

The Glory of God (Series 2): 8

The Glory of God

Isaiah 60.1-7

“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And **His glory will be seen upon you.**” (vs1-2)

I want to end this series of studies on the Glory of God where we started – His glory will be seen upon you. We have looked at:

- The Glory is God’s Mighty Goodness Manifested
- Jesus is the Expression of the Glory
- The Glory dispels darkness
- God wants to bless us out of the Riches of His Glory
- The Glory of God’s House
- The Greater Glory of the Latter House

With all that we have studied, I trust that has created the desire to see more of the Glory manifest in our lives. But what have we got to do to see these manifestations?

There are several promises of God through Scripture about the earth being filled with the Glory of God, including:

- **Numbers 14.21** “but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord”
- **Psalms 72.19** “and let the whole earth be filled with His glory”
- **Habakkuk 2.14** “for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord”
- **Isaiah 40.5** “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”

John 14.21

Jesus promised to manifest Himself to His disciples, to them that love Him and keep His commandments.

“The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him]” (Amp)

Jesus promised to reveal Himself (His glory) to those who love Him and keep His commands. He will be clearly seen by them and He will make Himself real to them.

As we bring this teaching to its conclusion let us go back to our theme Scripture from John’s gospel, and see what else we learn about the Glory.

John 11.1-44

Lazarus was sick and his sisters, Mary & Martha, sent for Jesus.

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (vs4)

Christians who say that sickness and problems come upon us from God to teach us lessons in faith or patience often use this verse as a Scriptural basis for that statement. But this verse does not say that sickness gives glory to God.

The Message says: “*When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son."*”

Sickness, needs, the darkness are occasions for a manifestation of the Glory.

- Jesus said to the messengers that came from Mary & Martha, and in the hearing of His disciples, that this sickness is not unto death. He gives them this message, which would have been taken back to Bethany, to encourage Mary & Martha to continue in their faith.
- Later (vs14), He tells them that Lazarus is dead. Was Jesus lying? Of course not. He cannot lie. The sickness was not going to give any honour or glory to death but rather be an occasion for a manifestation of God’s power and glory, so that the Son of God would be glorified. Jesus was headed to Bethany with the purpose of raising Lazarus, He said that He was going to ‘wake him up’ (vs11).
- When Jesus arrived at the home in Bethany he was met by Martha. “If you had been here, my brother would not have died” (vs21) - His response was “Do you believe?” (vs26).
- Martha calls for Mary who joins her at the place where Jesus was. Mary says the same thing (vs32). They went to the tomb – then Jesus tells them to move the stone, to which Martha replied that by now he would stink.

Faith Is Essential if we want to see the Glory of God

“Jesus said to her [*Martha*], ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’” (vs40).

When did Jesus say this? – in His message to them both (v4); at the place where Martha met Him (vss23-27), and probably in His previous teaching to them (and all the disciples)

If we believe we will see the glory of God.

We have become accustomed to using faith for healing; we are saved by faith; receive the Holy Spirit by faith; our needs are met by faith. We need to start using our faith to believe for manifestations of the glory of God.

Move Every Stumbling Block

“Take away the stone” (vs39).

Any obstacles to our faith must be moved out of the way:

- **Fear** – contaminates our faith. We cannot be in faith and fear at the same time. We must not fear – it is a direct command from Jesus.
- **Doubt** – double-mindedness (maybe it will, maybe it won't). James says that a double minded man cannot receive anything from God. (**James 1.6-8**)
- **Current Events** – do not look at the current situation you may be in, however bleak it appears. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Peter made that error: He was walking on the water, doing the 'impossible' then he looked at the waves and he sank (Matthew 14.29-30)
- **Experience** – do not consider past defeats, failures or other situations you cannot explain.
- **Do not listen to un-believers** – Jesus put out all the unbelievers when he arrived at the house of Jairus (Mark 5.40)

These obstacles, barriers, stumbling blocks will hamper our faith.

If we believe we will see the glory of God!

They rolled the stone away - and Lazarus came out of the tomb, alive.