



The Glory # 10

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence" blog. We have spent nine articles now talking about the glory of God. We began by looking at creation and how the glory was present with God as He formed our earth and universe. We then spent some time talking about Moses and the various encounters he had with God's glory. We also discussed the correlation between the presence, glory, face, and the goodness of God. In the last couple of weeks we have been focusing on one of my favourite verses - 2 Corinthians 3:18 ... a verse that talks about the transformation that takes place when we gaze intently at the glory of God.

Today I would like to point out a glorious contrast, something I discovered a few weeks ago. It might seem obvious, but right from the beginning God designed us to live in His presence. We were never meant to live outside the influence and realm of His glory. We were designed to have "face to face" time with our God. We were created with a human body that Paul describes as being a container for the glory of God. In our earthen vessel, we carry the light of the glory of the face of Christ. We have been predestined, called, justified, and glorified according to Romans 8:30. When we, as humans, live outside of God's glory, we are cut off from the eternal life source that fuels our existence.

With these thoughts in mind, let's look at a couple of verses that highlight what happens when we lose our way and turn from the glory and presence of God.

Genesis 3:8-10 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

The first thing I would like to mention is that guilt and fear keep us from the presence of God. It is most unfortunate that we are the ones to run. God never keeps His presence from us ... we run from it. We feel inadequate, sinful, and shamed and rather than run towards the only thing that can help transform us, we run away from it. Friends, if you have sinned, run towards the presence of God, not away from it. Then, receive forgiveness and gaze intently at the glory all over again. It is the only thing that can truly transform you into a person who will not do the same thing again. Gazing at yourself will not release transformation. In fact, it will only drive you further from the presence. You will only notice your nakedness all the more. In Christ, we are no longer naked. Thankfully, we are "wrapped up" in Him.

Genesis 4:16 *Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.*

Here is another example of someone who left the presence of God. The following is a mini study on the word "Nod." It is the place that Cain settled after leaving the presence.

The root-verb (nud) means to wander or move to and fro. It's used for the aimless wandering of a fugitive (Genesis 4:12), the flutter of birds (Proverbs 26:2), the shaking of reeds (1 Kings 14:15). It's also used for a shaking or nodding of the head to show grief (Jeremiah 22:10). The land of Nod is the land of the fugitive/ wanderer.

Have you ever been in a place in life where you felt worthless? Have you ever felt like there was no point to where you were going, or that you were destined to wander aimlessly? In my travels and conversations with people, much of the world seems to live this way. We are all looking for purpose and fulfilment. Outside of a life rooted in the presence, this purpose will be fleeting at very best. Life devoid of the presence of God will look like this: aimless, shaking to and fro, fluttering about with no purpose, filled with grief, beset with fear, wandering with no point, and a place of restlessness. We might try to fill the void with noise and activity, but as soon as the quiet comes, the restlessness will return.

In contrast, here is another verse from the account of Moses and his encounter with the presence of God that we looked at a few weeks ago:

Exodus 33:14 *And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."*

Life in the presence is a life filled with rest, rather than restlessness. Here are a few adjectives of a presence-filled existence: abundant, joyful, peaceful, fulfilled, fearless, faith-filled, content, restful, and Holy Spirit empowered. I would like to emphasize the

words "joyful" and "restful" today. Here are a few scripture verses that are in stark contrast to a life lived in the land of "Nod."

Psalm 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 21:6 For You make him most blessed forever; You make him joyful with gladness in Your presence.

Psalm 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Here is one more verse from the word of Jesus:

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

I would like to gently urge you today to run towards the glory and presence of God. Put yourself in a position where you are face to face with Jesus. Let His glory light shine upon you today. Let the light of the countenance of His face radiate on you. Let His goodness overcome you. Be undone by His glory. In this place of refuge, there will be no wandering. Destiny will be released upon you. You will receive downloads of grace and inspired ideas. You will be changed and transformed. You will find rest. Is there a better place to be? I think not.

Most glorious indeed!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is the perfect representation of the glory of the Father.