

Philosophy of Life and Ministry

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I. Introduction.

- A. Most have done little planning regarding their ministry. Prior planning prevents present panic.
- B. Philosophy of life and ministry: to know, love and glorify God, be used of him to raise up qualified laborers as fast as possible to help fulfill the Great Commission.

II. We should know God because it is his desire. (Hosea 6:6; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 3:10; Psalm 27:4; Exodus 33:13)

- A. To know God is to become like him and please him. (Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5)
- B. We get to know God by spending time with him.
- C. We can know him by the inward journey. The inward journey glorifies God. (Romans 11:29)

III. We should love God.

- A. Jesus commanded it. (Matthew 22:34)
- B. Love is a matter of choice and not emotion. (Deuteronomy 5:29)
- C. God has our best interests at heart. (Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 1:8)
- D. What keeps us from loving and obeying God: pride, bitterness, prosperity and self-seeking. (Hebrews 12:15; Jeremiah 45:5)

IV. We should glorify God. (Revelation 4:11)

- A. We glorify God by doing everything for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- B. We glorify God by bearing fruit. (John 15:5; Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16)
- C. We glorify God by praising him. (Psalm 50:23)
- D. We glorify God by confessing Jesus as Lord. (Philippians 2:11)

V. To be used of him.

- A. Only God produces fruit. (Psalm 127:1; John 15:5)
- B. We must be abide in him and be a clean vessel to be used of him. (2 Timothy 2:17)
- C. God's goal is that we might become more and more like Jesus. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13; John 12:32; Proverbs 31)

VI. To raise up.

A. God uses people.(Matthew 9)

B. God wants to raise up qualified laborers.

1. They know what the objective is.

2. They are committed to getting the job done. (Ephesians 4)

VII. The Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)

A. This involves winning people to Christ and discipling them.

B. The scope is the whole world.

C. The message is to repent. (Luke 24; 13)

D. The power comes from the indwelling Spirit of God.

VIII. The power of multiplication: multiplication of disciples is more important than addition.

Application questions:

1. How can you go about knowing God more and practically helping others to know him as well?

2. What does it look like to glorify God?

3. How would you articulate your life mission in light of the message?
