

The Glory of the Lord Revealed, Part 3: How Do We Glorify God?
 Selected Scriptures
 ABC 1/2/22

The story's told that at the end of WW2, soldiers were coming home, including many professional athletes who'd been drafted. Joe DiMaggio among them. Shortly after his return, he took his 4-year-old son, Joe Jr, & slipped into the stands where the Yankees were playing. Fans were thrilled when they saw him sitting in the stands with his son. 1st, a few, but then more & more started to chant, *Joe Joe DiMaggio*. Eventually the whole crowd was calling out the rhyme, chanting, *Joe Joe DiMaggio*. Joe Jr, the little 4-year-old, turned & looked up at his Dad & said, *See Daddy, everyone knows me*.

That's funny but it's also painfully true in our lives. We're constantly seeking glory that doesn't belong to us. John Piper has written much about God's glory. Here's one quote:

God's overwhelming passion is to exalt, magnify, display, protect, & vindicate His glory. In the passion for His own glory, He seeks to display it, show it, & demonstrate it for all to see. God opposes all enemies of His glory or those that think too little of it. It is clearly the uppermost reality in His affections. He loves His glory infinitely.¹

Everything God does is for one purpose & that is His glory. Over the 2 weeks leading up to Christmas we looked at God's glory & how it was revealed in Jesus' coming to earth. Today I want to finish up with how we glorify God; what that means & what it looks like. As we've seen, God is glorious. Remember what the angels call out to one another in Is 6:3? **Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His** what? Holiness? No, **the whole earth is full of His glory.** His glory is woven into every lily of the field, every creature, every mountain range, every ocean. It all displays the glory of God. God's glory has been revealed to some degree at all times. God's glory is intrinsic to His nature. We don't give Him glory, it's His by virtue of who He is. If no one was ever created, if no angel was ever made, would God still be a God of glory? Of course. If no one ever gave Him any glory, any honor, or any praise, He'd still be the glorious God that He is. God's glory is the manifestation, the combination, of all of His attributes. When the Bible talks about God's glory it's referring to His intrinsic glory. We don't give that to Him, it's His. His glory is as essential to Him as light is to the sun, as green is to grass, as wet is to water. You don't make water wet, it's wet; that's what it is. You don't make the grass green, it is green. God is glory. We can't add to Him & we can't diminish Him. He is all of His attributes in perfect harmony. In Acts

¹ *Desiring God*, p 43

7:2, He's called **the God of glory**. There isn't anything we can do to give Him glory in terms of His fundamental nature. We can't add to His glory. If we could, He wouldn't be much of a god. The only glory that we have is granted to us. The glory that's God's is His in His essence. You can't de-glorify God; you can't diminish His glory. It can't be taken away; it can't be added to; it's who He is. In that sense, we can't give God glory. We can't add to His nature. If He's infinite grace & infinite mercy & infinite power & infinite love & infinite knowledge & all of these things, there's nothing we can do to add to that. All we can do is recognize it. All we can do is say, *Yes, it's true; God is glorious*. That's all. Therefore, 1 Chron 16:24 says, **Tell of His glory among the nations**. It's not talking about giving it to Him, but proclaiming it. God is glory. Whether we recognize it or not, it's His & it can't be diminished & He won't give it to others. Is 48:11 tells us, **My glory I will not give to another**. For example, in c 42 AD, King Herod had James killed. When he saw it pleased the Jews, he threw Peter into prison. The night before Herod was about to get rid of Peter, an angel woke Peter & led him out of prison unharmed. The next morning Herod was enraged that Peter had escaped & had the guards killed. He then went to Caesarea where a strange & yet instructive thing happened. For some reason, Herod had a grudge against the people of Tyre & Sidon. He also had them over a barrel because they were dependent on him for food. It gave him a sense of power to have others so dependent on him. The people of Tyre & Sidon got an audience with King Herod & a day was appointed for Herod to make an appearance. The end of the story is brief & found in Acts 12:21-23:

On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum & began delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god & not of a man!" & immediately an angel of the Lord struck him. Why? Because he did not give God the glory, & he was eaten by worms & died.

Not everyone who tries to deceive God like Ananias & Sapphira in Acts 5 drops dead on the spot. Not everyone who fails to give God glory like Herod is eaten by worms. But God has brought such judgments upon some to warn us that there's a judgment coming which will be infinitely more severe for those who haven't lived for God's glory. So how do we live for God's glory? We've seen the Bible tells us the heavens tell of God's glory (Ps 19:1-2). The heavenly bodies of the universe are put into place for the purpose of His glory. As we look at the sun, moon, & stars, they declare

to us that God is glorious. He also revealed His glory in the OT through His Shekinah & then promised that His glory would be revealed (Is 40:5) & it was in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus. Jesus glorifies God the most because He makes the invisible qualities of God visible better than anyone else ever could (Col 1:15; Heb 1:3). What we know about God is what we see in the face of Jesus (2 Cor 4:4-6). Jesus lives, dies, & rises again for God's glory. The most significant human to walk on this earth, without question, is Jesus. He's significant because He is God in the flesh. &, as God in the flesh, He's passionate for God's glory. Jesus tells His disciples that He seeks God's glory in all that He does, saying, **He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, & there is no unrighteousness in Him** (Jn 7:18). Jesus said He dies on the cross, enduring its cruelty & shame to the point of death, for the purpose of God's glory. He said, **"Now My soul has become troubled; & what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."** Then a voice came out of heaven: **"I have both glorified it, & will glorify it again"** (Jn 12:27-28). Every act, miracle, word, & moment of Jesus' ministry is for the purpose of glorifying God. Jesus prays in Jn 17:4-5, **I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.** It's Jesus who's full of grace & truth. It's He who is the One who reveals the glory of the Father like never before seen. Our Creator, the almighty, all-powerful God of the Universe, creates heaven & earth for the purpose of making His glory known. Every star in the heavens & every living being on earth exists for His glory. We are created by God for His glory (Is 43:7). Our sins are forgiven for His glory (Is 43:25). The aim of our salvation is that we see & enjoy God's glory (Jn 17:24) & praise His glory forever (Eph 1:12). If we want to bring Him glory we have to acknowledge this. Do we believe & live with this truth as our guiding principle? If we believe it's true, this truth must impact the way we live. After all, if we're to be conformed into the image of Jesus, who does everything for the glory of God, shouldn't every thought we think, every word we speak, & every act we do be for the purpose of glorifying God? You'll never glorify God in your life until you aim your life to do that. After all, Paul tells us, **Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do**

all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31). The point isn't to eat & drink to the glory of God but that whatever you do, even things as mundane as eating & drinking, ought to be done to His glory. We can take moments of everyday life &, by being God-centered, say, *All I want to do is live for Your glory.* We must ask, *How can I do this in such a way as to bring You glory? What can I do today that would put You on display as a radiant, glorious, loving God?* That's what's meant by aiming at His glory. Aim your life at the purpose of glorifying God in everything. Jesus said in Jn 8:50, **I do not seek My glory.** Who's glory did He seek? God's, all the time. In other words He's saying, *I live to bring Him glory. I live to radiate His attributes. I live to exalt & honor God in the eyes of the world. This is the purpose of My life.* We must do the same. This truth has been summed up with these words: *Man's chief end is to glorify God, & to enjoy Him forever.*² If we're being conformed to the image of Christ, then the glory of God is our primary concern. We're created & exist for His glory. We then must ask, what does it mean to give God glory? It simply means to magnify His glory before the world. We don't add to His glory. He's all glorious. What we're doing is enhancing His glory in the eyes of others. As an example, Paul says, **Christ will even now, as always be exalted in my body** (Phil 1:20). He didn't mean Christ needs to be improved on. He meant that in the eyes of the world Jesus needs to be exalted through him. When we give God glory we aren't adding to His glory, we're merely proclaiming who He is. God is the God of glory. We read in 1 Chron, **Splendor or glory & majesty are before Him, Strength & joy are in His place** (16:27). Because of this we must, as it continues, **ascribe to the Lord glory & strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name** (28-29). We don't make Him more glorious, but we give testimony to His glory. We're to give Him glory in the sense that we proclaim His glory & exalt His name. This is a command to every one of us. Listen to the psalmist: **Ascribe to the LORD, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the LORD glory & strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name** (Ps 29:1-2). Here we see what it means to give Him glory. By enhancing His name, by exalting His name, by lifting up His name, by praising His name, by honoring His name, we give Him glory in the eyes of the world. & that's what we want to concentrate on today. We can't add to God's glory but we can bring Him glory in that we

² Westminster Shorter Catechism, question #1

can glorify Him. But how? How do we live our lives so the purpose of our life is in harmony with God's purpose for our lives? What steps do we take? I'll give just a few of the ways in which we're to glorify God. The 1st is...

1. By Faith We must glorify God by believing Him. We need to trust Him completely. Paul writes of Abraham, **...with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, & being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform** (Rom 4:20-21). Abraham glorified God by recognizing that God is to be believed & trusted. Abraham hears what God says & is fully assured that what God promises will happen. By faith, Abraham believes God is able & will fulfill His promises. Therefore, Abraham, by faith, is willing to sacrifice Isaac on an altar. He's willing because he believes God will raise Isaac from the dead. Abraham is fully convinced God will do as He says. We glorify God by trusting Him. As good Christians we all say, *Of course I trust God*. But do we really? God says through Paul, **my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus** (Phil 4:19). Do you believe that? If you question God & say, *I'm done for. How's this need going to be met?* What you've done is doubted God because you actually think there's a credibility gap with God. *Yes, I know He said it but I don't see how He can do it.* What you're doing is not believing God. By not believing Him, you're not glorifying Him. Perhaps the biggest problem of getting God's glory to the world is that it has to go through us. We say, *God is so wonderful. He'll supply all our needs.* Then some crisis comes into our life & we go off the rails & everybody at work knows it. They then think, *What kind of God do you have? You don't even trust Him yourself.* God is glorified when we believe Him & take Him at His word. That gives Him glory. What does 1 Jn 5:10 say? **The one who does not believe God has made Him a liar.** You don't actually make God a liar but you make Him appear to others to be a liar. If you really believe God, you're not going to worry about things. We dishonor God when we say, *I believe Him, but I just can't cope with life. If you knew my problems, if you knew my pain, if you knew my troubles, you'd be in despair too.* Oh really? What has God told us in 1 Cor 10:13? **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; & God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the**

way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Do you believe that? Do you believe God? Then live like it. When you don't live like you believe God, you make others think He's a liar. The most basic way to glorify God is to trust Him. God is glorified when you trust Him. If I were to ask you, *Do you think God keeps His Word?* You'd all say, *Of course.* If I then asked, *Do you live like God keeps His word?* how would you respond? That's why the world isn't too sure what kind of a God we have. As those who are in Christ, we glorify God when we believe Him just as Abraham did. The attitude of a God-glorifying Christian is an attitude born out of faith in God. We believe God exists. We believe what He says is true. He's worth listening to because He's right. He's worth obeying because He's good. His ways are perfect. The fuel for our faith is the Word of God. The Bible says faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:17). God's Word helps us to gain knowledge of God & exercise faith in various ways. We grow in knowledge of how to trust God in all things. We glorify God when we trust Him in smooth & in stormy times. When life gets hard, we believe He's working all things for good & conforming us to Christ (Rom 8:29). We trust God's sovereign control. We have faith & believe God fulfills His promise to His children. The enemy of our faith in God is unbelief & rebellion. We're living as fools when we don't seek to understand & believe what God says. Therefore, the way we glorify God is by trusting Him completely. We read His Word so that we'll grow in knowledge & understanding of who He is (reading plans). The more we read, the more we'll believe & trust God in all things.

2. By Bearing Fruit Glorifying God isn't just standing around saying things about God, although that's part of it, as we'll see in a minute. But glorifying God is fruitfulness. Jn 15:8 says, **My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit.** Why? Because then the world can see the results of a faithful, God-filled life & can say, *Wow! What a God that is!* Col 1:10 takes it a step further. **Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work...** Fruit that glorifies God is good works. God is honored when we bear fruit. Listen to Phil 1:10-11 where Paul prays, **that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere & blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory & praise of God.** God is glorified when we bear fruit.

3. By Praising We glorify God by praising & worshiping Him, by reciting or verbalizing God's wonderful works; by ascribing to Him the glory He has (Ps 29:1-2). This is simply exalting or worshiping God with the praise of our lips. Praise is all about exalting God for who He is, for what He's done, for what He's made, & for what He's accomplished. You know why God wants us to recite His wondrous works? Because it's a continual reminder that He's never been unfaithful in all of history. You know one good reason to study the OT? To find out that God is a faithful God. As you see Him never breaking His Word, by always being faithful all through past history, you can certainly trust & praise Him at this moment & at every moment of your life. The next one goes with it.

4. By Thanksgiving As you spend time reciting in your own mind the accomplishments that God has done & thank Him for them, you bring Him glory. Ps 50:23 says, **He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me.** What did Paul say in 1 Thes 5:18? **In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** When you thank Him for all things, that gives Him glory. Let me illustrate with a wonderful, but sad, story from Lk 17.

While He, Jesus, was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria & Galilee. As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; & they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When He saw them, He said to them, "Go & show yourselves to the priests." & as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice... (11-15).

How did he glorify God? **He fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him (16).** Thanksgiving glorifies God. We bring glory to God when we thank Him. We're to recite His wondrous works & thank Him for them. By faith, by bearing fruit, by praise & thanksgiving, & 5th...

5. By Obedience All the commandments of God are an extension of His character. Therefore, to break God's commands is to conceal God's expression of Himself & to cast a shadow on His glory. Rom 3:23 explains, **for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God.** You'd think it would say all have sinned & broken God's commands. But as you think about it, to break God's commands is to fall short of hitting the mark of reflecting God properly. To obey God's commands is to fulfill God's purpose because it's to bear Jesus' image, reflect His nature, & thus glorify Him by making His invisible qualities visible through actions which reflect His character. There are many Scriptures

teaching that we bring glory to God when we're obedient to Him. For example, Jesus says, **Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works & glorify your Father who is in heaven** (Mt 5:16). Jesus tells His disciples that we bring light into a dark world when we do **good works** before people because this brings glory to God. Peter shows how the good deeds of Christians makes them a means to God's glory. He writes,

As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory & dominion forever & ever. Amen (1 Pt 4:10-11).

Here is one of the clearest answers in the Bible to the question: *How do we serve or do good so that God gets the glory?* The answer is, in order for God to get the glory we have to do good as one does it who is depending on God's strength. Not just good works, but ones done in a spirit that comes from a joyful dependence on God's help, this is what glorifies God.³ Our **good works** bring glory to God. When we're loving & righteous in a world of hate & evil, we give testimony that God's ways are good. People see the outcome of our actions & see that God's ways are right. We obey God because we believe His ways are good & right & best for us. Therefore...

- We're to flee sexual immorality & thus glorify God in our body (1 Cor 6:20).
- We glorify God by being humble & striving to be of the same mind with one another (Rom 15:5-7).
- As our love abounds toward one another, as we approve things that are good, & as we're filled with the fruit of righteousness, it's all to the glory of God (Phil 1:9-11).
- We're to have excellent behavior so others see our good deeds & glorify God (1 Pt 2:12).
- Whatever we do, it's to be done to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31).

If we love God we'll obey God. It's vital we understand the relationship between love & obedience. Listen to the words of Jesus as He says, **He who has My commandments & keeps them is the one who loves Me** (Jn 14:21). **So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me** (Jn 14:31). **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments & abide in His love** (Jn 15:10). We hear frequently that people

³ John Piper, www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-to-do-good-so-that-god-gets-the-glory

should love God. After all, it's the 1st & greatest commandment (Mt 22:36-38). What's the 2nd greatest? **Love your neighbor as yourself** (39). If we love God we'll obey Him & love our neighbor. When Jesus says we're to love God, He also tells us we need to obey God. Love & obedience go together. We don't find Jesus saying, *I love the Father*. He doesn't have to say it because His life of obedience speaks of His love. When we encourage one another to love God we're encouraging one another to obey God. &, when we encourage one another to obey God we're encouraging one another to love God. Love isn't a feeling, it's an act of the will. Jesus tells us that God is glorified when we bear fruit & prove to be His disciples. The way we grow in our obedience is to remember who we are before God. God is God & we are His servants. Those who seek to glorify God continually seek to develop an attitude of humble obedience. The simplest way to say this is that we need to die to self (Lk 9:23; 1 Cor 15:31). We need to die to our pride & selfish desires & to putting ourselves 1st. We need to die to the lusts of the flesh. We need to die to always being right. We need to deny ourselves & pick up our cross daily. Dying to self is an act of obedience & brings glory to God. We can't say we love God if we're unwilling to obey Him. What we need to do is to keep learning about the person & nature of God. The more we learn about how God loves us & is perfect in every way, the more we'll love Him. The more we love Him, the more we'll obey Him. Another way to grow in obedience to God is through fellowship with one another. The Bible says we're to fellowship with one another & encourage one another to love & good works (Heb 10:24). Fellowship & studying God's Word doesn't guarantee obedience. But not studying God's Word & not fellowshiping with the body will lead to less love of & less obedience to God. (BOOKS)

6. By Witnessing We're to proclaim the excellencies of God to all. We proclaim what we glorify as a natural outcome of our love. The psalmist says,

Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, & all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom & tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, & the glorious splendor of your kingdom (145:10-12).

There are hundreds of vss commanding God's people to speak of Him. We're told to speak of God in the morning, noon, evening, & from day-to-day. We're to declare His glory among all peoples. The Bible tells us when, where, why, & how we're to declare the glory of God. God tells us we're

chosen as His possession so we can proclaim His excellencies as He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pt 2:9). The last one we'll talk about is we bring God glory...

7. By Suffering The Bible goes so far as to say suffering persecution as a Christian (1 Pt 4:16) & even dying for the gospel brings glory to God (Jn 21:19). We glorify God when we're content to do His will & be obedient at any cost. Remember what Jesus said to Peter in Jn 21? He said to Peter, **when you were younger, you used to gird yourself & walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands & someone else will gird you, & bring you where you do not wish to go** (18). In other words, *You're going to be crucified*. We know that because the next vs says, **this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would what? Glorify God** (19). Jesus said, *I'm going to get glory when you die by crucifixion, Peter*. Jesus was saying that to die for Him was to bring Him glory. Not that we have to die to bring Him glory, but we need to be willing to do so. Then Jesus said, **Follow Me!** & what did Peter do? Followed Him. Peter paid the price, tradition says, & he died by crucifixion. But in dying a death by crucifixion for His faith in the One He loved, he obeyed the will of God. When we live for God's glory we're content to do God's will, whatever it costs. We glorify God when we love Him enough to suffer for Him & even die for Him.

Everything God does is for one purpose & that is His glory. The heavens are pouring forth speech & telling of the glory of God (Ps 19:1-2). When we live for God's glory, we join the stars of the universe. When we live for the glory of God, we live with great purpose. God created us to give Him glory. Jesus says one of the reasons He came is **so that My joy may be in you, & that your joy may be made full** (Jn 15:11). God promises that there's great reward & satisfaction when we think, speak, & act with the purpose of glorifying Him. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Is the glory of God worthy of our lives? Do we believe in God's glory to such an extent that we're willing to live as He commands? The ones whom God tells, **Well done, good and faithful slave** (Mt 25:21), are those who are faithful to glorify Him with their faith, bearing fruit, praising & worshiping Him with thanksgiving, obeying Him & witnessing of Him, & even by suffering or dying for Him. May God be glorified in us more & more as the day of Jesus' 2nd Advent draws ever closer. PRAY

Jesus, on the night before His death, prayed, **I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do** (Jn 17:4). What work is that? Living a sinless life & being willing to die for our sins in our place. We, by faith, believe what Jesus did for us & place our faith wholly in Jesus & His work for us. By doing so, we too glorify God. Once again today, we come to the communion table in obedience to God. We remember what Jesus did for us by eating of the bread & drinking of the cup representing Jesus' death on the cross for us. If you haven't yet put your faith in Jesus, refrain from participating as it has no meaning for you.

Jesus told His disciples, including us, **While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body"** (Mt 26:26). We bring glory to God by obeying Him by remembering Jesus' death for us. We eat the bread in remembrance of Him to the glory of God.

When He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins (Mt 26:27-28). We bring glory to God by obeying Him by remembering Jesus' death for us. We drink of the cup in remembrance of Him to the glory of God.