



The Glory # 5

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence" blog. For the past several articles we have been talking about the glory of God. It is the ultimate source of life on our planet. I absolutely love the glory and presence of God!

We, as humans were originally created in God's image and that designation included a beautiful and shimmering covering of glory. Adam and Eve had, in essence, glorified bodies. When they sinned, they fell "short" of the glory of God. It was now out of their reach and they noticed for the first time their own nakedness. Sin has the effect of cutting us off from God's glory and presence. However, the good news is: some day soon when we see Jesus as He is, we will be transformed into His image. Then, once again, we will stylishly sport fully glorified bodies. I am certain we are all looking forward to that day, but we should never under-estimate the amount of glory God has crowned us with now - especially in Christ. Eventually in this blog, we are going to take a closer look at 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 - a portion of scripture all about the glory. Friends, we carry an amazing fullness of glory in our earthen vessels.

Ok, in our last article, we began to look at Exodus 33 - a chapter where Moses turned the favour God gave him into a request to see God's glory. The funny thing is, God didn't even seem to flinch at Moses' request. He immediately began to inform Moses that He would proclaim His goodness to him as well as declare His name in the revealing of His glory. We discussed these two points in detail in last week's blog. Today, we continue on with the discourse God gave to Moses.

Exodus 33:19 ... And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

The next thing God promised was that He would show His grace and compassion to whomever He willed. Remember, God was telling Moses the process in which He would

reveal His glory. In this context we see that God's grace and compassion are also expressions of glory.

God's grace is an interesting subject. The words "grace," and "favour" are translated from the same word in the Old and also the New Testament. I am always baffled by how the translators arbitrarily choose "grace" one time and "favour" the next. Grace is a huge subject and it was fully realized at the cross in the blood of Jesus. I spent almost three years studying this subject and then writing a book on it called "[The Grace Tree](#)" a few years ago. It is interesting that grace was included in God's revelation of glory. In this passage, God promised to reveal and declare His grace to Moses under the Old Covenant. God's grace is quite literally His power towards us who believe. It is an empowerment that is reflected into our lives, giving us unimaginable freedom and favour in the kingdom of heaven. It invites us back to garden conditions once again, taking us back to the original environment in which we were created to live. Being that Eden was filled with glory, it doesn't surprise me that grace is a huge part of the revelation of God's glory. Eden was "grace saturated." This subject is way too big to discuss in a short series. Perhaps, some day, I will spent an entire season discussing grace alone.

God then promises to declare His compassion as a revelation of glory to Moses. I did a study on compassion a few short months ago in the context of healing. In searching the New Testament, I discovered that Jesus never had compassion on someone without releasing a miracle. He didn't just emotionally empathize with a difficult situation. He was moved with compassion and that compassion moved Him to release the glory of God in a practical and miraculous way. Once again, with this description of compassion, I am not surprised that it is an essential element in the revealing of God's glory. I would like us to stop for a moment and consider some beautiful words out of Psalm 103 ...

Psalm 103:6-8,13-14 The Lord performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

These verses say essentially the same thing as God's declaration of glory to Moses. In fact, they even reference Moses. Friends, take heart in the fact that God knows you intimately. Remember, even in your struggles He understands your frame. He understands how you were constructed. He understands every temptation, human tendency, and weakness. Also remember that you were created in His image and

crowned with glory. God's grace and compassion over you are expressions of that glory. With this glory, we are able to "glory" in our weaknesses.

I recall a story told by one of my favourite teachers, Bill Johnson, about a vision he once had. He was worshipping and he had a crown that he was going to give to Jesus. As he took it off his head and offered it up to Jesus he noticed that the otherwise perfectly polished crown had become tarnished by his own fingerprints. He felt extremely embarrassed and ashamed by the dirty fingerprints, representing to him his own humanity, spoiling his worship. However, Jesus received the crown and as He did, every ugly fingerprint turned into a beautiful sparkling diamond.

Friends, today I would like to release the glory of God over you in the form of the grace and also the compassion of Jesus. Don't ask questions and please don't protest. Don't look at yourself, at your own human frailty. Jesus knows all these things. Instead, focus your eyes on Him. The good news is, the glory of His grace and compassion over you are much bigger than any human condition. In fact, your humanity is beautiful to Him. Remember, He is also human. He is God wrapped in now-glorified flesh. Someday we will all be wrapped fully in that glory, but right now, you are beautiful the way you are. You are blessed, glorified, understood, and accepted. You are God's son/daughter in whom He is well pleased! You are in Him. In Christ you have been made glorious.

In our next article, we are going to discuss the glory, the presence, and the light of God's face. I am very much looking forward to it!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love!