

Seeing the Glory of God

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Ezekiel 43:4-5 describes a most beautiful scene: “And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.”

Oh, how the world needs to see a glimpse of the glory of God! But that will happen only when Christians learn to let God be God. In Ezekiel 43:5, the glory of God *filled* the house. This means that God’s glory shares space with no other thing. Therefore, when we allow God to fill us with Who He is, we will reveal His glory.

Since Christ’s death and resurrection, and now that He is seated at the right hand of God in heaven, we are God’s habitation on earth. We are the place where God’s glory can rest. This booklet shows how each of us can be filled with the glory of His nature—with His mercy, grace,

longsuffering, lovingkindness, and truth—as lights to the world, so people will be able to see Him and be saved.

Chapter One

WHAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD?

“And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

“And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:33-35).

Five hundred years later, after the first tabernacle was destroyed, King Solomon completed and dedicated a glorious new temple in Jerusalem:

“Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

“And the priests could not enter into the

house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD 's house" (2 Chronicles 7:1-2).

But, notice what happened over the next five hundred years:

"Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do you see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?" (Haggai 2:3).

God Proclaims His Name

What is the glory of God? In Exodus 33:18, Moses made a bold request of the Lord: "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." God's answer, in the following verse, was this: "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy" (Exodus 33:19).

Understanding the glory of God is the key to subjective love, which goes from a believer (the subject) who is filled with the power of God's presence, His Spirit, and His words toward one who cannot respond (the object). That is what subjective love and subjective faith are all about.* There is no intrinsic value but there is potential value in the object who has not re-

ceived God's love. Therefore, the subjective love that I have for someone depends upon God and what I choose to receive from Him; it never depends on the object.

This is the picture: If we receive the Word of God so that it dwells in us richly (Colossians 3:16), and if the Holy Spirit fills us so that we sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord, *then* we possess an amazing subjective strength from God. We have value because we have *His* substance within, and by this strength we love God objectively. We are able to give and to receive His love as the Holy Spirit sheds it abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5). Because we hear the Word of God and study it properly, through our faith in Him we can have His subjective love for others. That completely reveals His glory and the nature of His name.

The Nature of Doctrine

The moment Moses said, "Show me thy glory," God's answer was, "I will proclaim My Name." God's glory and His name are the same. His glory comes out of His name. His name reveals His nature. That is why His name is so crucial.

"Into thine hand I commit my spirit; thou

hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth" (Psalm 31:5). According to Luke, Jesus was quoting this verse when He spoke His last words on the Cross. From it, we understand that He redeems because He is the Lord God of doctrine.

Doctrine reveals how God thinks, what He has done, and who He is. In Matthew 7:21-23, after He spoke on the beatitudes about the blessings many would reap because of their faithfulness, Jesus declared "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven." Certain ones will cry, "Lord, we have done miracles and wonderful works in Your name," but Jesus will have to say to them, "Depart from Me for I never knew you, ye workers of iniquity." These are people who have used the name of Jesus without experiencing His nature. They constantly said words and did things related to the name of Jesus Christ without having His nature; *they did what He said without having what He had.*

The Doctrine of His Name

In Exodus 34:5, "The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD." Remember, Moses wanted to see God's glory, and instantly

God said, "I will proclaim my name." In verse 6, "the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." *That is God's name.*

That is why, when we pray in the name of the Lord, we are praying in the nature of God. Let's say that you fail utterly, and you do what the publican did in Luke 18:10-14: You go to the temple, but you stand afar off and beat upon your chest. You can't even bring yourself to look up toward heaven because you feel so unworthy. So you say, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." The publican said a prayer in Jesus' name, and Jesus said that he went home justified!

The Pharisee prayed, "I thank God that I am not as other men or as this publican. I am not an extortioner or an adulterer. I fast twice a week and I tithe"—but he was not justified. He was doing things using the 'name' of the Lord but not with the nature of God.

Often, people who are either depressed or living in overt sins do not get victory. Many I have counseled are very sincere; they are not willful hypocrites, and eventually many come through. Yet for whatever reason, though they may be saved and sincerely believe in God's

name, they do not have the constant filling of His nature. But, to be filled with God's nature is the only provision for real and continual deliverance.

**We suggest reading The Love of God, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Two

THE SPIRIT OF GLORY REVEALED THROUGH REDEMPTION

In Exodus 25, the Lord instructed Moses in every detail regarding the building of the tabernacle, and Moses did everything as God told him. He obeyed God and finished the work (Exodus 40:33). In John 19:30, before He gave up His spirit, Jesus said, "It is finished." What a great verse! There is a rest for the people of God because the work of salvation is *finished* (Hebrews 4:9).

Jesus Christ finished the work, and because of this He says, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Satan despises the Finished Work. It is "finished" because of the nature of His name. The

attributes revealed in His name are mercy, graciousness, longsuffering, lovingkindness, and truth, which is doctrine. Doctrine is more than knowledge of the letter of the law. It is the Word of God operating in our hearts, controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The glory of God is in those five attributes as they work together, filling a person through the Holy Spirit. He is God, the “spirit of glory” (1 Peter 4:14), and He is everything that the name of Jesus Christ means. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ in us and brings the Word of God in to make us living epistles (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

The Holy Spirit takes over for those who cannot help themselves, though they may be sincere. When we believe Christ and receive life from Him, the Holy Spirit takes over, glorifying Christ and filling us with God’s glory. When we are filled with God’s glory, we are filled with mercy, graciousness, longsuffering, lovingkindness, and precise thinking in doctrine, so we can use the Word of God properly.

Who gets all the credit? Jesus Christ. Who receives the benefits? We do, as well as those around us, because we see the glory of God.

The Cloud that Abides

“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:34-35).

“The cloud” speaks of faith with incense. Israel followed the cloud by day through the wilderness (Numbers 9:15-22). Today, we walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). The cloud is faith with the incense of God’s glory. His glory—mercy, grace, longsuffering, lovingkindness, and precise thinking—filled the tabernacle.

Remember, when Moses went into the tabernacle, he had greater access to the Mercy Seat than the high priests did. Because there was nothing obstructing him, Moses went into the Holy of Holies and stayed. There, God taught him doctrine categorically (see Exodus, chapters 19 and 20). But even Moses could not enter the tabernacle when the cloud came down.

According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are His habitation, in Ephesians 2:22, and His dwelling place, just as Israel was, according to Psalm 90:1.

This means that when circumstances, adversity, success, or victory come toward you, the old man, Adam, who is in you cannot enter. Your flesh can have nothing to do with your new life in Christ. The new you, however, can enjoy everything about it through the Spirit of glory.

Through the Holy Spirit, the person who was depressed will be set free. Because his flesh has been taken out, God now dwells in him. When the cloud came, the tabernacle was filled with the glory of God. Even Moses could not enter in. And when the glory of God dwells in me, it is no longer "I" but Christ (Galatians 2:20).

Chapter Three

CHRIST LIVING WITHIN

All of us have a history of particular problems; some have long histories. Yet, the answer for every person is to be filled with the glory of God. Victory comes when the nature of God fills us. That is the full counsel of God for the meaning of Galatians 2:20, "It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me."

Suppose that you have trouble loving a certain individual. You may have tried to overcome something that happened years before, and you just cannot let go of it mentally. But now, God does it in you and for you! As 1 Thessalonians 5:24 tells us: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Also, in Job 23:14, "He performeth the thing that is appointed for me." Now you can understand why Job esteemed God's words as better and more necessary than his daily food (Job 23:12): God's words are Spirit and life (John 6:63).

Mercy That Rejoices Against Judgment

The work of building the temple was finished, and in 2 Chronicles, all of Israel celebrated its completion. King Solomon offered up a prayer, and the first thing he exalted was the mercy of God (see 2 Chronicles 6:14-42). After his prayer, the cloud came—faith with the incense, the Word with the Spirit of glory.

“...The fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. And *the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’s house*” (2 Chronicles 7:1-2). The *priests* couldn’t enter in because of His glory! That is a picture of redemption—our old sin nature has been taken out and God has been put in, replacing it with His nature.

Recently, a pastor from another denomination called me anonymously. He said that he had committed adultery, but because of conviction from the Holy Spirit, he quit the relationship on his own, repented before God, and he was clean. Years after he repented, however, someone exposed the matter before his congregation. Today, in addition to a list of stipulations, that church

wants him to stop preaching for two years as a penalty.

Jesus said, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." Everyone in that church has sinned, and this pastor had repented and was no longer living in sin. The glory of God is filling his temple: *No* flesh can enter in to judge. That congregation will bear the consequences of their reaction.

Stripping Away the Veil

Zerubbabel was working on rebuilding the temple in Haggai 2:3 when the prophet asked "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory?" (referring to Exodus 40:34-35).

There is no record that the glory of God ever filled that temple. It is like the Christian who is saved and, therefore, is a temple of God, but who has never been filled with the glory of God. Ezekiel 43:5, however, describes a vision of the Millennial Temple being filled with the glory of God. There on His throne, Jesus Christ will be reigning over the whole world from the New Jerusalem. In our glorified bodies, Christians will be able to enter in to that temple.

In 2 Corinthians 3:14-18, when God's people turned away from living by Moses' law, the veil

was taken away. When that happens, we behold the Word of God as in a mirror, and we are changed from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. According to verse 17, where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty—but liberty for what?

The veil of our flesh was keeping us from seeing God's glory, so the letter of the Word condemned us. We were always guilty because we could never live up to the law. But when we simply turn from it to the Lord, then we have liberty to have grace, mercy, lovingkindness, longsuffering, and precise thinking with the Word taking over. *Then* we are changed from glory to glory!

We had mercy before, but now we know a lot more about it. We had grace, but we know so much more about it today. We knew something about lovingkindness and longsuffering, and we were thinking with God precisely a year ago, but it is so much better today because the Word of God is now Spirit and life to us. Our capacity has been expanded as we behold the glory of God.

CONCLUSION

We can behold the glory of God. What a beautiful thing it is. Without being self-conscious, we can be filled with the glory of God, having mercy, grace, longsuffering, lovingkindness, and precise thinking with the Word at work in us.

If His glory is not at work in you, you should know that as a Christian, your body is a temple that belongs to God. If you are saved, the Spirit has sealed you unto the day of redemption, and you *will* go to heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30). But you could have so much more! You could be enjoying the experience of living in the nature of His name as you are changed—just by turning to Him.

Can you see why the demons hate to hear about the nature of God? Jesus, they know; Paul, they know; “but who are you?” they ask (Acts 19:13-15). The demons fear the name of Christ as it reveals the glory of God filling the believer, which proves Satan’s defeat. Today, instead of

asking God to just show us His glory, let's say,
"God, *give* me Your glory."