



Life that Glorifies the Father (Part 1)

Spiritual Exercise

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

Proverbs 25:2

Prayer

Introduction

As we move from "Sacrificing for His Plan" to "Submitting to His Power", let us consider once again the purpose of God in transforming us into the very image of His Son. His story is about Him getting back that which was lost in the Garden. He has invited us to join Him in the work. A life filled with joyful, Spirit-filled ministry awaits those that will surrender, sacrifice and submit to Him.

When Jesus was on this earth, He left us more than fifty commands to guide our participation with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus commands us to "let your light so shine before men that they see your good work and glorify your Father in Heaven." In this command, there is a mystery; a mystery that will radically change our work, ministry and family life. It is the mystery of "our light" and the work that glorifies God.

Let's start with a few questions:

1. Recognizing that our Father in Heaven is a just and loving God, and He is to be glorified in the "good work", who do you think will be doing the work?
2. Would a just God take credit for work done by His children?
3. Then why does Jesus call it "your good work"?
4. If it's God's work – and somehow our work – what part of the work is His; and what part is ours?
5. Just what is our responsibility in a work that glorifies our Father in Heaven?

The answers to these questions, and the mystery they represent, will be found in searching out the matter of the glory of God, the glory given to Jesus Christ and the glory passed on to believers. Yes, that's right!! The Father has not only given glory to His Son, but He has determined to share it with His other children, as well.

I want you to know right up front that there are verses here that I believe and understand in my heart, but cannot put into words. This mystery of glory is one that exposes the limitations of our minds. It may be your natural inclination to settle for only that which your mind can comprehend. Trust Him to lead you into all understanding. May our desire be to know the Lord – so that we may better love Him – with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

Definition

Glory (*doxa*): splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, majesty; a thing belonging to God; the kingly majesty which belongs to him as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity; a thing belonging to Christ; the kingly majesty of the Messiah; the absolutely perfect inward or personal excellency of Christ; the state of blessedness into which believers are to enter hereafter through being brought into the likeness of Christ. *Outline of Biblical Usage, BlueLetterBible.org*

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Searching Out the Matter

(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes and headings excluded)

A Vision of Glory

Genesis 1:26-27

Psalms 8:3-5

Proverbs 25:2

Psalms 3:3

Fallen with the Hope of Return

Romans 3:23

Hebrews 2:10

The Circle of Glory Life

John 17:22-23

2Peter 1:17-18

Matthew 17:1-2

2Corinthians 3:18

Matthew 5:16

How Did Jesus Do It?

Philippians 2:5-8

John 5:18-21

John 5:26-27

John 5:30

John 14:10-11

John 14:24

Just How Close Were They?

John 10:27-30

Isaiah 9:6

John 1:1-3

1Timothy 1:17

John 11:4

John 13:31-32

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How Do We Do It?

John 20:21

1John 2:6

John 15:4-8

John 17:20-24

Galatians 2:20

Romans 6:1-11

Colossians 3:9-14

Galatians 3:26-27

Colossians 1:27-29

John 3:30

Conclusion

In this part of our searching out the meaning of God's glory, we have discovered that the children of God have been given the glory that God gave His Son. This glory came in two ways: In Him identifying Christ as His well-pleasing Son; and in the life that He lived in the Son. We have discovered that we are also, in this way, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. God the Father, and Christ His Son, are glorified in the work that They do in us (transformation) and through us (the good works we have been created to walk in).

As Marketplace Leaders we must make it our responsibility to be disciplined in these truths and to be used by God to make other disciples. This making disciples includes "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you": Humility, surrender, sacrifice, submission, abiding, baptism, and decreasing that He might increase.

Next week we will look further into the mystery of God's glory – the promises and how they might manifest in our lives. We will also discuss why the American church is not seeing more of His glory, and what Marketplace Leaders must do to begin seeing His glory in the ministries to which they have been called.

Assignment

1. Review your notes and the Scripture passages from this week's module. Share the ones that are most meaningful to someone you are discipling.
2. What might your work look like when others see it and glorify your Father in Heaven?
3. What are one or two things in your life (or missing from your life) that inhibit the manifestation of the Father's glory in your work (be specific)?
4. What have you believed, or failed to believe, that makes it difficult to receive the glory you have been given? As best as you can, write out the truth that you now believe (and add it to the following prayer).
5. Pray this prayer as often as the Spirit leads you:

Dear Father, thank you for the promise of Your glory. Though I do not understand it, I believe that the glory You gave to Your Son has been given to me. Therefore, in faith, I choose to take hold of it. I claim it for my own. Please deal with anything in me that is inhibiting this work. I surrender to

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Your hand in creating a vessel worthy to hold and display the glory I have been given. My desire is that it be for Your glory. I surrender to You. I choose to put to death the deeds of my flesh, and to put on Christ. I trust You to will and to do to Your good pleasure. Amen.

Devotion

Perseverance for Success

*TGIF Today God Is First Volume 2 by Os Hillman
Sunday, December 07, 2008*

"And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Rom. 5:2-4).

Perseverance is the key to every great accomplishment because nothing of lasting value has ever been achieved without it. Industrialist Henry Ford is one of the great success stories of American history, but he failed in business five times before he succeeded. A Ford Motor Company employee once asked his boss the secret of success, and Henry Ford replied, "When you start a thing, don't quit until you finish it."

Jesus glorified the Father by finishing the work He was given.

The path ahead of you is strewn with obstacles. People will oppose you. There will be financial setbacks, time pressures, illnesses and misfortunes. Some of the biggest obstacles will be inside of you: self-doubt, insecurity, procrastination, and worry. These things are to be overcome through faith, discipline and the Lord's encouragement.

When we persevere through adversity, we win the approval of our Lord Jesus Christ, who told the suffering church at Ephesus, "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. . . . You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary" (Rev. 2:2-3). That, I'm sure, is the same commendation Joseph received from God when he passed the perseverance test.

Perseverance is a refusal to quit. It's falling down 100 times and getting back up 100 times. We need to remember that perseverance is not a matter of forcing doors to open; it's standing in front of the doors as long as it takes before God chooses to open them.

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. The race doesn't go to the swiftest, but to those who don't give up. We need endurance in order to deal with the stress of adversity. We must maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and get plenty of rest. People give up or give out when they feel depleted - when they physically, emotionally and spiritually run out of gas.

When going through adversity, watch out for pessimists, blamers and toxic personalities. Beware of people who try to talk you out of your dreams and goals. Spend time with optimists and encouragers. Seek out people of faith.