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July 2018 “GLORIFYING GOD”

Greetings in Jesus!

One day several years ago as I was reading my Bible, something caught my attention which caused me to stop and think intently about what I was seeing.

Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. (Psalm 22:23)

***¹⁴Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: ¹⁵And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
(Psalm 50:14-15)***

In each of these passages we are told to glorify God. One dictionary defines glorify as follows: “to shed radiance or splendor on; to make glorious; to elevate to celestial glory.” I wondered how is it possible “to make glorious and elevate to celestial glory” Him who is the pure manifestation of glory?

I began to search the scriptures for an answer to this question and will share with you three specific ways in which we can glorify God, as well as the results of glorifying Him.

(1) Glorify God Through Praise and Worship

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God. (Psalm 50:23)

¹⁴They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea. ¹⁵Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea. (Isaiah 24:14-15)

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:3)

As we praise and worship God, we are glorifying Him in a most powerful manner. We are not adding to His glory, but we are accessing His glory by directing our focus on Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By laying aside all mental distractions and casting down the imaginations that want to exalt themselves against the knowledge of God, we become more aware of His presence. We are exalting Him above all the challenges of life, declaring that He is more important to us

than worrying about how to fix problems. We are declaring that He is worth laying everything else aside just so we can redeem our time with Him.

The more we glorify Him in worship, it's as though we are building a conduit through which He can release His glory into our presence. This is true whether we are worshipping Him privately or with others, as in a church service.

¹³It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; ¹⁴So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

Glorifying God through praise and worship is quite possibly the most effective way to experience His presence in an almost tangible fashion.

(2) Glorify God Through Lifestyle

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)

When we apply our abilities and talents in service to God, it glorifies Him. When we live according to His life and nature in us, it glorifies Him. When our speech is birthed of His grace, it glorifies Him. When whatever we do is done heartily as unto the Lord to please Him and not men, it glorifies Him.

Glorifying God through our lifestyle is not as easy as it may seem. Doing so requires us to walk in unconditional love and forgiveness, something with which far too many Christians struggle. Glorifying God in our lifestyle demands that we mortify the flesh and its deeds, choosing rather to live according to His righteousness and true holiness that lives within.

In the 1970's there was a popular country song in which was the phrase, "no one knows what goes on behind closed doors." The "behind closed doors" life of a Believer must be just as holy as the life demonstrated each Sunday at church. We cannot live as Christ on Sunday, then live in compromise the rest of the week.

Years ago I worked in the credit card division of a large bank. There were others in that same division who professed Jesus as Savior and talked about their church, but would turn right around and use exceptionally foul language, gossip horribly, and demonstrate everything but a

Christ-like character. It was as though they were totally oblivious to the other employees who witnessed their behavior.

If you're born again, God's life, nature and character dwells in you. If your salvation truly means anything to you, then glorify the One who saved you by living according to who you've become in Christ. Don't be a stumbling block to the lost or other Christians by yielding to the flesh. Live like the One in Whom you've put your faith. Let your daily living be as an instrument of righteousness. People are not only listening to what you say, but they are watching what you do. Glorify God in your lifestyle.

(3) Glorify God in Bearing Fruit

***Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
(John 15:8)***

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (John 15:16)

Several times in the New Testament the word "fruit" is used in reference to various topics. One of those is a specific reference to people who are led to accept Jesus as Savior.

***¹⁶For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. ¹⁷Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
(Philippians 4:16-17)***

Left in context, these verses are NOT a reference to Christians giving in offerings to have some kind of "heavenly bank account." This is speaking of Christians giving to help spread the gospel, with the people getting born again being counted as fruit being laid to their credit. Therefore, I "bear fruit" when I lead people to Jesus or help others lead them to Jesus. (See James 5:7-8 for more on the souls of people being referred to as fruit.)

Another kind of fruit we can bear to glorify God is our praise and worship.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Hebrews 13:15)

Earlier in this letter I wrote about praise and worship and how it glorifies God. In the above verse God is letting us know that He understands how our emotions can make praise seem like a sacrifice. But that which is being sacrificed is not actually our praise, it is our flesh and emotions as we rise above how we feel and praise Him in spite of what we're facing. Praise "sacrifices" the flesh and emotions that aren't in the mood to worship God and we praise Him anyway. Our emotions want to either keep silent or complain about the problems; but out of our new nature we demand that our lips bear the fruit of praise and glorify the God of our salvation.

The fruit of praise not only glorifies God, but it is also one of the most valuable things we can do as a Christian. Praise and worship are spiritual weapons that can turn our emotions from grief to glory. Isaiah 61:3 reveals that we can use praise to drive away the heaviness of depression, sadness, despair and all other emotions that act as anchors in our life. Praise, the fruit of our lips, is indeed sweet to our spirit.

We can also bear fruit as we submit to the working of God's Word in our life.

⁵For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; ⁶Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: (Colossians 1:5-6)

God's Word is life, it is power, it is absolute truth, it is a revelation of His character and it is that by which we were born again (1 Peter 1:23). Furthermore, God compares His Word to the work of a two-edged sword, impacting our very thoughts and bringing about change in the way we think. Several years ago I asked God why so many Christians struggle with their thought life. He answered and said, "Because they have too much 'world' input and not enough Word input." The more we sow God's Word into our life and genuinely hunger for the change it can produce, we will begin to bear the fruit of everything it declares.

One more way in which we can glorify God through bearing fruit is found in Galatians 5:22-23.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Though the word "Spirit" is capitalized, this is actually speaking of our born again spirit. If it were left up to the Holy Spirit, all of these characteristics would be demonstrated on a regular basis. However, the Holy Spirit will not force Christians to live a certain way. All of the fruit listed above are referring to the nature of God that is the essence of our born again spirit. When we live by our new nature, we will bear the fruit of Christ's life in us. This, in turn, glorifies our Heavenly Father.

Notice again what Jesus said in John 15:8: ***Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*** The more fruit we bear, the more we become Jesus' disciples. The word "disciples" comes from the Greek word "mathētēs" and it means, "an adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct; a learner; a pupil." To bear this kind of fruit, Jesus must absolutely be first place in our lives. This is precisely what He was talking about in Luke 14:26-33. We must love Him more than anything and anyone.

Conclusion

Much has been written in the month's letter about glorifying God. However, as we glorify Him, He responds by releasing more and more of His glory unto us.

⁵Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; ⁷Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. (Isaiah 43:5-7)

¹Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. ²For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. ³And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

We are so much closer to the return of Jesus as prophesied in scripture. God is moving even now to touch the hearts of the lost throughout the world. The more we glorify Him, the more He is going to be able to use us in His end-time harvest of souls. What a joy it is to know God wants to use us so powerfully in this world!

In His Grace,

Jim

P.S. – Did you know that the awesome, incredible glory of God is alive in every single Christian? If you would like to learn more about this and how to flow in His glory, request a CD of the sermon, “*Containers of Glory*” by using the order form below.

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