

## The Real Purpose of Our Spiritual Life

In one of the last talks that Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī gave to us here in the mornings, he was speaking about being approached by devotees who were complaining that they felt that they were stuck in their spiritual life; they were no longer making progress. Pūjya Swāmījī said, I tell them that it is because they don't understand the spiritual life. They think that it is something that they have to achieve—ever onward, ever upward until I reach the goal; whereas I tell them that your real purpose here is simply to bear witness to God, to His glory, to praise Him. And I tell them that if you are able to continue to do that for the rest of your life, then your life will be a success.

There is a short prayer in English that goes, “We are here for Thy glory and Thy sake and to do Thy will.” This prayer and Swāmījī's words shouldn't be a surprise to us. As students of Vedānta we are told that Brahman alone is without a second, and as confirmation of their being no second we are told: That thou art. In other words, Brahman alone is; there is no individual that needs to go anywhere. What is required is that we, the imagined individual, have to train our minds, which have the wrong idea, into the right idea; and there is no better or more effective way to do this than to worship God, to praise Him, to glorify Him.

When we begin to gradually understand that the spiritual life is about God and not about us, then it becomes obvious why Lord Kṛṣṇa does not want us to be concerned about the results of our actions, why He tells us that ours is the action only. If we're concerned about results, it means that we are affirming an individuality. If we're only concerned about the action, it means it's a way of doing God's will, of glorifying Him. Thus our spiritual life is gradually meant to lead us into a higher understanding.

As Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī said, the idea of us getting somewhere, of moving ever higher and upward, is what is told us in the beginning. We are meant to absorb into our being the truth of the scriptures that One alone is, and we have been created to manifest that One alone, to recognize that One alone, to give glory to that One alone. When our spiritual life takes on this flavour, then we are never stuck, because God's nature, God's glory is never ending. When we forget ourselves and identify with our real purpose here, it is impossible for us to be stuck in our spiritual life.