



## Ambition: Driven for Glory

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*...for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. — John 12:43*

Setting up my makeshift “computer”—a propped up pillow and piano keyboard—launched my imagination into the world of ambition. A CEO in the making, I hoped. I’ll take a hot cup of coffee and one corporate ladder, please! Ever since I was a young girl, I have been driven to achieve my dreams and make a name for myself.

We are all in fact ambitious people because we are all on a quest for glory. Ambition itself is a neutral concept. It’s not good or bad, it just denotes being driven toward something that matters to us. We make choices whether to place our ambition, our quest for glory, on the self-track or the God-track. We can think of this as selfish ambition or godly ambition.

In John 12, the Pharisees, who were supposedly the most holy of all, were running fast on the track of selfish ambition. They sought the glory of man in their legalistic rituals. Similarly, those who lived in Babel in Genesis 11 were pridefully eager for a kingdom of their own, a tower that reached to the heavens, for their own glory. Scripture warns us of the consequences of selfish ambition: conflict and dysfunction.

Godly ambition, however, is controlled by the things of God and the building up of Christ’s Kingdom. At its core is a heart of humility, submission to God’s Word, and dependent prayer. Fruits of living for God’s glory include the expansion of His Church and peace. We have many examples of men, women, and children living for the glory of God, but godly ambition is perfectly expressed in the life of Christ. He certainly could have built a kingdom for Himself (Matthew 4) or opted out of the Father’s plan (Matthew 26), but He chose to submit His own preferences for the ultimate glory of God.

I’m not a CEO (though I do love coffee), but I still find myself on the self-glory track often. Striving in my ministry efforts to be noticed and controlling my children so they fit into my perfection box. How about you, sister? Perhaps conflict and dysfunction in our hearts, relationships, or home could be cueing us to look at disordered ambitions. Let’s be gals who look to Christ’s example for our encouragement, who cling to the Word for our assignments, and who pray fervently for wisdom.

#### Let’s chat!

- Which “track” do you see yourself running on most often?
- Where have you seen selfish ambitions lead to conflict or dysfunction in your life or relationships?
- As you consider your hopes and plans for the future, do they align with God’s Word, and have you prayed about them for guidance?

#### Take-away Truth

*When God’s Word is our authority and prayer is the posture of our heart, we can trust that ambitions for His glory will lead us.*

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