

# John 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

## Analysis

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**I have glorified thee on the earth** (ἐδόξασά σε ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς)—Jesus uses the aorist tense (edoxasa), declaring His earthly mission complete even before Calvary. To 'glorify' (doxazō) means to manifest God's true nature and character; Christ's entire incarnate life—His words, works, obedience, and impending death—revealed the Father's holiness, love, and redemptive purpose.

**I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do** (τὸ ἔργον τελειώσας)—Teleioō means 'to complete, perfect, accomplish.' This anticipates His cry from the cross, 'It is finished' (tetelestai, John 19:30). The work was not merely teaching or miracles, but the total accomplishment of redemption—active obedience in life, passive obedience in death. Christ's glory lies in perfect submission to the Father's saving plan, securing eternal life for His elect (v. 2).

## Historical Context

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This verse occurs in Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17), spoken in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane on the night before His crucifixion. John uniquely records this prayer, revealing Christ's heart before His passion. The phrase 'I have glorified thee' references His entire three-year ministry, from the incarnation through His imminent sacrifice.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's declaration 'I have finished the work' on the eve of the cross challenge performance-based spirituality?
2. In what ways does your life glorify God by manifesting His character to others, as Jesus did?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγώ	σε	ἐδόξασα	ἐπὶ	τῆς	γῆς	τὸ	ἔργον	ετελείωσα
I	thee	have glorified	on	G3588	the earth	G3588	the work	I have finished
G1473	G4571	G1392	G1909		G1093		G2041	G5048
ο	δέδωκάς	μοι	τνα	ποιήσω·				
which	thou gavest	me	to	do				
G3739	G1325	G3427	G2443	G4160				

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 4:34** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

**Acts 20:24** (Parallel theme): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**2 Timothy 4:7** (Parallel theme): I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

**John 19:30** (Parallel theme): When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

**John 14:31** (Parallel theme): But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

**John 15:10** (Parallel theme): If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**John 14:13** (Glory): And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

**John 9:3** (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

**John 12:28** (Glory): Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.