

Daily God Walk
The Christ Walk

The Glory
of God

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International Version (NIV). All other translations used will
be credited using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version

(NKJV) – New King James Version

(TLB) – The Living Bible

(TM) – The Message

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New Hope Ministries

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Day One

Glory of the Son and the Father

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. - John 17:4-5

Just as God is eternal so his glory is eternal. In this prayer Jesus is asking for the presence and glory of God in the coming hour of his trial and he was anticipating the reunion in eternal glory when he was reunited with the Father in his heavenly glory. He could endure the cross for the glory set before him.

We have very little knowledge of the glory of God in eternity, but we do have a few glimpses of it as God reveals himself through his word. We garner from the scriptures that there were choirs of angels which existed before creation, and we know that there were musicians. In fact, we believe that Lucifer, who we now know as Satan, or the devil, was the choir leader of heaven. How glorious that must have been.

It is for this glory that Jesus longs as he prays, "Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." He prefaced his request by stating he had completed the work he had been sent to do. His work was now done and there was but one thing yet to be accomplished.

He must be crucified. He had come to establish the kingdom of God, the glory of God if you will, on earth and the final thing that was to be done was his crucifixion. However, his work did not end with his death on the cross, but the death of the physical body resulted in the release of Spirit to life unbounded by time and space.

It was his death on the cross which made the resurrection possible. Now he could return to the glory he had with the Father since before the creation of the world. It was not for his glory alone that he died but it was for the glory of all those who would believe on him. The eternal glory of God is revealed in those who would name Christ as Lord of their life.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for revealing your eternal glory through Christ and allowing us to share in your glory. Amen.

Message: It was not for his glory alone that Jesus died but it was for the glory of all those who would believe on him. The eternal glory of God is revealed in those who would name Christ as Lord of their life.

Affirmation: I can see the glory of God being revealed through me as I experience the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Reflection: We are not given much insight into the complete meaning of the glory Jesus had with the Father before the world began, we just have this prayer Jesus made shortly before he was to be taken to the cross. In this prayer Jesus gives us a few clues as to what he was feeling in that hour. How did completing the work he had been given to do bring glory to the Father?

My Thoughts:

Day Two

God's Glory - A Mystery Before Time

We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the lord of Glory. - 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

Before time began God had a plan to reveal his eternal glory. How would his glory be revealed? It would be revealed to all the world through those who would believe in Jesus, the Christ, as Lord and Savior. This plan was formed before creation, even before time and everything that has happened since creation has been leading up to this: God's glory being revealed in man.

If we are to believe Scripture we must believe that God knew Satan would deceive man in the Garden of Eden because the word says that Jesus was the lamb slain from before the foundations of the world. That's right; redemption was in the mind of God before man ever fell.

Here is an interesting thought. When Lucifer rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14) he was cast down to earth. He became the prince of this world. Then God planted man in a beautiful garden, in the center of Satan's world. That in itself was a challenge to Satan.

When the serpent deceived Eve, and Adam followed her sin, Satan thought he had won, but in fact God already had a plan. He promised the serpent that he would win some battles, but in the end he would lose (Genesis 3:15).

It was the fall of man which gave God the opportunity to redeem him. And it was the life, death

and resurrection of Christ which opened the door for man's redemption. This was the secret plan of God.

God's plan was to reveal his power over Satan, sin and the world. His plan was to invest his eternal glory in mankind. According to Paul God had been planning to place his glory in man since before time began. We are the glory of God today!

Prayer: Thank you Lord for investing your glory in me. Amen.

Message: God's plan was to reveal his power over Satan, sin and the world. His plan was to invest his eternal glory in mankind. According to Paul God had been planning to place his glory in man since before time began. We are the glory of God today!

Affirmation: God's plan is to reveal his glory through those who would believe in and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, therefore God has made me a manifestation of his glory.

Reflection: God has had a master plan since before the earth was formed. Give some thought to the idea that God had planned redemption before man even fell. How did Satan fit into God's master plan? Would there have been a need for Christ if Adam and Eve had not sinned?

My Thoughts:

Day Three

The Keeping Power of the Glorious God

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen.

- Jude 1:25

Jude is giving us a variation on the theme of God being the same yesterday, today and forever. His words are, “before all ages, now and forever more.” He is speaking of the faithfulness of the glorious God. We are being reminded that we are a part of God’s eternal plan; he will keep us from falling and when it is time we will be presented in his glorious presence.

None of us can know just what it was like to literally be in the presence of Almighty God, only Jesus can reveal that. But, we are told Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be in union with God just as he was in union with God. I’m not sure what that means altogether, but those of us who have experienced the new birth can have some idea.

We were first born into this world which is under the curse of coming judgment and God has offered us an escape from that judgment through being born into another world. We escape the curse of this world by being born into the kingdom of God. Being born into God’s kingdom we are exposed to his glory.

The writer of a gospel hymn tried to express just what this meant to them in these words; “It is joy unspeakable and full of glory.” Though we may yet be in this fleshly temple, dwelling in a world under a curse, we are simultaneously dwelling in the spirit realm as a born

again child of the kingdom where God's glory abounds. We who know Christ know God's glory.

Jude reminds us that God's glorious presence is not just for the here and now but it is for eternity. In our flesh alone we have no hope of attaining eternal glory, but by the power of His glorious presence we are safe in Christ now and forever more.

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to submit to you so that your keeping power will preserve my joy and your glory in me, now and forever more. In Jesus name, amen.

Message: Jude reminds us that God's glorious presence is not just for the here and now but it is for eternity. In our flesh alone we have no hope of attaining eternal glory, but by the power of His glorious presence we are safe in Christ now and forever more.

Affirmation: I know that as long as I continue in Christ I will not fall because we are told that he is able to keep us from falling.

Reflection: We were born into this world under the curse of sin. How has that affected the way we live before we come to know Christ? How has coming to know Christ affected the way we live now? How can we know God's glory while still living in this body of flesh?

My Thoughts:

Day Four

Heavens Declare the Glory of God

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. - Psalm 19:1-4

I live in an area of California called Clearlake. There is a rather large lake here created by a volcano in the eons past. All around the lake are mountains, some reaching as high as 5000 plus feet above sea level. There are villages all around the lake, but there is nothing like a large city nearby.

On a clear night I can look into the sky and see the handiwork of God so clear that I sometimes feel that the stars are just beyond my grasp. The moon is so big at times that it seems possible to reach out and feel it. This display of the glory of God is moving.

I'm not trying to sell you on the area where I live, but I am calling your attention to the way the heavens declare the glory of God. The voice of the heavens is universal and its speech is not limited to a particular language. All peoples from all nations from around the world can hear the song sung by these magnificent evidences of the handiwork of our God.

Some would have us believe the incredible story that nothing we can see in the heavens or on earth is the result of any design or designer. They would say that there is a perfectly rational and acceptable explanation for it all.

I cannot argue with them on their turf because I do not know what they know, but from my perspective it

seems perfectly rational to believe in an intelligent designer. When I see how something as complex as our universe in its vastness, and a living cell, though microscopic in size, are related in both their function and their design, I cannot help but believe in a creator God. The heavens declare the glory of our God.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for allowing me to see your glory in creation. Amen.

Message: The voice of the heavens is universal and its speech is not limited to a particular language. All peoples from all nations from around the world can hear the song sung by these magnificent evidences of the handiwork of our God.

Affirmation: I have looked into the heavens and I have seen the glory of the Lord. I have read of his wonderful deeds and of his glory, and I have experienced the glory of the indwelling Christ.

Reflection: Have you studied how science tells us that the balance in the universe is so intricate that if, as an example, the axis of the earth was off just a few degrees it would not only affect earth, but our solar system and ultimately our entire galaxy. And, on the micro side, if just a few of the genomes in our DNA were changed it could affect an entire race. And, when a single microscopic molecule is changed it could mean an entire life form would be changed. Can you see how glorious is the hand of our creator?

My Thoughts:

Day Five

The Heavens Declare His Righteousness

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne... The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. - Psalm 97:1, 2, 6

Fear and superstition are the basis for many religions of the world. Fear drives people to invent gods which have power over the things they fear. These imagined gods have power over storms, the Sun, moon and stars. They have power over sickness, the weather, and anything else that instills fear in man. Superstition in religion is also very powerful. People are superstitious of how they influence their gods. Good luck and bad luck are based on superstitions and fear.

Faith in the religion of Jehovah God and his Son, Jesus Christ, is different from other religions. The very foundation of our faith is not fear of retribution, but confidence in his love. We are not ruled by fear but by faith in his righteousness and justice.

We are not fearful to approach our God, even when we have failed, because he has shown himself to be faithful, just and merciful. We know that if we have done something to offend him his only desire is that we come to repentance over that sin. Peter writes, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

His throne is formed with righteousness and justice. These two form the basis for creation declaring his glory and the people submitting to his authority. Righteousness and justice are intrinsic to the character and integrity of God; there would be no glory if there was not righteousness and justice.

We who have believed in Jesus, the Christ, can see the glory of God manifest in creation and in his righteous and just law. As we submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in us, which is transforming us into his image, his glory is made manifest in us.

Prayer: Lord, I can see your glory displayed in creation and in your just law. Help me to be faithful to your righteousness.

Message: The very foundation of our faith is not fear of retribution, but confidence in his love. We are not ruled by fear and superstition but by faith in his righteousness and justice.

Affirmation: God has shown himself to be motivated by love and not vengeance and wrath. I have learned that his desire is to bless me and not to harm and his plan is for me to have a glorious future.

Reflection: It would be good to give some thought to the religions of the world and ask yourself, "What hope do they offer?" Then look at faith in Jesus the Christ and ask, "What hope does Christ offer in this life and in the life to come?"

My Thoughts:

Day Six

God's Glory Leaves Man Without Excuse

Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. - Romans 1:20

I find it interesting that there are scientists who look at the facts they know and attribute them to a beginning without a God or intelligent designer, and there are scientists who look at the facts they know and are convinced that there must be an intelligent designer, or God.

How can two sets of intelligent people look at the same data and come to conflicting conclusions? Could it be that each comes from a particular perspective based on their preconceived ideas on the existence of God that influences their conclusions?

When I look into the heavens on a starlit night I am struck with awe about two things. First, that this magnificent universe, of which our earth is less than a tiny speck of dust, is so vast and complex that no genius on earth could have devised it to function in perfect harmony with all of its parts.

The second thing that strikes awe in me is man's ability to observe the universe, and the rest of creation, and have the ability to comprehend as much as we do and to be awe struck at its magnificence.

Paul certainly wrote the truth when he wrote of God's invisible qualities being clearly seen in creation. It is true we cannot see God, or his power, just as we cannot "see" electricity, but we can see the effect of his power just as surely as we see the effect of electricity.

The conclusion that Paul gives us is this; men are without excuse. God has done all that could be done to demonstrate his power and divine nature. It is up to each of us to decide if we are going to accept that or not. As for me, and I hope for you also, there can be no doubt that all of creation declares the glory of God - and I join with creation in worshipping him.

Prayer: Father, even the heavens declare your glory and by the things you have made your love known to man. Thank you.

Message: The conclusion that Paul gives us is this; men are without excuse. God has done all that could be done to demonstrate his power and divine nature. It is up to each of us to decide if we are going to accept that or not.

Affirmation: I have seen the handiwork of God and have believed. Now I stand in awe and wonder at it all.

Reflection: Give some thought to the idea that two equally intelligent scientists can look at the same data and come to two completely different conclusions as to the existence of God and the origin of things. What moves you when you view the stars and the heavens?

My Thoughts:

Day Seven

Declare His Glory Among the Nations

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

- Psalm 96:1-3

I came home from school one day to find my mother, and a woman I had never seen before, standing at the sink washing dishes. They were talking about the good things of the Lord as if they were old friends. They each were sharing what God had done in their lives.

The witness I heard that day has stayed with me over these many years of walking with God. The writer of Psalm 96 knew the value of declaring the glory of God by telling of his marvelous deeds.

Those of us who have surrendered to Jesus, the Christ, as Lord of our lives have some wonderful stories to tell. The Psalmist is telling us to declare those stories to the nations. The glory of God is revealed to the nations through the stories of his deeds told by the people who have experienced them.

Have you noticed when word begins to circulate about how God is moving in a particular congregation that people begin to come to see it for themselves? The same thing happened as Jesus moved among the people healing the sick and teaching about the kingdom of God.

I have heard a lot of talk about what God is going to do in these times, but we need to hear more about what God is doing among us today. I was recently in a church where there had been a lot of healings and the glory of God was there. That church was packed with standing room only.

What has God done for you lately? What have you seen or heard of him doing for others? Tell it! Shout it! Declare the glory of the Lord manifest through his marvelous deeds - you might be surprised at how your witness affects your friends.

Prayer: Lord, remind me of the wonderful things you have done in my life and the lives of others, then grant me the grace to share those things with the world around me. In Jesus name.

Message: The glory of God is revealed to the nations through the stories of his deeds told by the people who have experienced them. Declare the glory of the Lord manifest through his marvelous deeds - you might be surprised at how your witness affects your friends.

Affirmation: I rejoice in the glory God has manifest in my life and I have purposed to declare it to the world.

Reflection: Read the newspapers and watch the news on TV. How much of that inspires you to greater faith? Not much. Imagine if that was your only source of inspiration - how inspired to greatness would that make you? You get the point. Talk about the goodness of God, share it with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Declare his glory among the nations and his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

My Thoughts:

Day Eight

Now, Show Me Your Glory

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

- Exodus 33:18

Moses had just come down from Mount Sinai after spending 40 days in the presence of God, beholding his glory and receiving the Law. The sight before him caused his blood to boil; the people had turned away from God and were worshipping a golden calf.

Moses was so disturbed that he cast the stone tablets down before the people, breaking them in pieces. He had the golden calf ground to powder, put in the water and made the people drink it. He then went to the tent where he would go to get a fresh word from the Lord. It was in this tent called the Tent of Meeting that we find our text for the devotion today. This interaction between God and Moses is recorded in Exodus 33.

Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you... The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” (v12-14)

Moses needed assurances that he would not be taking this rebellious people across the desert alone. God saw his concern and promised that he would go with him. God further assured him in verse 17, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.” It just can’t get any better than to know that God is pleased with you and he even confirms, “I know your name.”

That was all Moses needed. He was convinced and after receiving this full assurance of God's presence going with him he said, "Now, show me your glory."

There are times when all of us need to be reassured of God being with us and we need to know that his presence goes with us: We need to see his glory.

Prayer: Lord, I need your abiding presence to assure me that you are going with me as I do your will. In Jesus name, amen.

Message: We must cry out to God, just as Moses did, "Teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you."

Affirmation: I know God's favor rests upon those who seek him and walk in his ways. That is why I cry out to him seeking his face and his ways.

Reflection: Moses is our example of what to do when we are faced with a difficult situation. He had a special place he would go when he needed to hear from God. He called his special place "The Tent of Meeting." Do you have a special place you go to cry out to God and listen for his voice? If you don't it would be good to establish that place now.

My Thoughts:

Day Nine

Glory is a Consuming Fire

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

- Exodus 24:3

God was offering the people a view of himself that they had not seen before. They had seen Moses perform miracles and they had been led by the pillar of fire at night and the cloud by day. Now they were seeing another aspect of the glory of God.

A cloud had engulfed the mountain and God had spoken to Moses calling him to come up the mountain. Moses instructed the elders to wait there for he had to go to be before the Lord and as he went up the mountain the cloud descended entirely covering the mountain.

At the foot of the mountain the people were watching, but all they could see was the cloud of God's glory. That cloud looked to be a consuming fire. What a site that must have been.

We would like to think seeing something as marvelous as that the people would have been so awed that they would never even consider turning away from this majestic God, but, sadly, it was just a few days until Israel began to turn back to the gods they knew in Egypt.

Moses spent 40 days on the mountain and during that time the people became discouraged and disenchanted. They needed a god they could see and touch so they convinced Aaron to make them a golden calf to call their god and to credit for delivering them.

It is hard to believe, but it is entirely possible to be in awe of the glory of God one day and soon afterward to fall away, turning to things that can be seen and handled. God sees the things we have put before him and he knows when we have traded his glory for the things we can see, touch and feel.

Prayer: I have experienced your glory, but I have also felt the allure of the world. Help me always choose to trust you. Amen.

Message: It is entirely possible to be in awe of the glory of God one day and soon afterward to fall away, turning to things that can be seen and handled. God sees the things we have put before him and he knows when we have traded his glory for the things we can see, touch and feel.

Affirmation: I know how easy it is to allow things to take the place of God in my life that is why I am careful to remember God's glory and thank him every day for his abiding grace.

Reflection: Israel was camped at the foot of the mountain and could see the glory of God hovering over the mountain, yet, they turned back to the gods of Egypt when Moses didn't come down from the mountain soon enough. Can you think of any parallels among people today?

My Thoughts:

Day Ten

The Glory of God in the Tabernacle

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

- Exodus 40:34-35

God had spoken to Moses when he was on the mountain and told him to make a sanctuary for him and he would dwell in the sanctuary (Exodus 25:8). He then gave some specific instructions on the construction of this sanctuary, which became known as the Tabernacle. Before Moses commissioned the artisans to construct the Tabernacle and all of its furnishings he already had a tent of meeting. In Exodus 33 it is recorded, "Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting" (v7). God met Moses in this tent. When Moses was in the tent of meeting inquiring of the Lord the glory cloud would descend upon the tent and the people would know that God and Moses were having a conversation.

There is an interesting distinction between this tent and the Tabernacle which was commissioned by God. Of course there were design distinctions; the first tent was ordinary, the second tent was extraordinary, designed by God himself. Another distinction is that Moses erected his tent outside the camp and God ordered his tent to be at the center of the camp.

Those who have studied the Tabernacle tell us that the tent itself and everything in it are a type of Christ and our relationship with him. A most significant observation is that God dwelt outside the camp in the first tent but in the second tent his glory was in the center of the camp.

The significance of that is that we are now the Tabernacle of God and he dwells in the very center of our being. His Glory is in us - think about it: the very glory which filled the Tabernacle of old is now resident in the tabernacle not made with hands; the tabernacle of the heart of man. Hallelujah!

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace of your Holy Spirit to be worthy of being the tent you inhabit today. In Jesus name, amen.

Message: God dwelt outside the camp in the first tent but in the second tent his glory was in the center of the camp. The significance of that is that we are now the Tabernacle of God and he dwells in the very center of our being.

Affirmation: I am amazed that the glory which did dwell in the Tabernacle is now given to me as a believer in Christ who now dwells in my inner person. I, along with all believers, have become the Tabernacle of God.

Reflection: The New Testament tells us that we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that our life should be a reflection of his glory. How should we live knowing that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit?

My Thoughts:

Day Eleven

Glory of God in the Temple

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their services because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple. Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

- 1 Kings 8:11-12

From the time that God placed Adam and Eve in the garden and had regular communion with them it has been his desire to have a place where his glory would dwell and man could commune with him. Moses had his tent of meeting outside the camp; Israel had the Tabernacle at the center of the camp, but both of those were temporary homes for an eternal God.

Solomon built a temple that he believed would be a place for God to dwell forever. God honored the sacrifice, dedication and consecration that produced this magnificent temple by conferring his blessing with his glory cloud descending upon it. But this would not be the eternal home for the presence of God.

When David wanted to build a house for God he inquired of the prophet Nathan and that very night God spoke to Nathan about the house David wanted to build. Here is what God said:

"Go and tell my servant David... I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Why did God not command the people to build him a house? Could it be that any house man would build for him would be less than representative of who he is and it would not be eternal? Could it be that he had in mind a house in a realm that man could not destroy? His house is the heart of man, that eternal home which will be a lasting habitation for him.

Prayer: Father, thank you for giving me the understanding that your home is in my heart. Grant me the grace to live worthy of being your temple. In Jesus name, amen.⁴

Message: Why did God not command the people to build him a house? Could it be that he had in mind a house in a realm that man could not destroy? His house is the heart of man, that eternal home which will be a lasting habitation for him.

Affirmation: Man cannot build a house suitable for God to dwell in because God has chosen to dwell in the house he has made himself. God has chosen to live in mankind. God lives in me.

Reflection: Do you think God never intended for man to build him a house as a permanent dwelling? Did God intend from the beginning that his permanent home?

My Thoughts:

Day Twelve

The Glory Has Departed

She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel”- because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

- 1 Samuel 4:21-22

It was a bad time for Israel. Eli was the priest over Israel and his sons were raised up under him to be the leading priests. As Eli grew old he lost control, not only of his sons but of the other priests and their servants.

The priesthood had become corrupt and they were taking from the people portions of the sacrifice they were not supposed to take as well as other grievous sins. The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were committing sin with the women who came to help in the place of worship.

Because of the sin God said he would strip the priesthood from the house of Eli and give it to another. Samuel is the one God had prepared to be priest, prophet and judge over Israel.

The day God judged Eli and Israel for their sins was a terrible day. Their warriors were overrun by the Philistines, the ark of God was taken, the two sons of Eli were killed and Eli, hearing the news fell over backwards, broke his neck and died.

The wife of Phinehas was heavy with child and when the news of the catastrophe came to her she went into labor. She gave birth to a boy and gave him the prophetic name, “Ichabod” (departed glory). The glory and the hope of Israel left with the ark.

There are some in ministry today who are like the sons of Eli and the church has suffered from it. However, those are not the rule in the church, but rather the exception. There are many like Samuel who are still faithful to serve the Lord with integrity.

We must live carefully before the Lord lest our own lives fail to be a reflection of the grace of God so that Ichabod will not be written on the pages of our life story.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the example of Ichabod. Grant me the grace to live worthy of your glory. In Jesus name, amen.

Message: We must live carefully before the Lord lest our own lives fail to be a reflection of the grace of God so Ichabod will not be the story of our life story.

Affirmation: I am careful to guard my heart and my life so that I do not bring dishonor to the Lord. My goal is that my life will always be a reflection of God's Grace.

Reflection: It would be good to read the entire story of Eli and his sons to get a perspective as to why God made such a radical move as withholding his glory from Israel. Think about these things: The Ark of the Covenant was carried into battle; Eli's sons committing sin with women who came to house of worship; Eli, as the high priest, not taking action against his sons. And finally, what is the message in this story for the church?

My Thoughts:

Day Thirteen

The Glory of God for the Remnant

In that day the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people. He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate. - Isaiah 28:8

The story of Israel is much like the story of the church. From the burning bush to marching out of Egypt and across the Red Sea Israel moved with the glory of God. Then for 40 years they followed the glory cloud as they wandered toward their promised land. The history of the church is very similar.

From the time Israel entered Canaan their history records a series of backsliding, judgment and repentance, a cycle that it seemed could never be broken. Finally, under God's judgment they spent 70 years in Babylon repaying their years of disobedience.

In comparison the church was born in the fire of Pentecost and spread to the far corners of the earth in a few decades. Then came the day Christianity was recognized as the official religion of the state and from that time the rocky road of compromise led the church into a period known as the dark ages. Beginning in the 15th century brave men like Martin Luther rose up against the traditions bringing a spirit of reformation to the church.

Through the centuries, just like Israel, the church has had its high points and low points, but there has always been a remnant which stayed true to the faith, and it is that remnant which is being addressed in this passage.

We who have remained faithful to the message of Jesus are the remnant of God today. He is the source of strength to those who will not turn back from the battle and who are fulfilling the promise of Jesus to build his church at the very gates of hell.

For those who are the faithful remnant the Lord himself will be a glorious crown and a beautiful wreath. I challenge you today to stay in the battle, and God will be your glorious crown.

Prayer: Lord, grant me the strength to be faithful and to be a part of this glorious remnant which overcomes the world. Amen.

Message: Through the centuries, just like Israel, the church has had its high points and low points, but there has always been a remnant which stayed true to the faith. We who have remained faithful to the message of Jesus are the remnant of God today.

Affirmation: God has given me assurance that I am a part of his remnant. I will continue to guard my heart and my actions lest I lose my position in his kingdom.

Reflection: Here is something to consider. Often in the Old Testament God has warned Israel of impending disaster and with that warning he always gives an opportunity for being safe from calamity. Those who heed his warning and repent will be saved and be a part of the remnant. How would you see that concept applying to the church today?

My Thoughts:

Day Fourteen

Glory Over Pharaoh

I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen. - Exodus 14:17-18

The story of Israel being delivered from the Egyptians is among the most remarkable in the whole Old Testament. The entire event is full of miracles from the burning bush to the parting of the Red Sea.

Our text for today takes up the story after Pharaoh had released Israel to leave. When it fully dawned upon him that Israel had left and he no longer had any control over them he changed his mind about letting them go. He assembled his army, his foot soldiers, horsemen and chariots, and went after them.

When Israel saw the Egyptian army approaching them they panicked. They accused Moses of bringing them into the desert so the Egyptians could slaughter them. Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today."

You may remember how the glory cloud moved behind the people and settled down between the enemy and Israel confusing the army just long enough for Moses to stretch out his rod over the Sea and watch it part leaving dry land for them to walk across.

God had told Moses that the Egyptians would go in after them and God would gain glory through the destruction of the army. Then the Egyptians would know that God was with Israel and the entire event would bring him glory.

Because of examples like this we know that when God calls us to do a task he is going to be with us regardless of how desperate it may look. God told Moses, “My presence [glory] will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14). Jesus told us, “I am with you always even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). With God before us it doesn't matter who is behind us.

Prayer: God, I'll follow you, just keep my back covered.
Amen.

Message: When God calls us to do a task he will be with us regardless of how desperate it may look. God told Moses, “My presence [glory] will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14). Jesus told us, “I am with you always even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). With God before us it doesn't matter who is behind us.

Affirmation: I am comforted to know that when the enemy of my soul comes against me the glory of the Lord will form a shield to protect me.

Reflection: Give some thought to the way Israel responded to the threat of the Egyptian army. Why do you think they were so quick to doubt God and accuse Moses? Think about a time in your own life when you felt pressed by the enemy and how you responded to that.

My Thoughts:

Day Fifteen

The King of Glory

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. - Psalm 24:7-8

Scholars believe that this Psalm was a song celebrating returning the Ark of the Covenant to the temple, and in the years after the return of the Ark it was sung on the anniversary of its return. Christians also apply it as prophetic of the ascension of Christ.

However one applies this psalm the message is the same: Our Lord is the King of glory! He who triumphs over all his enemies inhabits his rightful place among his peoples.

It was because of the disobedience of Israel's leaders that the Ark was lost in battle. In fact, the Ark was never intended to be taken into battle and the fact that it was is in itself a sin against God. The priests and the leaders of Israel had lost sight of the glory of the Lord so God let the Ark be taken from them.

God took this bad thing which happened and used it as an opportunity to show his glory. The Philistines captured the Ark. They left it in a room with the idol of their god Dagon. The next day when they returned they found Dagon overturned and broken. Then plague and sickness fell upon them until they returned the Ark to Israel. The ark was kept on the farm of an Israeli farmer until David had it returned to the house of worship. The farmer that kept the ark was blessed abundantly while it was in his possession.

Then the ark returned to its rightful place and the people rejoiced. As the Ark entered the city they cried, "Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you

ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battles.”

Today the same King of glory rests in his rightful place, but his place is now in the hearts of believers. Let us rejoice that the King of glory has returned to his rightful place.

Prayer: Thank you King of glory for coming into my life. Amen.

Message: Today the same King of glory rests in his rightful place, but his place is now in the hearts of believers. Let us rejoice that the King of glory has returned to his rightful place.

Affirmation: I have received the King of Glory and rejoice that he is enthroned in my heart.

Reflection: There is a story which is important to tell in relation to our devotion message today. This story is in 2 Samuel 6. David first attempted to return the Ark of the Covenant in a manner forbidden by the law, and tragedy struck. He finally did it in the right way and there was much rejoicing. I encourage you to read the whole story and research how the Ark was to be moved and what was done wrong.

My Thoughts:

Day Sixteen

The Glory of God in the Manna

Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. - Exodus 16:7-8

The people grumbled when they saw Pharaoh’s army coming after them. They grumbled after three days in the desert. They grumbled because the water was bitter. It reminds me of the song from the late 50’s; You Talk Too Much. One verse goes, “You talk about the people wherever you go, you talk about people you don’t even know.” It sounds like that person was a grumbler too!

They were grumbling now because they didn’t have bread and just after Moses spoke about the promised bread they looked and the glory cloud was appearing over the desert. The Lord spoke to Moses from the glory cloud telling him, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’ “

There is a lesson we should all learn here. It is that if we will just trust the Lord, regardless of how things look, he will come through for us. In one of his psalms David wrote, “I was young and now I am old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his people begging for bread” (Psalm 37:25).

We tend to look at what we don’t have and complain about it - God is trying to get us to look at what we do have and be thankful for it. Israel were slaves in Egypt, now they were free. They were under grievous labor for their masters, now they were going to a land already prepared for them to inhabit.

It wouldn't be easy and there would be some blood, sweat and tears. But they would be free and the land they would work would be their own. The towns where they lived would be their own. Sure, there are things we would like to have in the here and now, but we must remember that we are like Israel - in this life we are in the wilderness moving toward the promised land.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the sweet water and manna. Amen.

Message: If we will just trust the Lord, regardless of how things look, he will come through for us. In one of his psalms David wrote, "I was young and now I am old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his people begging for bread" (Psalm 37:25).

Affirmation: I am trusting God, even when the circumstances are not favorable. I know that in God's time and in God's way he will provide.

Reflection: The people showed their ungratefulness by grumbling about food and God showed his grace by providing for them even when they were grumbling. We should learn from the Israelites and trust God, even when things are not going so well. Israel's complaint was that Moses had led them into the desert to die. They were so focused on the here and now that they did not see the bigger picture of what God was doing.

My Thoughts:

Day Seventeen

*The Glory of the Lord is
the Light of Our Life*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you... The sun will no more be your light by day nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

- Isaiah 60:1,2.19

The prophecies of Isaiah revolve around the judgment that was coming upon the Jews and their restoration after the time of trial was over. Woven into the fabric of those prophecies is hope, not only for the Jewish people, but for all people who will believe and commit themselves to God.

After 70 years of being separated from their homeland God promises that a remnant of the people will be restored. It is to that remnant Isaiah prophesys the Light of God, the glory of the Lord, rises upon them.

In all of the history of Israel they had consistently fallen prey to the natural world around them. They needed a god they could see so they created a golden calf in the desert. They needed a king so they rejected God's system and got a king.

God had given them a system called Sabbath in which man, the animals and the land would be given sufficient rest, but man wanted more so he violated the Sabbath of God to gain more security from the world system.

God tells them the glory of the Lord will be a light to them. The Lord was telling them that the world

system will not lead them into the light they seek. God was promising that his glory would be their light.

This prophecy extends to all who call upon the Lord. If you have been in a period of gloom and doom I call to you, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Prayer: Lord, sometimes it is easier to lean on the world I can see than it is to trust you. Help me see you as the light of my life. In Jesus name. Amen.

Message: It is knowing these things that God tells Israel (and believers today) they will not need the sun and the moon for light to guide them but the glory of the Lord will be a light to them. The Lord was telling them that the world system will not lead them into the light they seek. God was promising that his glory would be their light

Affirmation: The world system will not give me the light I need - that only comes from God. He promises that his glory would be our guiding light.

Reflection: The followers of Jehovah were constantly falling into the trap of trying to have a god they could see. They needed a physical god they touch, but the Lord God is a Spirit and, though he cannot be seen, he revealed himself to them. Think of some ways people today turn to something they can physically see, or can logically comprehend.

My Thoughts:

Day Eighteen

Give God the Glory Due His Name

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

- Psalm 96:7-9

The whole world is being called to worship the Lord of glory in this passage. “O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.” All who hear this call and respond by giving the Lord the glory due his name will find favor with Him.

The psalmist acknowledges that there are other gods worshipped, but he declares, “All the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.” It seems he is saying that man has formed an image to worship and called it his god; but God has formed man after his own image and calls upon man to give him the glory due his name.

Man’s attempt at religion has produced gods framed in the mind of man and the only glory they could have is the glory that man could imagine. That is why so many of the gods of the world are made of gold and precious jewels because the only glory they can have is the glory man can give them, but the Lord God is not that way at all.

We are called to acknowledge the glory that he is; the glory of his presence and the glory of his name. We cannot give him glory; he is glory. We can only recognize his glory. We cannot add to his glory; how can we speak of his glory in a way greater than the stars, the sun and

the moon? We cannot give him glory - he is glory! We can only recognize his glory. I join with the nations ascribing to the Lord the glory due his name.

Prayer: Father God, my Lord. I acknowledge your glory in all the earth. You have shown yourself glorious among the nations. You have set yourself apart from all the gods of the earth and you alone are worthy of worship. Grant me the humility to yield to your ways while I ascribe to your name the glory you are due. In Jesus name. Amen.

Message: We are called to acknowledge the glory that he is; the glory of his presence and the glory of his name. We cannot give him glory; he is glory. We can only recognize his glory.

Affirmation: There is no other worthy of worship like our God. I recognize his glory and worship him for being who he is and for giving us the opportunity to call upon him.

Reflection: There is so much in this devotion that it is hard to distill it into a few thoughts. Reflect on the glory of God and just what that means to you. How has mankind tried to make his own gods? What has been the effect of man trying to form his own gods?

My Thoughts:

Day Nineteen

God Will Not Give His Glory to Another

I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare before they spring into being. I announce them to you.”

- Isaiah 42:8-9

Only God himself can say, “I am the Lord; that is my name!” No equivocating, no timidity, no room for question - the Lord is the Almighty. The Hebrew word here translated Lord is *yhovah* and literally means the eternally self-existent one.

He who is the I AM, the eternally self-existent one, will not allow any other god to have that name for he alone is the eternally self-existent one. He alone is worthy to be worshipped whose name is so sacred and his power so great that for centuries his followers didn't utter his name for fear of dishonoring him.

In the context of declaring his glory, God is making promise of a new covenant and a new role for Israel. Read more of this prophecy:

“This is what God the Lord says - he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it;... I, the Lord have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness” (v5-7).

Then he says, “I am the eternally self-existent one!” His glory is manifest in his works and he will not

tolerate giving credit for what he has done to inanimate gods created from the imaginations of the hearts of man.

Only the Lord God can change the course of nations and establish his will in the earth. We are told to declare to the nations our glorious God, the only eternally self-sufficient one.

Prayer: Father God, you are the Lord. I will not give honor to any other who tries to take your place for you alone are glorious and worthy of praise. In Jesus name.

Message: God's glory is manifest in his works and he will not tolerate giving credit for what he has done to inanimate gods created from the imaginations of the hearts of man. Only the Lord God can change the course of nations and establish his will in the earth. We are told to declare to the nations our glorious God, the only eternally self-sufficient one.

Affirmation: The Lord God is the great I AM, the eternally self-existent one. He alone stands alone and needs no one else to help him be - he just is.

Reflection: The most we can say about God is simply this: He is. He is the eternally self-existent one. Any words of man we can use to describe him limits him to the understanding of those words. The best description we can give of him is the simplest: He Is.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty

The Glory Looked Like a Consuming Fire

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai... To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

- Exodus 24:15-17

Few, if any, of us have seen anything as awe inspiring as the glory of God manifest on Mount Sinai while God was giving Moses the law. It appears that God was trying to impress upon the people the extreme importance of the message of the law.

All of the events surrounding the giving of the law on Mount Sinai point to the importance of the call God had placed upon Israel. They were not only called to be the keepers of the law of God but they were also called to carry the seed of the redeemer. A purpose of the law was to keep Israel separate from the rest of the world so that they might be a pure vessel to carry the seed of the redeemer who would come to save the entire world.

Unfortunately, Israel was not mature enough to understand their calling. It would take centuries before they even got to the point they would keep the law, and then they still were not ready to receive the redeemer when he came.

The glory looked to the Israelites like a consuming fire and when Moses didn't return for many days they lost hope. They murmured that God had killed Moses and left them alone in the desert. They convinced Aaron to melt down their jewelry and from that to form an image that they would worship as their god.

Israel went from being awe struck with the glory of God to replacing the Lord God with an image made by man. People aren't that much different today. How many times have we seen people get a glorious conversion only to see them trade what they had received for another run at what the world has to offer.

Let us remember the glory of the Lord we received on our own mount of conversion and let us never turn loose of it.

Prayer: Lord, help me to always remember that your glory is a consuming fire, but it is also filled with grace. In Jesus name.

Message: Israel went from being awe struck with the glory of God to replacing the Lord God with an image made by man. How many times have we seen people get a glorious conversion only to see them trade what they had received for another run at what the world has to offer. Remember the glory of the Lord we received on our own mount of conversion and never turn loose of it.

Affirmation: God has revealed his Glory to me and I will not turn away from it.

Reflection: Israel was no different than people today. Just as those people would often return to their past, so today people all too often return to their past becoming entangled by the world and sin. How can we protect ourselves from being attracted to our old life?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty One

*The Earth is Filled With Knowledge
of the Glory of the Lord*

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

- Habakkuk 2:14

It would appear by this verse alone that God was giving a promise of his glory to the people, but in reading this verse in context it can be seen that he is actually addressing judgment upon the unrighteous.

Habakkuk begins his message with a prayer; “How long, O Lord must I call for help, but you will not listen?” He was moved by the injustice he saw and the destruction of that injustice. His heart cried out for God to rectify the wrongs his people were doing.

God answers his prayer by telling him that he is raising up Babylon, a ruthless nation, to punish the Jews. The Jews had strayed far from their roots and they no longer revered the law of God.

It is the same today. Some who are called by the name of the Lord seem to have forgotten the very cornerstone of the faith. They are ruthless in business and have no mercy on the needy. Ministries are directed toward those who have resources to keep their programs going while service to those Jesus identified with go lacking.

Many today sense that we are entering a period where the faith of many will be severely tested. We in America have enjoyed great freedom to worship God, but that is not true in all places around the world. Christians by the 100's of thousands are suffering for the name of Christ. I am afraid that we are not be shielded from such suffering.

We must cry out as Habakkuk, “How long, O Lord must I call for help.” God will hear that cry and awaken his people. Whatever form that awakening takes we will know that it is the hand of the Lord because the earth will be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Prayer: I pray with Habakkuk, “How long, O Lord, must I call for your help?” Father, give our world and our community the knowledge of your word so that they will see your glory and return to you. Amen.

Message: We must cry out as Habakkuk, “How long, O Lord must I call for help.” God will hear that cry and awaken his people. Whatever form that awakening takes we will know that it is the hand of the Lord because the earth will be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Affirmation: God is faithful and will answer the cry of his people who cry out, "How long, O Lord must I call for help." When he answers his glory will fill the earth.

Reflection: To get a clear picture of the context you must read the entire book of Habakkuk. In this book the prophet prays and God answers, but his answer is not a comfort, "I am raising up Babylon" (1:6). This book is about judgment and a call to repentance then God's answer to repentance. Can you see a parallel in the world today?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Two

The Glory of the One and Only

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

- John 1:14

The active force of God is the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit performs the acts which fulfill God's will. Holy Spirit is released through the Word of the living God. We first see this in Genesis 1:1-3; "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

We have read that the glory of God is manifest through the creation and we have read how the stars declare his glory, but nothing displays his glory more than his Word for it is through his Word that he gloriously reveals himself.

The mental pictures we can imagine are the best we can do to comprehend the awesome power displayed through the speaking of his Word in creation. Even that cannot come close to realizing the glory of God released through the simple words of God, "Let there be light."

Then, something gloriously marvelous took place. Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and suddenly the eternal word began to take the form of a human in the womb of this virgin girl. The same word that was spoken at creation was becoming flesh and dwelling among men.

This flesh-Word was as enthused with Holy Spirit as the word of creation. Not only was the Word made flesh but Holy Spirit was made manifest in the Word. The glory that John and the others saw was the expression of the Almighty God in flesh.

God has said that he would not give his glory to another, and he hasn't. God's Word, which John 1:1 told us is itself God, became flesh and thus God's glory was manifest to man. Just as Holy Spirit over the waters waiting to be released to reveal God's glory in creation so Holy Spirit was birthed in the Word made flesh and the Christ was enthused with glorious Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Thank you Father for revealing yourself through the Word, Jesus, the Christ the manifestation of your glory. Amen.

Message: This flesh-Word was as enthused with Holy Spirit as the word of creation. Not only was the Word made flesh but Holy Spirit was made manifest in the Word. The glory that John and the others saw was the expression of the Almighty God in flesh.

Affirmation: Jesus, the Christ, is the very manifestation of *logos*, the word, of God. I trust him because his words are life and he himself is the truth and the life and his life is in me.

Reflection: This truth is what separates Christianity from all the other religions. Most major religions consider Jesus a good man, a teacher and a prophet, but only Christianity declares that he is God manifest in flesh. Give some thought to this truth and try to understand the significance of this distinction.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Three

Glory of God in Christ

Jesus said, “Now the son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified - glory all around!

- John 13:31-32 (The Message)

“Glory all around,” what a thought. We have seen how the glory of God is made manifest in his Word and this verse is giving further insight on that. When we see Jesus, the very Word of God, for who he is something beautiful happens.

John writes, “The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display.” That was not only true in the time Jesus walked this earth, but it is true today. The moment we realize God in Christ and cry out, “Jesus, my Lord and my God,” God’s glory is displayed and we are received into the family of God.

Throughout his life on earth Jesus was one awesome display of the glory of God. From his first recorded miracle of turning water into wine to his final earthly miracle of being raised from the dead his entire life was a massive display of the glory of God.

We have spoken before how God had a plan of redemption, even before man fell from grace in the garden of Eden. Even before God spoke the words, “Let there be light,” and before man was ever created, he knew that man would fall victim to sin. God had a plan to reveal his glory in a most marvelous way.

We think of creation as being a most glorious display of God’s glory, and it was. We sometimes speak of man being the crowning glory of creation, and he was. If creation was that glorious, how much more is the glory of God manifest in the “recreation” of man?

Paul declares, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The moment we realize that Jesus is Lord and commit ourselves to him, God’s glory goes on display. At that moment Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us and just as he “Hovered over the waters” in Genesis waiting for the command of God’s word, so now he waits within us to display God’s glory to this generation. “Glory all around!”

Prayer: Father, be glorified in me. In Jesus name. Amen.

Message: The moment we realize that Jesus is Lord and commit ourselves to him, God’s glory goes on display. At that moment Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us and just as he “Hovered over the waters” in Genesis waiting for the command of God’s word, so now he waits within us to display God’s glory to this generation.

Affirmation: When I live in the Spirit I am God's glory on display.

Reflection: It is true that Jesus was, and is, the manifestation of the glory of God. It is also true that those who receive Jesus as Lord also receive Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that was in Christ is now in every believer. The glory of God rests in every believer. Give some thought to how a believer should live so that the world can see the glory of God in them.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Four

The Glorified Christ

As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. - Luke 9:29-31

Often when God was about to reveal something of himself he would appear in a glorious presence. In this case, as Jesus was praying, and his disciples were presumably asleep, he was transformed. Mark wrote, "His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus" (Mark 9:3-4).

Many scholars feel that this event is significant of the role Christ was to play in fulfilling both the law and the prophets. Moses, of course, represented the law and Elijah the prophets. The righteousness of God is mirrored in the law and the wisdom of God is reflected in the prophets.

The law showed man what God intended him to be and the prophets warned the people when they were living in disobedience. When the glory of God appeared with Moses and Elijah the Lord seemed to be saying that what the law could not do, in that it could not make men righteous, Jesus could do. And the role of the prophets was fulfilled because Jesus had now become chief prophet.

The disciples were so moved that they wanted to build a place on that mountain to worship, but just as they were suggesting that the glory cloud descended over them and a voice spoke out of the cloud saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him" (Luke 9:36).

The age of the law and the prophets was ended. Jesus Christ brought fullness to that age and opened another era in man's relationship with God. Now, instead of the law we have the Spirit of God himself in us. In this age we call the age of grace God has given us his righteousness.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift of Christ and for the Holy Spirit living in me and for the grace to live righteously. Amen.

Message: The age of the law and the prophets was ended. Jesus Christ brought fullness to that age and opened another era in man's relationship with God. Now, instead of the law we have the Spirit of God himself in us. In this age we call the age of grace God has given us his righteousness

Affirmation: As a believer I am no longer under the law which condemns, but I am filled with God's righteousness and grace. What law could not do God has done through Christ.

Reflection: Can you see the significance of Moses (law) and Elijah (prophets) appearing together with Christ? Can you see this as representing both the law and the prophets are fulfilled in Christ? What does that mean to you personally?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Five

Share in Suffering – Share in Glory

Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

– Romans 8:17

Submitting to the Lordship of Christ is not just about being saved and receiving the benefits. It is also about taking up our own cross and sharing in his sufferings. Only when we are willing to share in his sufferings can we share in his glory.

When I hear someone speaking about believers being heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, I get excited. If that means what it seems to mean we have something to get excited about. The scripture is saying that we are heirs to all that heaven has to offer; blessing, prosperity, healing, deliverance, it is all ours!

There is another side to being a co-heir with Christ. That is the suffering side. In this writing Paul links the blessing with the suffering. In fact, he says that we share in his sufferings in order to share in his glory.

A mistake we make all too often is we forget that our inheritance is not of this world. Yes, there are blessings in this physical realm, but life here is just a preparation for the life to come. We are here to accomplish the purposes of God so that we will be received into eternal glory.

Paul writes to the church at Philippi, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10-11).

He continues to explore that subject then explains, “Our citizenship is in heaven” and we eagerly await the time when God will “transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (v20-21).

We are co-heirs with Christ, and if we are willing to share in his suffering we will also share in his glory.

Prayer: Lord, it is easier to see the glory than it is to endure the suffering. Grant me the grace of being able to take share in his suffering that I might share in his glory. In Jesus name. Amen.

Message: Our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await the time when God will “transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:20-21). We are co-heirs with Christ, and if we are willing to share in his suffering we will also share in his glory.

Affirmation: I am willing to share in the sufferings of Christ so that I might also share in his glory. My life and my hope for the future, are invested in serving God through Christ.

Reflection: Many today preach a message of sharing in his glory, but few are calling people to suffer for him. We are not to intentionally seek out suffering, but we must be willing to represent Christ to the world without fear of persecution.

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Six

Transformed Into His Glorious Body

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. – Philippians 3:20-21

God created man a perfect being, but he also had free will. If man did not have free will and the ability to make choices on his own God would not have told him not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But man did have a choice and God tried to steer him toward making the right choice by placing a consequence on making the wrong choice.

It was the choice that the first man made which caused the perfect creature God had created to become the characters we know today. When man fell from grace in the garden he lost more than a beautiful home. He lost his innocence, he lost fellowship with God and he received a sentence of death. From that day the life of man was shortened and filled with woe.

Then along came Jesus, the Christ, the restorer of things lost. Jesus came preaching about citizenship in a new kingdom, the kingdom of God. A person does not enter this kingdom by changing physical addresses, but there is a change required to be in this kingdom.

When we come to Christ and enter his kingdom there is a transformation that takes place. On the outside we are just the same, but on the inside we have been made new. Physically we are still in the fallen world, but spiritually we are in the new kingdom, but there will be a time when that will change.

Paul tells us that he who is in control will perform the miracle of transforming these bodies, doomed to die, into the likeness of his glorious eternal body. I don't understand how that works, but I'm certainly looking forward to being transformed from a worn out, pain ridden, disease riddled body into a new, perfect body that will not wear out or get sick.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the hope of being transformed into your likeness. Amen.

Message: Paul tells us that he who is in control will perform the miracle of transforming these bodies, doomed to die, into the likeness of his glorious eternal body.

Affirmation: My citizenship is in heaven and I await the day I will go home. In my eternal home I will be transformed into a likeness of his glorious eternal body.

Reflection: "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through," so wrote Albert Brumley in a hymn he wrote speaking of this hope every believer has. Our citizenship is not in this world, we're just aliens passing through. How do you think we should live while we're here? If we adopt the ideas and attitudes of this world does that equate to changing our citizenship?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Seven

Ever Increasing Glory in Believers

We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. - 2 Corinthians 3:18

When Moses returned from being on the mountain with God his face was glowing with the glory of God. In fact, Moses would put a veil over his face as Paul writes, "We are not like Moses who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away" (v13).

Paul moves from addressing Moses and his veiled face to the Israelites and the veil which was over their hearts (v15). Just as Moses hid the glory behind a veil the Israelites had a veil over their own hearts which prevented them from entering the glory.

Paul is introducing the concept of a new era. Israel had a veiled heart so that they could not fully comprehend the glory of the Lord, "But whenever anyone turns to the Lord the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (v16-17). The veil is removed from the heart of those who choose Christ.

Faith removes the veil from our hearts so that we can clearly see the glory of the Lord. Among the experiences I treasure is leading someone to accept Christ. They start out with a veiled heart not able to see the benefits of coming to Christ. Then, faith begins to grow inside of them. Finally they get to the point that they are ready and the veil is fully lifted from the eyes of their heart as they behold the majesty and glory of the Christ.

There is another distinct difference between the glory on the face of Moses and the glory in the saints. Moses covered his face so that Israel would not see that his glory was fading, but we who have chosen Christ have unveiled faces because we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory (v18). The longer we serve him the greater his glory in us.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that my heart will never again be veiled that I cannot experience your glory and may I continue to be transformed into your likeness with ever-increasing glory. Amen.

Message: Among the experiences I treasure is leading someone to accept Christ. They start out with a veiled heart not able to see the benefits of coming to Christ. Then, faith begins to grow inside of them. Finally they are ready and the veil is fully lifted from the eyes of their heart as they behold the majesty and glory of the Christ.

Affirmation: The veil has been lifted from my heart and now I am being changed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory.

Reflection: Why do you suppose they covered the face of Moses to veil the glory? How does the compare with what Paul writes about the ever-increasing glory God is giving believers? How is the glory of the Lord revealed in believers?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Eight

The Hope of Glory

God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. - Colossians 1:27

All of creation declares the glory of God. The psalmist wrote in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." With such a voice as creation itself declaring the glory of God men are without excuse.

Paul writes in Romans, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

Many have closed the eyes of their heart so that they cannot see to understand the great mystery of. They still continue to work at finding a way outside of Christ and their hearts continue to be darkened having no glory of God in them. But to those who will listen and open their eyes God is revealing a most marvelous mystery.

This glorious mystery is simply this: Christ in you. Throughout the ages God has chosen times and places to reveal his glory. He was in the cloud that led Israel in the desert; he was in the Tabernacle in the wilderness; he was in the Temple, but all of those places were just temporary dwellings for him. In this age of grace he has made his permanent dwelling place in the hearts of men.

In our verse for today is the phrase, "the hope of glory." As I read that I can see at least two ways it can be read. First, and this is the most common, is that Christ in us is our hope for glory. But the second gives a little different perspective. Could it be that the hope of glory is Christ in us? What I mean by that is could

this passage mean that the hope God has for mankind is that Christ will dwell in man? That seems to make since to me.

The hope of glory [God] is that all of mankind will be born into his family and that Christ will dwell in them.

Prayer: Lord, help me to realize that you have in mankind is that Christ will dwell in us. In Jesus name, amen.

Message: This glorious mystery is simply Christ in you. Throughout the ages God has chosen times and places to reveal his glory. He was in the cloud that led Israel in the desert; he was in the Tabernacle in the wilderness; he was in the Temple, but all of those places were just temporary dwellings for him. In this age of grace he has made his permanent dwelling place to be the hearts of men.

Affirmation: I have become the temple of God and his glory abides in me.

Reflection: Give some thought to the idea of the glory of God dwelling in his temple. Think of the tabernacle in the wilderness, the temple Solomon built, and even the beautiful cathedrals others have built. How do these compare to the eternal dwelling place God has chosen?

My Thoughts:

Day Twenty Nine

Our Troubles Turn To Glory

Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Serving in the kingdom of God doesn't always feel glorious. There have been many days over the past 40+ years of being in the ministry that I questioned my calling, and yes, I even questioned God at times.

There was a time many years ago that everything in my life was falling apart. I had lost my business, I was in a foreign country (Florida!), I was broke, and the pastor I served with had just told me he was leaving and I would be without a job. And it was even worse than that, but I won't go into the details.

I was so discouraged and desperate that one afternoon I was praying and having a pity party. I remember saying something like, "Thanks a lot God. Every major decision I have made in my adult life was made from the perspective of how it would affect the kingdom. Now, here I am; broke, nothing to show for my years of service. Thanks a lot God!"

Don't judge me because if you have been serving God for any length of time you know how I felt.

After the pity party I began to regain my senses and realized that this was just a season and it would soon pass. And pass it did. In just a few days God brought into my life the most wonderful gift I could ever have imagined.

That is why Paul was saying that our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs all of our troubles. We may not all have God give us a glorious gift in the midst of our most severe trial, but one thing is for sure: The eternal glory he has prepared for us far outweighs any trial we go through.

Prayer: God, life isn't always easy, and sometimes I even question you, but I have learned that you are preparing for me a glorious eternal reward and I thank you for that. Amen.

Message: Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs all of our troubles. We may not all have God give us a glorious gift in the midst of our most severe trial, but one thing is for sure: The eternal glory he has prepared for us far outweighs any trial we go through.

Affirmation: My trials and troubles are light compared to the glory God has prepared for me. That is the hope that keeps me faithful to the call of God.

Reflection: In this devotion I make reference to a low time in my life and the glory God revealed to me in that time. Give some thought to a time when you were at a low ebb in your life and God came through for you. Be prepared to share that time of victory when you meet someone else who is going through a trial.

My Thoughts:

Day Thirty

Suffering for the Glory of the Church

This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal... Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. - 2 Timothy 2:8-10

There are some very important thoughts presented in this passage. The first is Paul's sense of ownership of the gospel he preached. The second is the suffering he willingly endured for the church. The third is the purpose for which he suffered; the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Paul had a right to call his message, "My Gospel" because of his unique calling. He experienced a dramatic conversion while on his way to persecute believers in Jesus and from that time his life took a radical turn in a direction he could never have predicted.

He gained a remarkable insight into the grace which God was extending to the Gentiles. Nearly his entire ministry was to the people of the Gentile world. He planted churches in nearly every major city in Asia Minor. Indeed, to those who heard of Jesus, the Christ, through the ministry of this great man of God, he was the gospel personified.

Paul endured the very trying circumstances to bring the gospel to the Gentile world. He lists his trials; "Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked..." (2 Corinthians 11:25) and the list goes on.

Why did Paul endure all of these hardships and after enduring continue to press on preaching the gospel? Because he knew that he was opening the door to eternal

glory for those who would hear his message and believe in Jesus the Christ.

In one place Paul wrote, "Follow me as I follow Christ." That is a challenge which we must consider if we are to win our world to Christ. We must be willing to endure hardship and to even suffer persecution and chains to bring this message of hope to others.

Prayer: Lord, I need your strength and your grace to take the gospel to those who need to know your eternal glory. Amen.

Message: In one place Paul wrote, "Follow me as I follow Christ." That is a challenge which we must consider if we are to win our world to Christ. We must be willing to endure hardship and to even suffer persecution and chains to bring this message of the hope of eternal glory to others.

Affirmation: It is because I know what God has done for me that I am willing to endure hardship and to even suffer persecution to bring this message of the hope of eternal glory to others.

Reflection: We have spoken of the glory of God and how he has revealed himself. We have also looked at the glory we who are in Christ have as believers. Give some thought to how you might be able to show God's glory to the world around you and how you might influence others to enter his glory.

My Thoughts:
