



The Glory # 6

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From The Presence." We have been articling on the glory of God, a subject that has been a passion of mine for years now. Everything we see was created in the envelope of God's glory. The first words God spoke were "Let there be light." This light was none other than His glory. He then began speaking His word into that glorious atmosphere and our home, His creation, began to take shape.

I have often experienced the miraculous when I speak things in the environment of the glory of God. Friends, when God's glory is present, I urge you to speak God's word into it. Such was the original context of creation. There is a reason why sometimes we can quote, declare, and confess God's word until we are blue in the face with no result. We are not speaking it in the environment of the presence. You can quote the bible all day long without a relationship with Jesus.

You see, in the beginning, God wanted one thing - a family, and family requires relationship. If there is one thing that can't be bought and sold in our universe, it is the presence of God. It comes only through relationship - through worship, intimacy with the Holy Spirit, and through communion and talking with Jesus (prayer). These are all expressions of relationship in the kingdom of God and His presence is released over us in these contexts. The presence and glory of God provide the power to do the impossible and for this reason we need to speak the word into this environment. When God's word and God's glory are married together, it creates a miraculous atmosphere. In this way, God has built a safeguard into the declaration of His word. It must be coupled with His presence in order to be activated, and His presence is only released through intimacy.

OK, we have been talking about how God promised to reveal His glory to Moses.

Exodus 33:18-23 *Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" And He (God) said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name*

of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.” But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”

In the past two articles, we have discussed four expressions of God's glory from these verses:

- 1) the goodness of God
- 2) the name of the Lord - Yahweh
- 3) the graciousness of God - or His grace
- 4) the compassion of God

Today, we are going to continue with the statement: “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!”

When Moses requested to see God's glory, he didn't know the full extent of what he was asking. He might have had a preconceived idea of some kind of a cloud or fire like substance such as he had seen in the burning bush. However, in God's eyes, Moses' request included one key element - the fact that God's presence and glory emanates from His face. This presented a bit of a problem for God. His face, shining in all of it's strength is brighter than the sun. If He would have revealed it to Moses, it would have killed him instantly. Moses would have been quite gloriously dead.

In the above verses, God was actually telling Moses "I can show you a lot of different expressions of My glory including My goodness, My name, My grace, and My compassion. However, when it comes to the actual source of My glory - My Face, I will have to draw the line." Then, thankfully, God continued with some tender/beautiful words, "But here is what I can do. There is a little place I know of in the mountains where there is a ledge and a cleft in the rock. I will set you on this ledge and shield your eyes with My hand while My face passes before you. This action is for your own protection. Then I will turn around, remove my hand, and you will be able to see my backside! You will still see enough glory to last for the rest of your life!"

A thought has just entered my mind. I am not sure that my backside is all that glorious, but evidently God's is!

God's face is the ultimate revelation of God's glory. As we have seen from weeks past in this series, some day our entire universe will be illuminated by the light of the face of Jesus. God is made out of glory. He is a being of light and in Him there is no darkness.

In this context I would like to put forward an idea that I stumbled across a couple of years ago. When reading through the Old Testament in my NASB, I would often read verses talking about God's presence. Then, there would be an asterisk on the word "presence" and down at the bottom of the page, the footnote would say "face." I began to wonder about this correlation between the word "presence" and the word "face" so I looked it up in my Strong's concordance. I discovered that there is one Hebrew word - the word "panah," rendered both "face" and "presence" in the OT. I am not sure why it is translated face onetime and presence the other but it is incredibly consistent. Here are two examples out of hundreds:

Psalm 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face (panah)," my heart said to You, "Your face (panah), O Lord, I shall seek."

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

Every time the word "presence" or "face" is used in the Old Testament, it is the Hebrew word "panah." For this reason, when God asks us to seek His face, He is actually asking us to seek His presence. He is asking us to seek to be in a position where the light of His countenance is turned towards us. This, in turn, puts us in a place of presence because God's presence is found in the light of His face. God's glory emanates from His face and His presence also radiates from His face, making His presence, His face, and His glory synonymous. When we are worshipping our God, and we feel His presence, it is because He has turned His face towards us. The warm glow of His presence is none other than the light of His countenance shining down on us. It is the ultimate manifestation of His glory. In it are found the vast entirety of God's goodness, His compassion, His grace, and the full manifestation of His glorious name.

God's glory is incredible. It will, no doubt, be a major source of wonder for eternity upon eternity. But the best news: God has made His glory available to us today. In fact, we carry it around in our earthen vessel and we are also crowned with it. God's glory is both internal and external and, it also can be felt in a corporate environment. Whew, ultra-glorious!

Next article, more talk about God's glory!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and may the light of His countenance shine upon you today!