

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN



“When God Smiles”

We reach out a hand to
help a friend; And God
smiles.

We gather on our knees
in prayer, And God
smiles.

We give to the poor and
visit the sick And God
smiles.

We turn our hearts from
sinful ways, And God
smiles.

The Bible doesn't really
say That God has
smiled, it's true.

Somehow I feel as though
He does When to His
name we're true.

Parents smile when they
are pleased, With chil-
dren who obey.

Would not our Father
smile at us, When we
walk in His way?

And God smiles at us
each time we overcome
and lifts us up when we
fail.

—Diane Sample

People worry, and God
smiles.

— Hebrew Proverb

CHAPTER 9 — “WHAT MAKES GOD SMILE?” — SECTION 2

DIGGING DEEPER...

1. Based upon Matthew 15:8 *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce, for they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings.”* (NLT) Is it possible to put forth strong effort in worship while failing to please God? How can this be? Doesn't animated or emotional effort increase the likelihood of true worship?
2. Colossians 1:10 states, *“...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God....”* (NKJV) In what activity did the apostle Paul participate to increase the likelihood that the Colossian believers would be fully pleasing to the Lord (see Colossians 1:9)? Based upon your conclusion what was the Apostle Paul's major or minor concern?
3. 1 John 3:22 states: *“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight”* (NKJV). Based upon surrounding verses how can we please God? Be prepared to share how this could be done practically.
4. The author quotes Hebrews 13:15 two times and Hebrews 13:17 four times. He only refers to Hebrews 13:16 in a footnote in the back of the book. Hebrews 13:16 states: *“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”* How could omission of this verse shape a church's ministry? How could it impact a person's understanding of worship?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. The author indicated that the first purpose of your life, and your most important task is to make God smile or please Him. When we speak of “God smiling,” what kind of metaphor is this? Is this kind of metaphor used in the Bible (cf. Psalm 2:4)? How are we to discover how to please God? {p. 69}
2. In what areas do believers have a hard time trusting God? The author asked this question: “In what area of your life do you need to trust God completely?” {p. 71}
3. Based upon God's treatment of Noah and the human race in Noah's time, what can we conclude about God's interest in people? Based upon what God looked for in the past, what can we conclude would be the kinds of things He would look for in people today? {p. 71}
4. The author suggested that you can be gifted in several of areas that bring a smile to God's face. You bring a smile to God's face by being you rather than hiding your abilities. {p. 74} How has our culture impacted the perception that people do one thing and one thing only?
5. How is “living your whole life for God's pleasure” different from the way most people understand “worship”? {page 320}