

God-Centered or Self-Centered?

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” (Ps 20:7)

A God-Centered Life

In order to live a God-centered life, we must focus our lives around **God’s purposes and ways**, and not our **own plans and schemes**

- We must seek to see things **from God’s perspective**, not our own **incomplete and distorted** viewpoint
 - “For now we see in a mirror, **dimly**, but then face to face. Now I **know in part**, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” (1Corinthians 13:12)

Living a God-centered life means that we must **deny ourselves** (i.e. our sinful nature) and seek only to do **God’s Will**

- Then God can accomplish **His purposes** through us which will also yield **great blessings** as we **walk in the light and in the Spirit**
 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

God-Centered

Self-Centered

Results of Self-Centered

Life focused on God’s will/purposes

Life focused on own needs/desires

Blocks God

- “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Confidence in God

Self-reliance

Worry

- “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” (Matthew 6:25,32)

Dependence on God

Independence

Futility

- “Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, for futility will be his reward.” (Job 15:31)

Denying self

Obsessing about self

Loss

- “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26)

Outward focused

Inward focused

Lack of fruit

- “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

Humble about self

Proud of self

God opposes

- “Be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1Peter 5:5)

God-Centered

Self-Centered

Results of Self-Centered

Boast of God

Boast of self

Destruction

- *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:12)*
- *“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2Corinthians 12:9)*

Holy and Godly living

Selfish and worldly living

Lack of God’s love

- *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1John 2:15)*

Do what God wants

Ask God to bless own plans

Death (i.e. failure)

- *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12)*

Biblical Examples

Read the following verses and determine whether the person’s actions were **God-centered** or **Self-centered**

- 1. Eve ate the forbidden fruit** (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7)
- 2. Joseph fled from Potiphar’s wife** (Genesis 39:7-10)
- 3. Ten spies said, ”No we can’t”** (Numbers 13:13-33)
- 4. Joshua & Caleb said, “Yes”** (Numbers 14:6-9)
- 5. King Asa asked God for help** (2Chronicles 14:9-11)
- 6. King Asa asked Aram for help** (2Chronicles 16:1-3, 7-8)

Die to self daily!

Jesus told us that we must **die to self** and **hate our life in this world** in order to **receive God’s honor**

- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” (John 12:24-26)*