



As we wrap up week one of our Purpose Driven Life study, we are challenged with the realization that God has a purpose for all of us. In our reading this week, Rick Warren told us that everything created by God reflects His glory and that that is its purpose. This includes US. We are to demonstrate God's glory in everything that we do.

Some of you may be thinking, "Well, that is easy if you are a preacher or a worship leader. Even a small group leader or a deacon. But what about me? I am just a \_\_\_\_\_. How does that allow me to reflect God's glory?"

Glad you asked. Let's look at it.

There is an award winning movie that was released in 1981 called Chariots of Fire. It's the story of two athletes who run for Great Britain in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Both want a gold medal, but each has his own motives. Harold Abrahams is a Jewish man who hopes to overcome anti-Semitism by proving his worth. Eric Liddell is a Scottish Christian bound for China as a missionary, but he also wants to glorify God by using his God-given speed to the best of his ability.

Early in the film, Eric Liddell is torn between two worlds: running and the mission in China. His sister, Jenny, thinks he ought to abandon running and focus only on the mission.

*Is being a preacher or missionary more important than being a runner, an office worker, a sales clerk, or anything else? Should all Christians abandon their regular jobs and work in full-time ministry? Why or why not?*

**Into the Word:**

**Read Romans 12:1–8.**

In the movie, Eric says, "I believe that God made me for a purpose—for China. But He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.... To give it up would be to hold Him in contempt."

*Do you agree with what Eric says? Can you bring glory to God by running in a race? If so, how?*

*If God has given you an ability to do something, like run or play the piano, would you hold God in contempt if you did not use that gift? Why or why not?*

*Do Eric's words convict you about the use of your abilities? If so, how?*

*Think of the abilities God has given you. Do you think your gifts are unique, just as Eric's gift of running was?*

*For what special purpose do you believe God has gifted you?*

*What is your daily occupation? How can you use your gifts to the glory of God in the situation he has put you into right now?*

### **Apply the Word**

In an earlier scene, Eric's father encourages him to use his many gifts without compromise. He says, "You can praise the Lord by peeling a spud if you peel it to perfection".

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:17.**

*What do you think of what Eric's father says? Can you really praise God by doing something as ordinary as peeling a potato? How?*

*Think of your daily routine, with all its typical activities. How can you glorify God by "whatever you do"?*

*Do you take comfort from the thought that your daily activities can glorify God? How?*

As you continue in this PDL study, look for ways that you can honor God every day in everything that you do. Thank Him for the opportunities that you have to make a difference for Him.