



The Glory # 12

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." When it comes to the will of God being done on earth as it is in heaven, there is one substance that can co-exist in both worlds - God's glory.

In today's article, I would like to begin with another one of my favourite scripture passages:

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

There is a lot of glory packed into these two verses. When we started this series, we talked about the first moments of creation. We discussed in detail how God released light in the form of His glory. The above verses make mention of this detail. We have also talked about Jesus' face and how it radiates the glory of God. In fact, the Hebrew word for "presence" is actually dually translated as "face." Some day, in the new heaven and earth, the entire scene will be illumined by the face of Jesus. These verses also reference the "Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Similar phrasing is found a couple of other places in the bible. Here are the references:

Numbers 14:21 But indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Right from the beginning, our Father God wanted to make a glorious home for His new human prototype. Since the space surrounding God is glorious, a being created in His image would need His glory in order to thrive and live. These verses speak of the desire of God to fill the earth with His glory and also the knowledge of His glory.

I would like to talk about knowledge for a short while. There are many kinds of knowledge. We, as humans, are programmed to pursue knowledge as the highest form of enlightenment. However, there is an ironic depiction of knowledge given by the apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 8:1 *Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant (some translations read "puffs up"), but love edifies.*

Now, do I think that knowledge is bad - absolutely not! We are told over and over again in the scriptures about the virtues of knowledge. However, I would like to make one thing clear. Knowledge was first gained in our world by eating from a tree - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was, in fact, a forbidden fruit. God was never opposed to us having knowledge, He was just against us gaining it by rebellion. Because of these jaded beginnings, the knowledge of both good and evil things has become the ultimate human quest down through the ages. We can, in fact, live no other way. We chose this life pathway when we ate of the fruit of that tree. When we know more than our fellow humans, we become proud and scorn those who are not as enlightened as we are. However, knowledge was never meant to stand on its own. It was designed to be paired with wisdom and also the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*

With all of these things in mind, there is one type of knowledge that God intended to cover the earth with right from the beginning. It was the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. The reason I have been writing this series of articles, is the fact that it is very difficult to even find teaching on the glory of the Lord. I would venture to say that in the average church, very few sermon series are taught on the subject. The last intentional teaching I have personally heard on God's glory was more than eight years ago. Yet, God intends for the earth to be covered with this very specific knowledge like the waters cover the sea! It is a high priority to God that we understand His glory. He longs for us to know about it, experience it, and live in it. He also longs for us to realize just how much we have been created in glory. With this being said, look once more at these beautiful words:

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

Our God has shone the same glory into our hearts that He shone on the dawn of creation. He has given us this light, this glory, and the knowledge of this glory in the face of Christ. Friends, when we gaze upon Jesus face, we put ourselves in a position to gain understanding and knowledge of this glory. It is only given by revelation. Revelation comes by relationship. And to further the glory of these verses, we carry this unimaginable treasure around in our earthen vessels - our bodies. If it had been any other way, God would not have gotten the glory. We would have taken the glory for ourselves. However, the fact that God has chosen to put His most precious substance, His glory, on display in human vessels puts Him in a position to receive all of the glory. We are painfully aware that all things great come from Him and not from us.

In this article, I really only wanted to make one point. Friends, do you have any idea what you are carrying around in your earthen vessel? Can I tell you just how glorious you are. You shine brighter than the sun from the inside out! The glory is not from you, it is from Jesus. His face radiates right through you wherever you are. Our Father God has seen to it that the glory emanating from you is out-of-this-world spectacular. Everywhere you go, you light the place up!!

So "*Arise, shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!*" (Isaiah 60:1)

In Jesus, you are soooooo BRIGHT!!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He shines through you!