

GEOFF KIRKLAND'S SPIRITUAL GOALS

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

GEOFF'S VISION — MY VISION IS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD BY LIVING A GOD-CENTERED LIFE THROUGH THE ENABLING AND STRENGTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO SAVED ME BY HIS OWN SOVEREIGN AND UNINFLUENCED WILL SO THAT OTHERS WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE GOSPEL, REPENT OF SIN, AND TURN TO JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND AS LORD.

Geoff's Purpose — My purpose in life is helpfully (though with no self-serving intent whatsoever!) memorable in the acronym **G-E-O-F-F**.

G - God-centered living. My calling first and foremost with the life that God has sovereignly given to me is to live my life to bring God glory. Everything I am and everything I have is to reflect the all-beautiful and all-encompassing glory of God. God must be the center of everything I do. If God is the center of my life that necessitates that *everything* else takes second place. Moreover, God does not take priority *only* in the spiritual category. No! God must take priority in *every single* category of life—ministry, sports, relationships, preaching, family, education, academics, scholarship.

E - Evangelistic lifestyle. I am commanded by God to go into the world and make disciples. This demands that I share the gospel and preach the gospel. I must have the missionary zeal of the Apostle Paul who said his burning passion was for his own people to be saved (see, e.g., Rom 9:1; 10:1). The world is suppressing the glory of God by rejecting the Creator to serve and worship created things that will not ever satisfy. God has commissioned me as a minister of the gospel to evangelize the world and proclaim that satisfaction in life is found in Christ. Much more important than that is that sins can *only* be forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ and in His sacrificial and atoning death in the place of sinners who believe. The mission is high and holy and the outcome is sovereignly appointed. In this I great find joy to obey my master in evangelism.

O - Others-oriented mindset. The mind of my Lord on earth was to have the mindset of a slave. He was not selfish but caring of others. He looked not to his own interests but to the interests of others. And this, Paul demands, must be my mindset as well as a follower of Jesus. The man who orients his mind on himself is a disgraceful and self-glorifying hypocrite. But the one who lowers self and elevates others to the glory of God is the man that God honors. This is the man that I want to be.

F - Fearless preaching. God reveals Himself today primarily through the mouthpieces of His heralds. God has not commanded men to share thoughts today, or ideas, or opinions, or funny anecdotes. Rather, God has clearly and repeatedly commissioned all humans to preach the Word. This requires that the man of God be fearless in his proclamation since if he is fearful he will shrink away from declaring the whole counsel of God and will consequently be a man-pleaser rather than a pleaser of the One true God. The preaching of the Word of God is the highest calling a man can be called to and I am utterly convinced that God has mandated me, a servant of the risen King and a vassal of my heavenly Master, to preach, proclaim, herald, cry, explain, reason, persuade, and teach the Word of God.

F - Faithful discipleship. Those who have been sovereignly regenerated by the Spirit of God and who have repented of sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone as Savior are now *in Christ*. It is the duty of believers to train believers so they can in turn select faithful men and women and teach them to train up others. Discipleship is simply the passing of the baton of Godly living and biblical truth to others so they can in turn make disciples all to the glory of God. I must be a faithful disciple of Christ through the strength of the Spirit to the glory of God. Amen.