

*Whatever You Do—
Glorify 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

Recently, in a place called Littleton, Colorado, another American community was terrorized as two teenagers opened fire on their classmates, murdering and wounding several people before killing themselves. Among those killed was Cassie Bernall, who was shot when she confessed that she was a Christian. Students with whom she had shared the gospel knew about her convictions and saw the price she was willing to pay. Because of her testimony, many received Christ in the days that followed. In her life, as in her death, God was glorified. We also need to glorify God in our daily walk, as Cassie did.

As Christians, the solution to the problems of our nation begins with us. Jesus Christ said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32), speaking of how His death on the cross would glorify God and fulfill the Trinity's eternal purpose.

We have an eternal purpose also. God has called us by His grace to reveal His Son in us (Galatians 1:15-16). When the Cross of Christ is lifted up in our lives, we acknowledge who He is, and we manifest His life. This brings Him glory and ultimately wins the lost.

In this booklet, we will see how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit interact in a manner that reflects the perfect nature of God. Each member of the Trinity shares absolute unity and authority that leads by example: loving, giving, honoring, and serving one another. When we receive the nature of the Trinity and allow the Lord to manifest His life in us, God is glorified.

God desires to speak to us heart-to-heart. Each of us has a solemn and sacred responsibility to communicate what is inspired from heaven. Only God, however, can illuminate what He has inspired. He must reveal in us a living faith that recognizes His authority. By the living Word, which is the quick and powerful two-edged sword of the Spirit, we are changed from living in soulish self-consciousness to living in God-consciousness in our human spirit. Let these thoughts permeate and penetrate as we hunger and thirst after God.

Chapter One

THE SON GLORIFIES
THE FATHER

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:30).

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you..... A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father” (John 16:13-16).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine

own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

The Son Did Nothing of Himself

Among the most precious things revealed in the Word of God is this:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Creator of the universe. By Him, all things consist. He holds all things together by the Word of His power (see Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3). And yet, considering the dilemma of sinful men, He became a man. Jesus, in His hypostatic union, was both God and man. But this fact is so sacred and precious: *As a man, Jesus never did a thing unless He heard from the Father.* We cannot take this lightly. This is more than knowledge; it is a revelation of the very character of God.

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30).

In John 5:30, Jesus was saying, "I do not speak unless I listen and hear first from My Father. I do not say a word that the Father does not tell me to say."

This makes me want to get down on my knees this moment and pray, "Oh, Lord, please

help me to do this also.”

The Father Doeth the Works

The One who created the universe became a ransom for many. That glorified the Father. And that is how Jesus was thinking every moment He was on earth.

Jesus said that “the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:10b). I do always those things that please him” (John 8:29b).

Romans 15:3 says that “even Christ pleased not Himself.”

Picture Jesus Christ as He grew up to do the Father’s business (see Luke 2:49). He did not have an old sin nature, but He did have a free volition. He chose to say, “I am not going to think outside of You, Father. I will be with You in prayer always. I will be in the midst of sinners, but I will not say anything, think anything, or feel anything apart from what You speak to Me.” Thus, Jesus Christ could say in John 17:4, “Father, I have finished the work thou gavest me to do, and I have *glorified* thee.”

“Glorified” is *doxazo* in the Greek text, meaning to acknowledge and manifest and bring to

light the dignity, value, and nature of a person. Because Jesus glorified the Father, He could say to His disciple Philip, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” (see John 14:8-9). When Jesus wept in Luke 19:41—that was the Father’s heart revealed; He wept because the Father was weeping. When He groaned at Lazarus’ tomb, that was the Father groaning and weeping (John 11:34-38). Everything Jesus did was to glorify God the Father.

To the woman taken in adultery, Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). But, it was the Father who first said to Him, “Tell her that I don’t condemn her.” When Jesus spoke angrily to the Pharisees, it was the Father telling Him what to say at that moment. He gave Jesus the exact words to speak.

The Father sent His Son who voluntarily came, glorifying the Father, becoming a ransom for the lost (John 10:17-18).

Chapter Two

THE SPIRIT GLORIFIES THE SON

At His tomb, Jesus told Mary Magdalene to tell the disciples, “I ascend to My Father and your Father” (John 20:17). The Holy Spirit, who is God, with the Father, resurrected the body of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ humanity depended on the Father *and* the Spirit (Romans 1:4; 6:4).

As I think of the Trinity in the solemn and sacred throne room of my heart, the realization unfolds to me as to why our words on earth should be few—for we are on earth and God is in heaven (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

The Holy Spirit does not wish to speak of Himself. In John 16:13-15, Jesus reveals the nature of the Holy Spirit: “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all [doctrine]: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak.... He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine,

and shall shew it unto you. All things the Father hath are mine.”

I can picture the Holy Spirit saying, “I don’t want to talk about Me—I want to glorify the Son, Jesus Christ. It was Jesus who died. He bled; He suffered; He bore the sins of the world upon His human body. It was Jesus who became a man. I don’t want to talk about Myself. Furthermore, I will not speak unless I hear Him tell Me what to say.”

This is how the divine table of organization operates. We could learn so much from the Trinity if we wanted to be real.

Led into Servanthood

In John 16, the Son said, “I only do what I see the Father do. As I hear, I judge,” and the Holy Spirit said, “As I hear, I speak.”

Again and again, the Word of God instructs us to hear properly: “O earth, earth, earth, hear the Word of the LORD” (Jeremiah 22:29); “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken” (Isaiah 1:2a). Psalm 44 speaks of the doctrine of hearing.*

Here, we have a great picture of how the Son glorifies the Father: Jesus exalts His Father’s character; He manifests His nature. Christ ac-

knowledges the dignity and value of the Father's position as the first Person in the Trinity. Then, the Holy Spirit comes and manifests the dignity and value of the Son, the second Person in the Trinity. The Spirit magnifies and exalts the Son above Himself.

The Spirit now wants us to glorify God in our bodies, for our bodies belong to Him. As temples of the Holy Spirit, we are not our own; we have been bought and paid for with a great price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Now the Word of God comes into our lives to direct our thinking, speaking, and living.

Jesus provides such a beautiful lesson in Matthew 20:26-28. He said, "Let him that is chief among you be your servant." The greatest among us will always be willing to serve. "For the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Lord Jesus said to us, "I have glorified the Father. The Holy Spirit glorified Me. Now, I want you to glorify Me through the Holy Spirit's power. I want you to be changed into the same image of My character from glory to glory through the mirror of God's Word, even as by the Spirit" (see 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Therefore, we must be filled with the Spirit continually. We must walk in the Spirit. The foundation of our entire life must be the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God dwelling richly in us. My purpose on earth is this: “Whatsoever I do, whether I eat or drink, I do all to glorify God” (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). This is a great and holy privilege.

So many are doing this as they minister overseas. And many here in their home areas, as they work so hard, minister diligently. Let me encourage you to pray for each other, and always remember that “whosoever offereth praise glorifies God” (Psalm 50:23).

Glorify God for the mercy He has given (Romans 15:9). God, help us to exalt You, magnify You, honor You, and reveal You for the mercy You have given. Glorify God with one mind and one mouth (Romans 15:6).

Glorify God in the fire (Isaiah 24:15). When you are in the fire of sickness, the fire of need, or the fire of pain and rejection, glorify Him. When you have prayed, yet you go through the fire of not experiencing your heart’s desire, glorify Him. When you are suffering because you are a Christian—like Cassie Bernall and others who have given their lives for Christ—glorify God

(1 Peter 4:16).

By the power of the Spirit, we can magnify Him in our souls, whether by life or death (Philippians 1:20). Pray for each other, that we will magnify Him in these last days. This is our hour. We are living in a very late season of human history. No one knows how much time we have left on this earth. We do know this: Let him that is chief among you be a servant (Mark 10:43-44). We also know that the last shall be first (Mark 10:31).

Don't compete in your marriage. Don't continue to argue, living by the sword but not by the Spirit.** As a husband, a wife, a single person, a teenager—whoever you are, glorify God. I plead with you to glorify God. This is why we are here. As Paul wrote, "I am here to reveal Christ in me" (see Galatians 1:15-16).

**For more about the doctrine of hearing, we suggest the following booklets by Pastor Carl H. Stevens: God Speaking to Us—What a Miracle and Comforted by the Voice of God, Grace Publications, 1997.*

***Read The Inseparable Power: The Sword and the Spirit, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

Chapter Three

MAGNIFY GOD BY THE WORD THAT DWELLS RICHLY

The Father gives all judgment back to the Son (John 5:22). Then, the Father gives the Son the Church, which will be His Bride for all eternity in the New Jerusalem (see Revelation 19:7-11). Every member of the Trinity is continually giving—to each other and to us. The Father gives us the Son; the Son glorifies the Father; the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son. Now, God wants us to have the Word dwelling richly in us by the power of the Spirit and to share His life with others.

A woman in a wheelchair was won to Christ when she was twenty-six years old. She died at twenty-eight, but oh how she glorified God in those years. She had only two fingers that worked well enough so that she could write and use the phone. She was faithful to write letters and make phone calls to build up others in the

Lord. Visiting her was a joy. Everything was always love, grace, and thanksgiving as she would tell about the folks she had written to or spoken to on the phone. She did it all to glorify Jesus Christ.

So many have battled cancer and all manner of disease and suffering, and they have kept on glorifying God through it all. They may not realize it, but there is nothing so precious as believers who can say to God, "I am not in the best condition, but I am going to glorify You just as I am." They magnify His promises and His name. They magnify His redemption.

We deserve nothing. So, even when we suffer, we can magnify Him for all He has done for us. We don't deserve forgiveness. We don't deserve the guarantee of an eternity in heaven. We don't deserve salvation. Jesus Christ did it all for us. He honored the Father. The Spirit honored the Son and didn't even speak of Himself. Now, the Word teaches us, "whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31b).

Epistles of the Heart

In Leviticus 10:3, the Lord said, "I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me." Paul wrote, "They glorified God in me" (Galatians

1:24). I don't take it lightly when I speak before the congregation, delivering the Word of God in a sermon or teaching a class. I don't take it lightly when I am counseling on the phone. I have a privilege and a responsibility to reveal Jesus Christ and to glorify Him. It is the greatest privilege in the world, and everyone can participate in that privilege.

“We are epistles written on the heart, known and read of all men” (see 2 Corinthians 3:2). Oh, to be an epistle—not just to be filled with knowledge, but to be an epistle that reflects the glory of God. As salt of the earth and a light to the world, Christians glorifying God let people touch the nature of God. This God, Whom we haven't seen in person, becomes very visible in our expressions as members of the corporate Body of Christ.

Is it any wonder that Romans 15:6 says we are to glorify God with one mind and one mouth? Glorify God in prayer by saying, “I believe it will be as You said it will be” (see Acts 27:25). Let us glorify God by knocking on doors in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. Tell the lost that Someone created them, Someone loves them, and that same Someone wants to redeem them. They

were on His mind before they were even created. He wants them to believe on Him and what He did for them on the cross so they can join Him forever in heaven.

What a privilege it is to pray for those who need the Comforter to pick them up and to understand that Jesus is the glory of God.

Chapter Four

MANIFESTING HIS GLORY

In Leviticus 9, they brought the burnt offering, and everything was placed in order. Then, the glory of God came down in fire and they were stricken with awe. Today, the greatest example and demonstration of God's glory is someone who loves with His love. It is someone who obeys by faith, forgiving with His forgiveness, demonstrating His patience and His mercy, and giving grace for grace. The power of God's glory is evident in the convictions from God's Word that enable people to live clean. Their heart and mind are pure and free to glorify God. They reveal the power of God's glory; and with a pure heart and mind, they manifest the dignity of Christ, exalting Him as King of kings in their lives.

Never be familiar with God's glory. Never let yourself become distracted or fall into self-destructive patterns of thinking. Never be care-

less. The Holy Spirit of the living God wants to glorify Christ in our mind, emotions, and body. He wants our confessions to glorify and magnify Him. We don't have to be indifferent to the spiritual laws of grace. We don't have to fall short of the glory of God. We can have *pleroma*, the fullness of God who fills all in all.

As we live before God and consider His Word, we can have faith to remove mountains. When the Word becomes the Sword of the Spirit to us, sicknesses and wounds can be healed, and God is glorified. When we are filled with the fullness of God, we have no wants. The Lord is our Shepherd, and our God supplies all our needs.

The Greatest Place to Be

This Christian life really is the greatest thing on earth. Jesus came that we might have life and have it "more abundantly" (John 10:10). We don't have to rely on the flesh. We don't have to look at circumstances, people, or anything else when we are focused on glorifying God. The Father glorified the Son, the Son glorified the Father, the Spirit glorified the Son. Now in whatsoever we do, we are to glorify God.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or what-

soever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

Practice this passage. As you pray, consider that you are going to the throne room of heaven where God hears and desires to answer. Forget ceremonial words. We can have personal communion with God and with His Resurrection. He talks to us through the Word, and we respond. This is the most beautiful relationship we could ever experience.

CONCLUSION

“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us” (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8).

Thank God for the hearts that are committed and dedicated to serving the Body of Christ. I pray we will be inspired to go forward in maturity, fervently praying for one another and advancing into a new era of Christianity in these last days. This can happen when we simply grow in grace and knowledge.

I am amazed at how God has accepted us into His Beloved. We are His treasures as His sons and daughters. He will never leave us. Thinking on these things will make us want to glorify Him more.

Father, glorify Yourself in each of us. We love You and praise You. We can do nothing of ourselves, but

whatsoever we do, we desire to do heartily, glorifying You—overcoming passivity, negativity, carelessness, and competition through Your victory. We are so thankful. In Jesus' name, Amen.