

GLORY

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John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his **glory**, the **glory** as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2Peter 1:17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Greek word translated “glory” in our bible is “doxa” (*dox'-ah*); *glory* (as very *apparent*), in a wide application (literally or figuratively, objectively or subjectively): - dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship. It appears 168 times in the new testament and a variation of the word (doxadzo) appears 62 times. I point this out, to show that the word was not an uncommon one in scripture. These words are **usually rendered glory, glorify, glorious**, but in a **few instances** “doxa” is rendered **honour, praise, or worship**. Webster’s dictionary identifies “glory” as a noun or verb infinitive, “glorify” as a verb transitive, and “glorious” as an adjective. It is defined as 1. “great honor or admiration won by doing something important or valuable; fame; renown; 2. anything bringing this; 3. Worship; adoration; praise; 4. The condition of highest achievement, splendor, prosperity, etc; 5. The highest degree of pleasure, satisfaction, pride, etc; 6. Splendor, magnificence, radiance; 7. Heaven or the bliss of heaven...”

So, glory is about dignity, honor, and praise. It is about honor or admiration connected with valuable things. It is also about achievement, splendor, spiritual prosperity. Then, it is also about spiritual pleasure, satisfaction and magnificence. When related directly to God and Christ it is about worship. And in regard to that aspect, we would say that our spiritual worship of God and Christ is something that glorifies them, and that is glorious in aspect.

Understanding something about the word glorify used by Christ in our text, let’s now consider what His words mean as they relate to us as His people, and the gift of glory that He has given us.

I. First, Lets Look at the Amazing Fact and Reality of The Gift of Glory That Christ Has Given Us (the glory which thou gavest me I have given them)

- We were converted by the effectual gospel call for the very purpose of acquiring that glory - **2Thessalonians 2:14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the **obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**.
 - Peter echos the same thing in **2Peter 1:3** - According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath **called us to glory** and virtue:
 - Both here and in our text verse (**John 17:22**) it is emphasized that whatever glory Christ came from heaven with, he has given to us.

- This was not His personal glory, which He had with the Father in eternity. Rather, I believe it was a glory which was committed to Him to deliver to us when He came to earth.
- Illustrate: A king comes to one of his subjects in all his royal dignity and makes that citizen a knight. He has bestowed upon that citizen great glory, but he didn't diminish any of his glory in the process (you can't diminish the infinite; which is what Christ's glory is)
 - Illustrate: The full moon is beautiful in its soft light, and on a cloudless night you can have enough light from the moon that it is almost like being in daylight. That beautiful bright moonlight comes from the sun. But, the sun, in lighting the moon, doesn't give up any of its brightness to do so.
- So, we have been called to glory. Some folks believe that all this glory is to be had in the future. I don't believe that is what the Lord intends. Look at our text verses again and note that, as Jesus prayed, He said (**vv. 22-23**):
 - that the glory that God had given Him, he had given to us (this is present tense)
 - in order that the world might learn some things about God, Christ, and us.
 - this makes it something that has to be evident in time

II. Now, what then is the nature of this glory?

■ Biblically, there is something intangible (something that cannot be touched or easily defined) about this "glory" as Jesus manifested it and as the thing He gave to us. We are sure that it contains elements of many if not all those things that are described in the dictionary definition of it. Still, this does not nail down what might be meant by our Savior's statement in our text when He says "...the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them..."

- Brightness implied by **Luke 2:9** (birth of Christ—"glory of the Lord shone round about them...."); **I Cor. 15:41** (a different "glory" for the sun, moon, stars), and **II Cor 3:7-11** (contrasting the glory of the law as the handing down of death, with the glory of the gospel, as the handing down of life) Jesus' glory is revealed as light in **Matthew 17:2** "And (Jesus) was transfigured before them: and his **face did shine as the sun**, and his **raiment was white as the light**."
 - But the brightness is not the glory. Rather, it is a product of the glory (as heat is the product of a fire, as wet is the product of water, as cold is the product of ice,)
 - To understand and see what this glory is we need to connect some scriptures:
 - See **John 1: 14**: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
 - This glory is about being begotten of the Father
 - It is about the presence of grace and truth
 - So, lets make the connections: I Cor. 4:15 Paul says to the Corinthian believers, "...in Christ Jesus I have **begotten you through the gospel**."
 - There's the begotten element needed as part of possessing the glory of God
 - The full meaning of this glory is expressed in **John 1:12-13**: But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God**, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - Now, what about grace, the second element needed as part of the glory of God?
 - We find it in the words of **Ephesians 1:5-6**: Having predestinated us unto the **adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the **glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- Through grace making us born-ones of God, we receive or inherit the glory associated with the active grace of God. That is, God’s unmerited favor toward us has:
 - Bought us off the slave market of sin and given us true freedom at no cost to us,
 - Freed us from prison and pardoned us who were guilty criminals on death row,
 - Made us righteous before God though we were totally unrighteous
 - Made us children of God with all the privileges of children of the King of the universe, Creator of all things, Owner of all things.
 - Adopted us as members of the most exalted royal family,
 - Declared us joint heirs with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
 - Given us an everlasting life of perpetual bliss
- Now we need one more element; the presence of truth. Let’s look at three scriptures:
 - **John 18:37** “...Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”
 - **2 Thess. 2:13** “...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth:**”
 - **1 John 3:18-19** “My little children, let us not **love in** word, neither in tongue; but in **deed and in truth**. 19 And hereby we know that **we are of the truth**, and shall assure our hearts before him.”

III. So, if we have this glory, why does the glory which Christ’s disciples witnessed in Him not show up with the same brightness in us?

- Knowing it and living it are sometimes far apart:
 - Being both aware that we are possessors of such glory and also having it present as a power or force which energizes our lives is sometimes far apart for believers.
 - That glory is sometimes very diminished in our lives by worldliness, by inattention to spiritual things, by overburdening cares, or other carnal things; but it is there;
 - Acting out the reality of it makes it show forth: the closer we are to the God-like character of our new nature, the more that glory manifests itself...the more like Jesus we will actually be seen by the world to be (**See Acts 6:9-15** - Steven is seen as an angel of God during his trial-why were they seeing something of the Lord in his appearance?).
 - We need **wisdom** and **revelation** in the knowledge of Jesus to attain to this level of revealing His glory (see **Ephesians 1:15-19**).
 - See also **II Cor. 3:9-18** - In v. 18, there is a message about how we make that quantum leap into a spiritual condition in which we understand the glory of God: **2 Cor 3:18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - This verse virtually says when we come to the place to see within ourselves the glory of God being manifested, it produces a change which grows us into a more Christlike person.

IV. The Purposes behind His Giving of That Gift (v. 22)

- A. “...that they may be one, even as we are one;...”
 - Unity among us was a driving force in Christ’s purpose of giving to us the glory of grace
 - With your present possession of that glory, are you working to cultivate the unity among your brothers and sisters?

- B. "...that they may be made perfect in one..."
 - The unity He contemplated is that which makes us a complete functioning force as His church.
 - Have you given thought to your role in the unified body of Christ at Harmony?
- C. "...and that the world may know that thou has sent me..."
 - One purpose in the unified completeness is to make us an irrefutable (incapable of being disproved) witness of the power, presence, and reality of Christ
 - A very important aspect of the gospel of Christ is that the world be told that He was sent of God to bring salvation to men.
- D. "...and (that the world may know that thou) hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."
 - The other purpose in the unified completeness is to provide absolute evidence that God loves us as He loves Christ.