



## The Glory # 11

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." blog. I am a person who has invested hundreds, if not thousands of hours resting and soaking in God's glory and presence. I find that there is a slow and steady transformation that happens when I look at Jesus, beholding His glory. I am also aware that it takes time, patience, and persistence to get used to this type of environment.

The glory of God is a consuming fire. What does it consume, you might ask? Well, it consumes offerings. When we worship our God, we give a sacrifice to Him. The sacrifice is our own lives and our will that we lay down on the celestial altar. Sometimes, in an offering of praise, the sacrifice is the fact that we simply don't feel like giving praise when difficult circumstances come our way. Maybe there is nothing inside of us that wants to thank, praise, or offer up joyful songs. However, we gather ourselves together and praise our God just because He is worthy. That is all the reason we need. Here is where the glory of God comes in. It descends on the offering and consumes it.

The glory of God also consumes other things. If brought into contact with sin, the glory of God always wins. When brought in contact with sickness, the glory will be victorious. The glory of God is the atmosphere of heaven. It is the substance of the kingdom of God. When heaven comes to earth, the glory is always present.

There is a rather famous story told of Smith Wigglesworth many years ago. He had travelled by boat to New Zealand to do a series of meetings. Evidently a group of ministers, including Wigglesworth, gathered together to pray for revival one evening. As they prayed, Wigglesworth began to lift up his voice in intercession. The more he prayed, the stronger the sense of glory became in the room. One by one, the other ministers became so convicted and overwhelmed by the glory, that they began leaving the room. After a while, the only one who was able to stay in the prayer room was Smith

Wigglesworth. He was left alone praying in an atmosphere in which no one else could even breathe.

It takes time to get used to the consuming fire. It can be extremely overwhelming at first. I have noticed in corporate settings that when the glory of God fills a room, people often start getting quite uncomfortable. It usually manifests as restlessness. Many times, leaders will try to fill the moment with a song, a prophetic word, or some other kind of awkward activity. I have also seen numerous examples of leaders wanting to use the glory to their advantage. Often there will be a knee jerk reaction to call for repentance, or preach a sermon. However, when the glory of God descends, the most foolish thing a person could do is try and use it in some way or feel unworthy and look at themselves. I can guarantee that these actions will kill the atmosphere in a few short moments.

By contrast, the wisest thing one could possibly do in the glory is to set our gaze upon Jesus. Here the glory will increase. My experience is that the glory of God comes in waves. It will intensify, then abate, then intensify again, coming in wave after wave just like the ocean. If properly stewarded and honoured, it will last for hours. There is only one thing to do in the glory of God - rest in it until Jesus, the author of the glory, gives clear instructions on how to proceed. Sometimes there is no proceeding. God just wants to be with His children and His presence is the atmosphere of joyful play. In this way, the scripture is perfectly clear when it says "My glory I will not give to another" (Isaiah 48:11).

God actually loves to share and reveal His glory to us, but the intent and purpose for which He shares it is His alone. In an atmosphere of the glory, God always holds the agenda. You can try to move on, get business done, or take your advantage, but God will just pull the plug and the glory will lift. If these actions are taken repeatedly by a group of people, eventually the glory will not descend any more. The reason: it has not been honoured. In this case, the congregation will be left to their own devices in order to try and make their work a going concern. Eventually, things will start to fade and church will be done glory-less. When this happens, after a while most of the people will not even know that there is no glory. It will just become commonplace and business will then get done by form and religion rather than power. This is indeed a sad and difficult way to shepherd a group of people. Once a group of people have become used to this type of atmosphere, they will often fight tooth and nail if someone tries to invite the glory and presence of God back to the gathering again. To those not used to a glorious atmosphere it can be a source of extreme agitation.

With these things being said, let me offer some tips on how to proceed in the presence of the glory of God. These are things I have learned from experience, some painful and some glorious.

- 1) make a decision to lay down your agenda and purposefully do nothing for a period of time
- 2) wait in the presence of the glory
- 3) worship in the presence of the glory
- 4) be still in the presence of the glory
- 5) let the Holy Spirit give instruction on what to do - and don't do anything until this happens
- 6) if there is no instruction, just keep your eyes focused on Jesus - wave after wave of glory will descend and transformation will take place
- 7) if the Holy Spirit instructs you to do something no matter how strange, do it immediately - He is setting you up for a miracle

I think the most important thing to remember is - honour the glory. It belongs to God alone. All rods go down and all shoes come off in the glory (Moses and the burning bush metaphorically speaking). Rods represent the things we would like to get done, and shoes represent the direction we would like to go. However, I promise that God's agenda and direction, fuelled by His glory, will exceed all human expectations a million times over.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He shines bright enough to light up our entire universe!