé*”.

It is however an expression of love that is generated by the love of God in us that is one of the “*fruits*” of the active presence of the Holy Spirit working in and through us out to other human beings.

**John 15:13-14 [NIV]** “*Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.*”

**Jesus Christ calls us His friends.**

**So to reflect Jesus Christ we should approach every other human being as a friend, for Jesus Christ died for them also.**

**Romans 5:18-21 [NIV]** “*Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all human beings, **not** just those whom God is calling to become Christ-like at this time.

## Spirit:-

This is missed out in some original texts and not included in the NIV translation.

**The Greek word is “*pnēuma*” meaning breath in this context the “*human spirit*” that gives us intellect.**

**Genesis 2:7 [NIV]** “*the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*”

Part of the creation of the first human being that sets them apart from all other living things.

**Job 32:8 [NIV]** “*But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.*”

**This is the source of the ability to think and plan that every human being has.**

**1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV]** “*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*”

**It is the union of our human spirit and the Holy Spirit that gives us understanding of God's thoughts, expressed in His Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** [NIV] *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

**It is in this human spirit that we have this desire to live forever. No-one can imagine not existing.**

This is a powerful force in us to drive us to seek the gift of eternal life from our Creator God.

**Ecclesiastes 3:21** [NIV] *“Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?”*

**At death it is this spirit that returns to God to await a resurrection.**

As we see this is the way we think, plan, and our natural tendencies.

This is the real us, **not** the façade we try to present to others.

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

**Unless we have the active presence of the Holy Spirit flowing through us, we cannot really reflect the life of Jesus Christ.**

## **Faith:-**

The Greek word is *“pistis”*, meaning conviction but also truthfulness, trust, fidelity. **This is not just what we believe but the faithful way we conduct our lives.**

We should be known as a person on whom others can rely to perform what we have promised and not let other people down.

**James 2:18-20** [NIV] *“But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”*

**Real faith is expressed in what we do in life.**

## **Purity:-**

The Greek word *“hagnēia”* referring to cleanliness, not defiled or contaminated.

Comes from the root word *“hagiōs”* referring to a state of holiness.

**Holiness is in the mind and spirit.**

**A mind that is separated from sin and consecrated to God, Who is Holy.**

**Only God can make us Holy by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.**

Our part is accomplished by putting God first in our lives.

**1 Peter 1:15** [NIV] *“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;”*

Every aspect of our lives needs to be led by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Peter 3:10-13** [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? **You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”*

**Our only hope for the future is linked to our living a Holy life.**

**Note:** *“And speed its coming”* – could this mean that God is waiting for you or I to live a Holy life?

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** [NIV] *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; **for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.**”*

The Christian church as a group, and each of us personally, are those who are sanctified, made Holy by God and are God’s temple, His dwelling place on earth.

**Ephesians 5:22-29** [NIV] *“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church,”*

God has given us the marriage relationship to experience, on a physical level, the holy “hagiōs” relationship He wants with us.

The work that Jesus Christ is doing now, through the Holy Spirit, is to prepare us for the future spiritual relationship with Him, by making us “hagnēia”.

The responsibility for this does **not** rest with our own holiness, for we are to be the vehicle by which others are to be reached to also be made holy by God.

We are to be used by God in this way individually and as the body of Christ on earth, the Christian church.

**1 Peter 2:1-5** [NIV] *“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**”*

In Cockney slang we are to become “chips off the old block.”

We are small versions of the great foundational rock that is Jesus Christ.

**Here we see the powerful motivation for us to seek to do our part of becoming “hagnēia” as God has already done His part of the process, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Galatians 5:24-25** [NIV] *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

In the context of the “fruits” of the Spirit being in us, we are to “keep in step with the Spirit”, by following His lead in every part of our lives.

### **3 God wants us to be ministers of His grace**

**1 Peter 4:10-11** [NIV] *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”*

**God expects us to see the gifts, talents and opportunities that He gives us to benefit other human beings.**

**God expects every believer to have a ministry.**

**Ephesians 2:10** [NIV] *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

This new life in Jesus Christ, gives us opportunities to use the gifts and talents that God has been developing in us from birth.

Or even before our birth in what was passed on to us physically by our parents.

**Jeremiah 1:5** [NIV] *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

What God did in and through the prophet Jeremiah, He could be planning to do through us.

When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, we are signing up to minister in His name for the rest of our lives.

**Deuteronomy 15:12-17** [NIV] *“If a fellow Hebrew, a man or woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing-floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today. **But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.”***

**The beautiful illustration of our relationship with Jesus our Master and we His bond slave.**

**A bond slave was one with no personal rights only personal responsibilities towards his master.**

Each of the apostles introduced themselves as bond slaves of Jesus Christ, so we will be in good company.

**Isaiah 6:5-8** [NIV] *“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; **your guilt is taken away and your***

*sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

Following the example of Isaiah, as a result of our sins being cleansed by Jesus Christ’s blood sacrifice, our response should be *“here I am, send me.”*

#### **4 God wants us to be messengers of His love**

**Acts 20:24** [NIV] *“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me, the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”*

**We, like Paul, should consider our lives as worthless unless we can be a personal testimony of the love and mercy that God has for us.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”*

**We are all ambassadors for Jesus Christ and our ministry is proclaiming how God is reconciling all humanity to Himself, through Jesus Christ.**

This is the message the church is to proclaim and in each of us it can be stated in a personal way.

**This is part of our job description as a believer.**

Once we have been *“born again”*, by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and surrendering our will to His, we become messengers of the Good News of what God has done and is doing for all humanity through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:5** [NIV] *“And hope does not disappoint us, because **God has poured out his love into** [can be translated *“through”*] **our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.**”*

God has *“poured out”* on us His love by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

**The presence of the Holy Spirit in us cannot be stagnant, He has to continually flow through us out to others in acts of love.**

**John 17:15-21** [NIV] *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”**”*

**Christ’s prayer was for us to remain in this world, sanctified [set apart and made holy] so that He may continue His work on earth through every generation until His second coming.**

## **5 God wants us all to magnify the name of God**

**John 15:8** [NIV] *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

The Greek word translated “glory” is the word “*dōxazō*” meaning to esteem, honour or to magnify, through praise and worship.

As we experience the Holy Spirit flowing through us we will by this contact with Him be producing certain “fruits” or characteristics that are His, in our own lives.

**Galatians 5:22-23** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

These “fruits” are the expression of God’s character, and such “fruits” in us will bring glory [magnification] to Him as it will be His work in us.

The production of these spiritual “fruits” in our lives is part of our worship of God.

**There is built into every human being a natural urge to worship.**

**If this is not directed towards our Creator God, we will find something else to worship.**

It could be our job, money, sport, film star, pop singer, our family or even ourselves, our own physical body.

**We automatically worship whatever takes first place in our lives or our thoughts.**

**Exodus 20:3-5** [NIV] *“You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,”*

**We are commanded to worship only the Creator God.**

As with all of God’s Commandments, we see that in the end it is for our benefit, for only the Creator God can give us eternal life.

**With these responsibilities, God offers us privileges and benefits through His church.**

These benefits provide all we need spiritually, emotionally and in relationships, things that cannot be found anywhere else, only in the family fellowship of God’s church.

**a) God’s purpose for life –**

Without a clear purpose for our lives we are drawn towards depression, self-gratification [sometimes through the use of harmful drugs and stimulants] and a tendency to lack enthusiasm for life which will result in poor health.

**b) God’s people to live with –**

The Church offers fellowship with like minds that is difficult to find in other areas of society.

Far deeper than a common secular interest or hobby, sport or recreation.



**c) God's principles to live by –**

Through the discipleship offered in God's Church we can mature spiritually through a right education based on God's Word, His Wisdom, the Christian Bible.

**d) God's profession to live out –**

Through the Church and in fellowship with God's people we can live out the work of reconciliation that God has given us as individuals and as a group.

**e) God's power to live by –**

With the Church family we can in fellowship worship God, encourage, edify and support one another.

**Worship** helps us to focus on God.

**Fellowship** helps us to face life's problems.

**Discipleship** helps us strengthen our faith.

**Ministry** helps us to find and use our God-given talents.

**Evangelism** helps us to fulfil our mission in this human life.

As we see, fulfilling God's purpose for His Church involves every member totally.

**Luke 14:26-27** [NIV] *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."*

There is **no** part of our life that can be left out, all must be dedicated to God's purpose.

**We have to disregard any other person or thing compared with our regard and loyalty to Jesus Christ.**

**John 12:25-26** [NIV] *"The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."*

We have to be willing to lose our own life, that is our will, to do God's Will, that is live for Him.

**We have to be available for Jesus Christ to use at any time, just as a bond slave is available to fulfil his master's wishes at any time.**

**Ephesians 5:21-32** [NIV] *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of his body. **"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."** This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church."*

God in these verses gives us a beautiful analogy of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ as part of His Church.

**Just as a man and a woman become one physically in the sexual marriage relationship, so Jesus Christ is one with His Church in a spiritual relationship.**

This is accomplished by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each member of the church and in the fellowship that the church has.

**John 14:15-20** [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.**”*

**A loving marriage relationship helps us to prepare for and experience the relationship that Jesus Christ has with His Church.**