

## God's Purpose for Me

The old farmer leaned on the handle of his garden hoe, looked at the smartly dressed young man from the college of agriculture, and declared, "Well, sonny, you're trying to tell me how to farm this cotton land, but I ain't doin' what I know to do now." The teacher of the class of young ministers in Christian education teased his students, "You people are educated *way beyond* your obedience! And you want to know more!" Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

Knowledge alone does not bring happiness. One must do what he knows to do. He must know God's purpose for him and follow it. God's purpose each one of us is that we know and do His will on earth. There are so many things we know to do.

We know that without Christ as our personal savior, we will perish (Luke 13:3, 5). We know that a husband and wife should love and respect each other (Ephesians 5:25, Colossians 3:19). We know to teach our children to live in the way of the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:7). We know that we should love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). If we can only begin to do these few basic things, we will find life much more enjoyable!

Once we begin to practice the basic things, we will find that our desires change. We are no longer self-centered. We can learn the happiness found in giving. It is better to give than to receive. We will find that our desire is more toward knowing God, as we know our intimate friends. We will find that helping others come to know God will also bring fulfillment to us. We begin to do the things that are appropriate for a child, we also will be doing the things that please our Heavenly Father.

Lord, help us to do what we know to do. Help us to bring our obedience up to what we know. And, Lord, please help us find happiness in doing your will. This is how we find happiness in fulfilling God's purpose for life.