

The Goodness and The Glory of God Revealed



Mike Canaday

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THE GLORY AND THE GOODNESS OF GOD REVEALED

INTRODUCTION

It is a desire for many Christians and even non-Christians to see the miracles of the manifested Glory of God, but few recognize that the manifestation is all around us. People are looking for a spectacular movement of the living God and fail to recognize the goodness in front of them on a daily basis. It does not have to be spectacular or sensational to be a supernatural move of God.

God desires to reveal Himself through manifestations of His glory and grace. God created man in order to have a relationship with a spirit being that would choose to serve, love and obey Him. His plan was and still is to commune with man. God walked and spoke to Adam in the cool of the day. When Adam sinned, God immediately initiated His plan of redemption so He would have the legal right to commune with man for eternity. God desires to demonstrate His goodness to His children but it requires that all the glory be given to God. Instead of giving God the glory, the flesh of man longs to be seen as a result of pride.

Honesty gives God the glory which in turns gives God the right to express His love through His goodness. The more God is glorified, the more we will experience the miraculous god actions from the Most High.

I. WHAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD

As a child, I heard much talk about the glory of God but never really understood what the glory entailed let alone why we should want it operating in our lives. Listening to some people talk at church, I was led to believe it was some kind of emotional feeling that made you lose total control of your actions. It was presented as though your actions were beyond your control.

Some people lead you to believe that the Spirit would overtake you and control you. This is totally false! The Spirit of God empowers, not overpowers. The glory of God should excite you but God will never take control of your decisions and actions. Satan endeavors to control and take possession. God gave us a free will.

The goodness of God was demonstrated in the creation. God said He created earth and all that is within it and called it good. If God calls something good, then it is surely good! God's desire is for us to enjoy His goodness. We should taste or experience a little heaven on earth. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him" (Psalms 34:8-9).

All goodness came out of God. In Father God, we have all we need. He is full of compassion, tenderness, mercy, strength and provision. Adam was created as a man. God is a male but has all the good attributes of a female. Eve was created out of a bone from Adam. All her good attributes came out of man just like man was created out of God. All man's good traits came our Creator. Aspects of the glory of God are in the attributes and characteristics of man and women ranging from strength to tenderness.

The Glory is the Goodness

Moses recognized how critical and precious it was for the presence of God to be with him. He valued the presence of God more than life itself. He was unwilling to take the Hebrews into the promise land without the Lord going with him. In Exodus, Moses made an awesome request to the Creator but the response from God is enlightening and foundational to the good life as a Christian.

When Moses asked God to show him His Glory, God showed Moses His goodness; hence, the Glory of God is the Goodness of God. "And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Exodus 33:18-23). The goodness passing before a man includes grace and compassion. God's goodness has amazing breadth and depth including healing, anointing, provision, correction and protection. If it is a good thing, then it is from the goodness of God. This is not complicated.

When God showed Moses His goodness, the presence of God was so strong that the glory of God radiated from the face of Moses. God led Moses in His plan to deliver the Hebrews and save them from Pharaoh. Salvation is part of the Goodness of God. Salvation is a very big word. It encompasses victory over everything that the enemy desires to do to you including eternal death, destruction, stealing, sickness, poverty and loss. To declare you have been saved is a huge declaration. It restores your place in communion with God that was destroyed as a result of the sin of man.

In later chapters, the blessings of the glory of God will be covered with an in depth analysis of the Word in relationship to prosperity, healing and redemption that is included in the goodness. There will be an emphasis on keeping the vision of God's plan and provision in His goodness including the power of the blood, the authority as well as the benefits for Christians as a result of the blood.

The reason we can expect to see the goodness of God is a result of the Love of God and power of the Blood. Without the cross, we would not have the right to expect to receive the goodness of God and experience the glory of God.

Simply put, if it is good it came from God. Give God credit for the goodness in your life. Don't be a prideful bragger declaring it was because you are so smart or that you worked hard.

These may be true statements but humility gives God credit. The reality is that your anointing, wisdom, ability to work and every breath you take are all from Him. You could do nothing without God giving the ability and for His mercies that endure forever. “Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge. It matters not how much knowledge we have; if we haven’t wisdom to use it, we will be failures” (Kenyon 31).

Moses was the most used man of God in his time and the most humble man. The presence of God was with him. God could utilize him because of his humility that gave God all the glory. Many church services are dry because of the absence of God and the Holy Spirit. If the service does not allow the Spirit to move, what is the point of holding a service? Many people go to church just to put a check in a superficial box that they did not forsake the gathering. You and your church should be experiencing miracles regularly. As Christians, we should have a different life than those outside the church. God desires for the Spirit of God to manifest in our lives. “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

The Lord never changes, so it is still God’s will to heal, raise from the dead, demonstrate miracle multiplication of fish and bread, and have thousands saved in one service. “In Hebrew, the phrase be fruitful, and multiply means to increase and have abundance in every way. Replenish means to fill up, to perpetually renew, supply and keep full. When God spoke these words, He endowed mankind with the divine power to increase and excel in everything good. He empowered them to fill the earth with that goodness” (Copeland 52).

Many people do not experience this because they are led by the clock and not the Spirit according to Romans 8:14. They watch the minute hand count down to the expected closing time. You won't experience the manifestation of the glory if your heart is to just get out of service. God looks at the heart. He knows the reality of your heart so you might as well come clean. In Nehemiah chapter 8, the Word was read for five or six hours. Paul read the Word in Acts 20:9-11 for an extended period, building up people's faith in the Word when a young man named Eutychus sank into a deep sleep and fell down from the third story and died. Rather than receiving the word from spectators of little faith that Eutychus was dead, Paul went down, fell on him and embraced him. While embracing Eutychus in faith with an expectancy to see the goodness of God, life came back into the young man. This is the glory of God! Where did Paul come up with the idea of embracing him? He saw it from the Father in his spirit just like Jesus when He said I can only do what I see and hear from the Father. What if Paul was in fear of the boy dying in his church service rather than living in awe of the power and goodness of God?

When the Bible uses the term fear it is a mediocre translation. "Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land" (Psalm 85:9). The word *fear* in the King James Bible translation is not what we think of as fear in English in the 21st century. Many times a better translation would be reverence. I actually wrote "reverence" or "awe" next to fear in my Bible to help me recognize what the Word is expressing in this verse. We have the right and authority to enter the throne room boldly. When the heavens are rolled up, those who have denied Christ will run in fear of the awesome power of God but those who have received salvation will be excited to see their Father in awesome excitement.

Reverence is demonstrating a high degree of respect and affection. It means to be excited, zealous about the dignity, superiority, and sacredness of God's character. Living a

lifestyle of sin is denying the Redemption. It hinders you from experiencing the glory. “If we have been Redeemed, Satan’s dominion is broken, and we are free. Not only has a perfect Redemption been accomplished, but provision for a perfect recreation has been made” (Kenyon 35).

Many people say they could not help it when they sinned. This is a lie. “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). The word conquerors comes from the Greek word *hupernikao* (hoop-er-nik-ah-oh). The word describes super victorious as one who overpowers with abundant victory. The Nike Corporation got their name from this Greek word. It is more than a shoe! *Hupernikao* is what you and I are created to be as we walk in the goodness of God with authority. You can overcome and make Satan regret his attacks. “In the mind of the Father we are supermen. We are conquerors; we are overcomers” (Kenyon 28). We need to have mind renewal and see attacks through the eyes of God and laugh.

“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision” (Psalms 2:1-4).

I like how Brother Keith Moore explains it. He says “if something is in the ring with you, then you can whip it.” As a young boy, I joined the Sullivan Boxing Club. It was apparent that I was not graced to be a boxer, but this expression makes sense to me. Feather weight boxers do not compete against heavy weights. If you could not overcome a desire or battle, you would not be in the battle. God does not allow us to be put in situations with the enemy where there is no way out or path to overcome. Our God will always provide a way out to victory.

II. LIVING IN THE GLORY

We can live in His presence with joy now. You do not have to live a lifestyle of sin and bondage. “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24). The goodness of God provides a glorious path to a lifestyle of righteousness. “If He cannot present us “now” before His presence with exceeding joy, He certainly cannot present us before the presence of the Father after death with exceeding joy” (Kenyon 10). As saved, redeemed children of God, Jesus can and does intercede for us joyfully.

“Surely the salvation is near those who fear Him that glory may dwell in our land” (Psalms 85:9). It does not say maybe. You may think, well sure God is near. He is omnipresent, but why would God say this? Is salvation far from some people? Yes, because of their choices that rejected and denied God in their lives. Rejection of God is rejection of His goodness and dishonors Him rather than giving the praise and glory deserved.

You may not even consider how this verse would apply to you but I challenge you to consider what is first in your life. Is your children’s basketball game, fishing and work first or is God truly first. If you don’t reverence Him, will His glory dwell in your house?

Whom or what are you reverencing? Is it the Word of God, His presence or schemes of the enemy from which we have been redeemed? Reverencing or living in fear of sickness or lack is a not living by faith. Unfaithfulness is dishonoring God and His Word. God can be close to you immediately by your decision to repent and seek Him. Walk in awe of the power, love and goodness of God.

Brightness is light and He is in the light. What happens when people get light? Have you ever heard someone say *I see it now*. What do they mean? They understand how something

works, how to get somewhere, or they received light for answers to problems. “Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking” (Ezekiel 1:28). Paul, similar to Ezekiel, experienced the manifestation of the glory and received direction. “at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me” (Acts 26:13-14).

The glory can bring you to your knees. Have you ever been in services when the presence was so strong, so powerful, so sweet that you stayed for hours? In Genesis 17:3, Abram fell on His face and God talked to him. This happened right after God told Abraham to walk blameless. I have been in services where the presence was so strong that it would bring you to your knees. Imagine what Moses experienced when God manifested in a bush on fire that did not burn but spoke.

Let’s examine a couple other Biblical examples of life in the glory. Jacob wrestled with God because he honored the blessing in Genesis chapter 32. Jacob wanted to have the goodness of God operating in his life. Many times, people need to stand and fight to see the goodness. God created us to be more than conquerors. We are hupernike’s but we must still run the race to win the prize. The power and authority was given to Adam to live a victorious life in the Goodness of God. He walked in the presence and goodness of God daily. There was no sin, curse or lack in the land. When sin entered there was natural and spiritual changes on earth. Molecular changes occurred in Adams body where he would experience death. Prior to sin, all he knew was life and the presence of God. We cannot even imagine what Adam dealt with

during the change when the presence of God was not walking with him in the cool of the day as a result of the sin.

God does not randomly reveal Himself and yet He is no respecter of people. “And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'" (Acts 7:2-3). Why would God appear to Abraham rather than someone else? Abraham had a lifestyle of honoring God. God knew Abraham would honor Him by obedience because of Abraham's proven history. He will make Himself known to you with a lifestyle that honors Him.

God sent Abraham to an ordained place of prosperity. Abraham still had to choose to leave mommas home cooking, protection, and everything he knew. His obedience was a demonstration of the honor of God. “Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed” (1 Samuel 2:30-31). This honor led to Gods presence then to His goodness. “God commissioned either selected individuals or groups of people to carry out specific assignments. And in each instance God saw to it that they prospered” (Savelle 4).

The Ways

The ways of God are beyond our thoughts, manners and ways of living. It takes divine revelation to understand the ways of God. “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. (Exodus 33:13-14). Dr. Young, the writer of the Youngs Literal Translation

provides clarity into the verse. It is translated as “Cause me to know, I pray the, thy way.” Why would Abraham long to know God’s ways? If you know a person’s ways and thinking, you can walk in greater unity. As you know and walk in God’s ways it prepares you to see the glory. The request Moses made asking God to "Please, show me Your glory" in Exodus 33:18 led to God’s enlightening response in verse nineteen.

What kind of question was this? Moses just asked to see His ways in verse thirteen so what is the difference? This was after Moses saw His power against pharaoh, received the Ten Commandments, spoke to a speaking burning bush, and led the Hebrews through the parting of the Red Sea.

This question shows how Moses had matured. God’s ways and will is to reveal His goodness to those who honor Him. The more you mature in the ways and will of God, the more God’s glory can manifest in your life. Many Christians after obeying God would be asking God for a new car or nice jewelry, but Moses was a humble wise man and asked the right question. It is important to ask God the right questions but more important to have the right heart.

In 1 Kings 3, Solomon requested an understanding heart to judge God’s people and to discern good from evil. Understanding means to distinguish or hear properly and clearly. In 1 Kings 3:3, it states Solomon loved the Lord. This is the root to his request. If you truly love God, you love his people, plans and ways. Solomon had the right heart and honored God. As a result, God gave him wisdom and an understanding heart. He was the wisest man on earth, but God had more plans for him just like he had for the Shuenamite woman who blessed Elisha. God gave King Solomon both riches and honor.

You can say a simple prayer such as “God, you know what I have need of. I ask you go to give me what I have need of to fulfill your call.” Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three

times in John. Peter responded with wisdom stating “Lord, You know all things.” Peter went on to fulfill his call and demonstrate the goodness of God that led people to repentance.

Notice the response from God given to Moses. He did not say “Boy, I have given you freedom, through you a stick was turned into a snake, the Red Sea was split and you are asking to see My glory? You ungrateful little brat.” This was not even close to the response from our Creator. This request honored God. As a result of honoring the things of God, Moses was honored by God. He was a humble man which allowed God to utilize him in miraculous manners. God raised up Moses into a place of authority ordained and appointed by God to demonstrate goodness to His children.

Marriage is part of the goodness of God. United, two will send ten thousand to flight. God ordained marriage as a covenant so man would not be alone and to fulfill the need for a helper. A good marriage requires unity and agreement. “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3). For there to be unity, there must be a foundation of love, respect and honor. Love is not a feeling but a choice; although, it has feelings. To walk together, means you are going the same direction. The more unified you are with other believers, the more God can move. Brother Hagin shared the following comments after a meeting where ministers and those attending a conference were joined together in unity. “Those people were bound together in singleness of mind upon the Word of God. Not upon emotionalism. Not upon sensationalism. Not upon some human personality. And when that many people get together in unity and power, God Almighty overcomes every obstacle and demonstrates His supernatural power!” (Hagin 11).

The marriage covenant is an example of Christ and the Church. Christ gave His life for the bride. For us to honor Jesus, our husband, we must walk in agreement and unity with His plans and commands.

Kaw-bad and Kew-hode Demonstrated

There are two main words that are translated to honor in the Bible. One is kaw-bad which means to promote or make very great. In First Samuel chapter fifteen, verse thirty Saul recognized he had sinned against the Lord. He requested to be promoted and honored as in Kaw-bad before his people even though God was removing him. This is a deceitful lie filled with pride which prevented him from experiencing the glory. Promote God and He will “promote you, make you very great and rich.

Saul had gotten big headed and became so full of pride which is the nature of Satan, that God regretted setting up Paul as king. Samuel and Paul were both blessed and honored by God but Saul rebelled and lost it all. God sent Samuel to Saul to correct him. Saul was unwilling to receive correction even though God endeavored to spare him.

Saul was rebellious, full of pride and deception. He did things his way, rather than God’s ways. Rebellion is serious. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23).

Not only will rebellion put you in a position where the door is opened up for the enemy to attack, it will put a person in a place of resistance from God. “But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor; for those who honor Me, I will honor and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed” (1 Samuel 2:30). The word honor here comes from the Hebrew word kaw-bad which means, very great, promote or rich.

In contrast, Joshua served Moses with honor. As a result, Moses was directed in Numbers 27:20, by God to bless Joshua by putting some of thine honor upon him. The word honor here is Kewd-hode, which means beauty, excellency, majesty or authority. What an

awesome blessing for God to raise you up and honor you. Joshua was honored, raised up, anointed and given authority by Moses under the direction of God. This is an awesome example of experiencing the goodness of God.

Glory can be translated as splendor, greatness, riches, heavy, to open, to expand, or to enlarge. In Exodus 33:18, glory translates to honour in the Youngs Literal Translation, majesty in the Moffet translation, and presence in the TORAH translation. God's response to the request from Moses is amazing especially when we consider that we have the rights to the blessings of Abraham. "With that one Blessing, God bestowed on the family of man everything they would ever need to become all He had created them to be, and do all He had destined them to do" (Copeland 27).

God revealed Himself to Moses and showed him His Glory by showing Moses His goodness. What does the Goodness of God do for people? We know it draws men to repentance according to Romans chapter two verse four. This in turn gives God glory as people choose to make God their Lord and Savior.

Becoming more reverent means you are becoming more aware of things that are heavy, or valuable to God. Many attend church as they would a movie or concert for entertainment with no real reverence or worship. They do not want their flesh challenged to change let alone make a commitment to serve. They may experience the goodness of God in a natural perspective but the true goodness experience is Spiritual.

Despising or lightly esteeming something can be just not recognizing the value of a thing. As a child, I left my bike behind our car in the driveway. My parents had instructed me not to lay it down behind our car, but the neighborhood kickball game was starting and I wanted to play. When my bike was left there overnight, I was woke up in the morning with correction

because it was under the tires when my dad backed out to go to work. I did not value my wheels nor the instruction from my parents. As a result, I received correction. God corrects those whom He loves and so do good natural and spiritual parents. It was months before I got another bike. I took better care of the new bike as a result.

Teach your children respect and honor for people and for the things God has blessed them with and it will affect all the days of their life. As you teach them to say “Ma’am or Sir” it will inherently be teaching them to be respectful of the things of God. Pharisees did not honor or recognize Jesus, but called him “this fellow” in John 9:29. Even if they did not know Him, they should have been respectful. This type of attitude was a result of years of pride and dishonorable actions. Our culture has devolved to similar aspects of dishonor as a result of the pride and rebellion of the 1960’s. This dishonor to Jesus showed a root issue that hindered them from seeing and experiencing the glory. How people refer to others demonstrates their level of respect. Jesus was rejected in his home town in Mark 6:1-6 with the same type of spirit and attitude. As a result, He could do no mighty work in Nazareth. Lack of honor will hinder you from experiencing the goodness of God. The more you honor the people and things of God, the more He will make Himself known.

III. GLORY AND GRACE

Why would someone be in fear of a loving God? God is love, all powerful and holy but He is also just. When Peter’s boat was sinking from too many fish he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). We should have more of a focus of God’s goodness and mercy than our sin.

Peter saw the power of God and entered into fear. Jesus made us righteous. We can stand before Him clean and bold as children of the new covenant if we receive the righteousness

that has been bought for us. We can get a clear conscience and ask knowing we have what we ask if we ask according to the will of God in faith. The will of God is made known in the Word of God. If you are saved, you have the all-powerful Spirit of God living inside you. There are greater levels of power and grace which can be thought of as God's ability made available to us in the glory. Grace and favor are the same Greek word in many instances. Grace can be thought of as someone bending over with kindness or weighty and heavy with all good things. His presence and grace are amazing gifts from God.

If it is His grace, it is His glory. The more grace you have, the more ability, empowerment, anointing you have and this grace and anointing needs protected.

Faith To See

God does not get glory in death, destruction or lack. Did God get glory when Lazarus died? I say NO! The glory was manifested when faith was applied and authority was exercised when Jesus said dig'em up. "Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me" (John 11:39-41). Martha was concerned about the four day duration. The enemy endeavors to get people out of faith with illogical thoughts. God did not get glorified until Lazarus rose from the dead. If you were Lazarus, you would believe that when God was glorified that it was goodness.

To see the glory you must meet God's conditions. The works of the devil glorify the devil, but the works of God glorify God. Deliverance from poverty, destruction, sickness and lack glorifies God and is part of the goodness of God. There is no mention in the scripture that

Martha felt tingling or saw fire and clouds, or even a burning bush but she experienced the glory of resurrection power.

Peter thought that man could not walk on water in a storm but I did not know you could on a clear day. With Lazarus, would it have been harder for Jesus to raise him from the dead after four days than one? No because, dead is dead. It takes faith to see the glory. Notice that in verse forty-one of John chapter eleven, that Jesus thanked God before the resurrection. He expected to see God glorified. What are you expecting to see? Beware of seeking the spectacular and overlooking the glory.

I was life-lighted from a motorcycle accident when I was drag racing in 2002. The doctor reports were indicating that I would be paralyzed if I lived. My beautiful wife, Shara thanked God for my life in the midst of the doctor reports. Her only response to people was that God is done with me yet. She spoke faith filled words and I was miraculously healed.

Jesus told Jairus to fear not only believe. Jairus was not instructed to try not to fear. He was a leader of the synagogue and was considered an educated man. He had to lay down his pride and listen to a man they considered beneath their title and education but reality sinks in when a home is attacked with sickness that may cause a child to die. Do you think Jesus knew whether or not he could resist and overcome fear? God never instructs us to try something. He gives commands and the authority to fulfill the command encompassed within the directive. Fear keeps you from glory. You are either in faith or in fear. In Mark chapter six, we find out that Jesus could do no mighty works in His home town because the village people looked at the man in their natural eyes and dishonored Jesus. It was not due to God's inability or desire, but lack of faith and honor.

Jesus had to put those who ridiculed Him out of the house when He said that Jairus' daughter was only sleeping. He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. When you are in a battle for your life, it is critical to surround yourself with the family of faith. You cannot afford to listen to hecklers, doubters and those who hinder your faith.

Faithful Few

God is seeking men who will give Him all the praise and glory so that He can utilize them to manifest His goodness on the earth. Many people are unfaithful wimps but expect the rewards of a faithful warrior! They are unwilling to stay committed and do what it takes. They want to do it their way rather than honoring and obeying the command of the Lord.

God is in search for people whom He can trust to stand in faith courageously when they are under pressure. Christians are called to be fighters who complete what they are called to do even if they are knocked down. The Hefty cinch sack commercial endeavors to prove that their competitors are wimpy and their Hefty bag is faithful. Are you a hefty warrior or a wimpy warrior?

God has given all of us talents to be utilized for His glory. The men with five and three talents were faithful but the man with only one talent proved to be evil as a result of his unfaithfulness. "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble. Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint" (Proverbs 25:19). God will not reveal His glory to such a man.

King David honored God rather than the uncircumcised giant, Goliath. He did not magnify the problem but the problem solver. Warriors call battles according to God's perspective not the natural mind. Fear keeps you from being faithful. There is never a good excuse for fear. When God commanded us to fear not, He encapsulated the command with the

authority and ability to resist and overcome fear. "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Apostle Paul went to Rome to preach and be killed even after he had revelation of his future. Paul, while in a high security prison, expressed joy nineteen times giving God glory each time. He was experiencing the worst conditions imaginable. There is no excuse not to rejoice and give God glory.

Daniel did not bow to the king. He knew it was not right and determined that he was not going to be unfaithful. As a result he was thrown into the lion den. Daniel was protected from being a lion snack because he believed in his God.

Faithful warriors are willing to risk it all in the heat of the battle. King David had four hundred men but four stood apart as mighty men. These men did heroic acts in honor of King David but the king gave God the glory and honor. King David was so moved by their hearts that he poured the water that they risked their lives to get out on the ground as honor unto God. It was precious to him. One percent of King David's army were considered mighty and recognized for their acts of honor and bravery. We can be one of God's mighty men if we stand and fight the good fight of faith. These men were honored and still are today as we read about their bravery. Our acts of love in faith will move on the heart of God in the same manner.

Western movies show preachers hiding under wagons with women and kids while other men fight the outlaws. These are not true examples of men of God. Real men of God fight the good fight and don't quit like sissies.

Gideon started out with a thirty two thousand man army, but twenty-two thousand were cowards. God informed Gideon that the ten-thousand remaining was too many because God did not want anyone to be able to give man the credit. God wanted the glory.

“And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead'" (Judges 7:2-3).

As a result of God requiring the glory, one percent of the original army was used to defeat the enemy. When you are in a fight, be aware that in order for God to get the full glory deserved, He will defeat the enemy in a way that you cannot do in your own wisdom and ability.

Mighty men like Daniel, Gideon and David gave God the credit and glory for their achievements. Because of their humility, God was able to utilize them in miraculous manners.

The Path

Expectation and excitement are key indicators to identify if you are on the path to receive the goodness of God. Sin will keep you from expecting. God knows what we truly see and know. We cannot pull the wool over God's eyes. If our heart is clean, and nothing is bothering us, we have confidence towards God. Don't brush off sin. Sin will hinder you from seeing the glory of God. Sin destroys your confidence towards God. It is a faith killer that hinders boldness towards God and clarity for direction.

When I raced Harley Davidson motorcycles on the drag strip, the engine oil was contaminated in 8 seconds and needed changed. We can easily get contaminated daily due to our decisions, actions and fear based statements. As a result, we need to continuously make adjustments. Most planes come equipped with autopilots that continuously make slight changes in direction. This ensures that over long distances, when the winds blow endeavoring to push

you off course, that you will reach the proper destination. Proper life changes will keep you out of condemnation and keep you on the path where you can confidently enter the throne with boldness. The Holy Spirit will lead you to make minor adjustments continually in your life.

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:18-22).

You have authority to command things in your life including peace in your marriage, financial increase, favor and long life. We have the written Word, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, heavenly angels and the mighty power of the blood as the authority backing us. Jesus said all power was given to Him then He commanded us to utilize the power for God’s glory.

To go to the throne, it takes boldness. Boldness means brave, fearless and confident, without fear. Spending time with Jesus will change your ways and thoughts which will give you boldness. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). Peter and John experienced Jesus and they knew the truth first hand. You are bold when you know something is true. You cannot tell a ten year old that two plus two does not equal four. They know the proper answer and have boldness in the answer to this equation.

Why would Paul press on expecting a prize from God after a history of killing Christians? He was in faith. “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13, 14).

People focus on the past, fear of failure or fear of correction. Correction brings perfection and direction. Forget the past and boldly press onto your prize and experience the glory along the way. You have the same blood of the lamb on your side that Paul has and he overcame by the blood of the lamb. He was clean in the sight of God and miracles followed him. Regardless of your past, you can experience the glory in your future with faith and obedience. There are guidelines in the Word to guide us down the proper paths to experience His presence and glory.

IV. MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

It should be our desire for the Lord to be real to us at Church and in our homes. It is my desire, and should be the desire of every believer that people sense the peace, life and presence of God when they are around you. As you seek and praise Him, He will show up.

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips” (Psalm 63:1-5).

The glory of God has manifested in various natural aspects. The angel of glory appeared in Matthew 17 and Luke 2 and brought strength and encouragement. He manifested as brightness in Ezekiel 1:28. In Isaiah 6:4, He manifested in the form of fire. There are numerous scriptures in Leviticus, Number, Kings and Chronicles where the glory came as a cloud and filled the house or temple of the Lord.

In Acts, Stephen saw the glory of God when he was full of the Holy Spirit. When he gazed into heaven, Jesus was standing at the right hand of God to witness against Stephens accusers and receive him into the heavenly kingdom. As you study Ezekiel, you will discover

that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of glory. Stephen saw the glory. You can see, feel and experience the glory when He manifests.

Moses experienced the presence of God as light. There are many scriptures that indicate that in the manifested glory of God there was the existence of a bright light. “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble” (Proverbs 4:18-19). In Isaiah 60, the glory is come as a light and will shine upon you. I receive this for me and my house! Glory in Isaiah 60:1 is the Hebrew word *chabod* (kah-vohd) which means heavy, honor and majesty. His glory is His anointing upon you. When the glory shines upon you, darkness is eliminated. The light of glory overtakes darkness. If you turn on a light switch in your closet, there is not a struggle between light and darkness. The darkness is gone in split second. We are to be the light of the world and overcome darkness.

The glory of God is the light of heaven. In heaven we will live in His glory. The only tan you will get is a Son tan with no burning. Take a moment to mediate on living in the manifestation of Him throughout all eternity. That is the amazing, goodness of God! In the presence of God you will experience the Glory of God. We can experience a greater measure of His presence on earth. We are called to increase in light and go from Glory to Glory. God’s glory will never peak. The light will get brighter and brighter. We are predestined to live in the light forever.

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day. And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life” (Revelation 21:22-27).

If you see a dirty white cloth against a black background, the dirty white cloth looks clean, but when a true clean white cloth is placed next to the dirty white cloth, you will see all the dirt in the dirty white cloth. Purity reveals impurity; hence, the glory will reveal impurities. We can go from glory to glory or from impurity to impurity based upon our decisions. Through one man's disobedience all pain, suffering, lack and death entered the world but through the obedience of Jesus, all mankind can be delivered and live in the glory for all eternity.

When you are teaching, preaching or discussing His Word and goodness, He is in your midst. "So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them" (Luke 21:15). We see Jesus showing up in the midst of them again when the eleven joined together in Jerusalem and spoke about Him in Luke 24:36. If you want the Master in your presence, talk about Jesus and His Word and He will show up. Pure thoughts and actions with a pure heart produces a pure atmosphere for God to move. It is honoring God.

It is not widely taught but it can be deadly to dishonor the presence of God and His goodness. In Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira were killed for being deceptive. They tried to capitalize on the manifestation of God for their personal gain. They did not even recognize the presence of God. When the Holy Spirit moves it magnifies and glorifies Jesus and the Word. When the Holy Spirit reveals Himself, we need to recognize, respect and appropriately respond to His presence.

The manifestation of the glory will be hindered and can cease in an atmosphere of pride. The presence of evil pride has hindered and ceased the outpouring of many revivals. Leaders who wanted to be seen and for the Glory to manifest in their lives so people would praise them rather than God like Ananias and Sapphira opens the door for the enemy. Do you want to see the

enemy non-effectual in your life? I encourage you to kill the pride that is holding back the power of God manifesting in your life.

My wife, Shara and I visited an internationally known revival. Manifestations of God's glory were occurring regularly but leaders got in strife. It became more about book sales, television interviews and who was in control rather than ministering to people and giving God glory. As a result of the pride, the manifestations of the goodness of God ceased to move in the power that was previously experienced.

It is the will of God for us to prosper and be in health as we grow spiritually according to John 3:2. The will of God being done glorifies God, but childish pride and strife will hinder the move of God. Strife is the manifest presence of Satan and gives him an open door for sickness and lack.

Gifts

The Spirit desires to manifest Himself for the glory of God and the benefit of the children of God. There are nine different gifts of the Spirit of God. In further study of the gifts outlined by Paul, we find out that unlike paganism, the Holy Spirit does not overpower. The Spirit of God empowers and always glorifies Christ. He works to bring people under the lordship of Jesus. As believers we should be in faith to experience all manifestations of the Spirit in our life.

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

There are three basic categories of the gifts. Three are speaking gifts where utterances are given through man including prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Three of the gifts do things or act including faith, gifts of healing and working of miracles. The last three are gifts where God speaks or reveals including word for wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. All of these gifts are manifested through the Holy Spirit when the Lord is magnified. If you want to experience more of the good glory of God, magnify the Lord. Magnify means to grow, to enlarge or esteem more.

V. HEALING IN THE GLORY

Sickness and disease is a stench in God's nose and against His will. God's will and plan for us is long life. The death of Lazarus did not glorify God. Jesus made that clear. "When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). Health, healing and long life give God glory.

You may be challenged in your body but I encourage you to fight to see God glorified. When the leper was healed, God was glorified in Luke 5:20-26. The greater miracle was the forgiveness of sin. When we get quickened, healed, restored or set free our response should be similar to the paralytic.

"When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house. "Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" (Luke 5:20-26).

The lame man gave God glory when he was healed. “So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God” (Acts 3:8-9). This man was pursuing God after he was healed not while he was begging at the gate called beautiful.

It takes faith and action to experience greater levels of the glory. Being lackadaisical about the things of God can hinder you from experiencing the glory and goodness that is near you even though it has been paid in God’s plan of redemption. The lame man was at the temple asking and expecting for alms. The ability to walk was not even a consideration in his mind. God’s goodness has more to offer than we often consider, think or ask. When the glory is present, demons tremble. They know their attacks of sickness, poverty, weakness and lack are in danger.

Angels from heaven have been sent to perform acts of mercy and to manifest God’s glory. “For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years” (John 5:4, 5). This occurred in Bethesda which means “place of outpouring.” Don’t wait on other people to act in order for you to receive and experience the power of His glory in your life. You may think thirty-eight years is a long time so how could this man with infirmity lay there with spectacular things happening all around him and not receive. The lame gentlemen made excuses and did not answer the question asked by Jesus. Avoiding a question is a prime example of pride and disrespect. What about you? Are you making excuses and singing “I ain’t got nobody?”

God can manifest himself but so can Satan. If you talk fear, then the spirit behind fear shows up. Stephen preached about the glory in the beginning of Acts chapter seven and he saw

the glory by the end of the chapter. The Spirit of God should not be called an *it* but He should be treated with honor.

As a Cub Scout, I remember sitting around a camp fire while stories intended to create an atmosphere of fear were shared. The atmosphere was energized with fear to the point that a twig falling would cause us to jump and scream like a little school girl. This is not the atmosphere of peace, protection and goodness of the almighty God. The more you talk about, give attention & respect to Him the more He shows up.

VI. PROSPERITY AND PROVISION

When our needs are met, God is glorified. It is His will and plan for us to live an abundant life. When you are utilized by God to meet the needs of one of His children, it not only blesses our creator but He is glorified. Paul was ministering in Malta in the book of Acts. When Paul departed, he had ministry partners who honored or valued him when they departed. When you support the expansion of the Kingdom through prayer, gifts and financial backing, God will be glorified. Honoring elders honors God who called, appointed and anointed them for their office. “Let the elders who rule be counted worthy of double honor especially those who labor in the word and doctrine” (1 Timothy 5:17). Double honor here is in the context of pay. When a congregation pays their leaders well, God is glorified. If you truly value those who are teaching you the Word, you will invest in them personally and support their God given directives.

The first miracle performed under the Lord’s ministry was turning water into wine. Man does not do miracles. God does miracles through the hands of man. It starts with hearing from God then obeying. After obedience, which is an act of faith, God does the miracle. The servants working at the wedding obeyed by filling the jugs with water. They may have had thoughts that they would be embarrassed or even corrected by their supervisors when they delivered water due

to misrepresentation of wine. This was a provisional miracle of party supplies and it glorified God. Even party supplies that bless you or your children are important to God.

Many Christians do not even value the things of God and building the Kingdom enough to pay tithes. The tithe is not ours. This has been an issue for thousands of years. God dealt with this issue in Malachi. Many Christians do not realize that if they steal the tithe, they will end up losing it through assets wearing out, items breaking, losing business deals and other attacks of the enemy from which they are not protected. They fail to recognize the goodness and how far they are off by stealing the tithe. This is theft that started with lack of honor. "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence?" (Malachi 1:6). God desires that not one would continue in financial bondage. "I believe there are three major factors that directly hinder us from walking out of financial bondage. They are disobedience, rebellion and, lethargy" (Savelle 73).

The notable woman from Shunem recognized that Elisha was a holy man in 2 Kings 4. She respected the things of God and convinced her husband to build a room onto their house for him to stay. This couple invested their personal funds to honor the man of God. Building onto a home and purchasing furniture for a guest is not cheap. God put it on the heart of Elisha to bless her as a result of what she had done for the man of God. She was a humble woman and obviously did not build onto her home expecting anything. It was God's plan to bless her so he revealed to Gehazi that she was without child. She was blessed with a son but that was not all. When she needed a miracle, the boy was raised from the dead. God demonstrated His goodness and got the glory. That is not the end of the story. Later on in life, she had to leave her country due to a famine. In 2 Kings 8, Gehazi was sharing the testimonies of Elisha to the king. It just

happened that she moved back to her homeland the exact day and time Gehazi was speaking to the king. The king appointed an officer to restore all that was hers before the famine and all the proceeds of the field for the duration while she was out of the country. I wonder if her friends that saw her building onto her home and thought she was wasting her money looked back and regretted not tithing, sowing and honoring the things of God.

Building the House

It is easy to declare that God is first in your life but if you evaluate your checkbook and where you invest your time, you will discover what is truly first. There cannot be more than one first place. The prophet Haggai dealt with this issue. People put their personal desires before God's will and plan. They built their homes before building the temple which violates the first principle of prosperity which is found in Matthew 6:33. They wanted their cake and to eat it too. If you eat the cake, you don't have it any longer.

The goodness of God includes all our needs being met and never running out. According to Haggai, if this describes your home then consider your ways. Running out should be abnormal for the blessed child of God. Get out your checkbook and Day-Timer. Do you spend more funds on sports and entertainment than you invest in the Kingdom? Does the Sunday morning golf game or fishing tournament mean more than attending Church? God's desire was for Him to be glorified and to have the right to bless His children. 'Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord' (Haggai 1:8). God never changes. He has the same desires for you and your family.

God informed His people through Haggai that they were not experiencing the blessing because of their decisions. There had been a lack of rain which affected their grain and livestock. It was a result of putting their personal desires first. After Haggai spoke the word of the Lord, the people repented and began building the temple. After the prophecy was spoken

that God would fill the temple with His glory, it was decreed that silver, gold, peace and prosperity was the Lord's. This was part of the covenant of God. We are in a better covenant.

VII. THOUGHT LIFE

When you fervently desire to know, find and experience the presence of the Lord, you will find Him. When you seek something, you want to hear or learn more. This means you must keep your mind on Him. You may think it is too late, but if you repent and return to Him, He will not reject you. The mercies of the Lord endure forever. Forgiveness and repentance are both based upon what you choose. Just like the Sheunamite woman, it was not too late to have a child. She put God first and was rewarded. God's ways led down the path to protection, life and blessings.

“Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:6-9).

If we break these verses down and expand upon them, we find out that a pardon means to remove offense from the offender or to consider them not guilty and to release or absolve from punishment. The plan of redemption absolves us of guilt.

Thoughts are our ways of thinking. Imaginations of victory, defeat, inventions, and purposes are all part of ones thought life but a thought is much more than what many medical, and psychological books teach. A thought is a spiritual form that can come into existence in the natural. For example, God thought about light and spoke forth Light Be. If it comes from God it encapsulates the ability and authority to carry it out. It has power to make existence from a mental picture to physical form.

If you think about something, a picture is created then actions can be performed associated with the thought. Remember a car you used to have and the more you think about it, the detail can be expressed greater. Your car is gone but in your mind, the details exist. The same applies with sin. God forgave it, and commanded us to follow His example. Don't be sin conscious. This can be accomplished by thinking and meditating on the Word until your thoughts are righteous. What kind of thoughts does God have about His children? He thinks righteous thoughts of you increasing, prospering, overcoming and living a victorious life.

VIII. PROTECTION

Your zeal for God can open the door for protection and blessing. If you are zealous about cars, motorcycles, boats, or clothes, what do you do? You look at the item, dream, talk and read about it and maybe even go test them out. Be zealous about doing His Word. When you take steps to obey, you give God a legal right to protect you. The enemy cannot take you out under the protection of God. For example, if someone offers to walk you out to your car under their umbrella while it is raining and you choose to step out from underneath the protection of the umbrella, your decision opens up the door for you to get wet. It was not due to the lack of protection. Many times, our pride leads us from under the umbrella into the open target range for the enemy. Satan seeks to and fro for those whom he may devour. That means there are those whom he may not. I am a 'May Not.' How about you? If you are not zealous for the things of God, I encourage you to become more like Phinehas and see the wrath of God turned back.

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace'" (Numbers 25:10-12).

Not being consumed and experiencing the peace of God is goodness. When you know that God is your protector you can rest and enjoy peace. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Peace. When peace is manifested, it is the manifest presence of God. When there is strife, it is the manifest presence of Satan.

Pride, Rebellion and Obedience

Disobedience is a key reason children of God do not experience the goodness of God to the level that is provided in the blessing of Abraham. As discussed earlier, the mother of Jesus exposed a tremendous key to miracles by doing whatever God instructs. This is the first miracle performed under the ministry of our Lord so how did Mary know to give this directive? She knew the ways of God through prayer and the written Word. She stood on the promise. It sounds simple, but most Christians are not firmly standing rooted on the Word. If Christians are not experiencing miracles, it is a sign of disobedience and an indicator that something is not right in their lives.

Many people may not even recognize that they are off. They think it is minor but disobedience is detrimental to miracles. When your baby needs a miracle, it suddenly can become more real. It is critical to obey if you want to see the manifestation of the Glory of God operating in your life.

It's not what you know, but what you do with what you know. Sin is not based upon denominational doctrines. "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). There are denominations that have outlined levels of sin. This is not scriptural. Sin is violation of light. God knows what revelation and understanding each of us have, so it is important not to judge others. You do not know truly know what light other people have in a situation. Manifestation of God's glory in the realm of the miraculous is attached to

doing what you know is right.

Pride Resistance

Pride is a major inhibitor to the move of God. Pride is the nature of Satan. Many people are jealous of what others have such as a position, title, possession or ability. This prideful jealous attitude has robbed people of fulfilling their call and receiving all of God's goodness. A large amount of their discussions with others is centered upon themselves. Be cautious with utilizing words like *I* and *mine* that put you in the center of attention in a discussion. Pride endeavors to look better than others and more important than reality. There should not be jealous attitudes in the body of Christ. "Competitive jealousy manifests itself in the pride of self-promotion" (Branson 6). Telling people what you did and your level of brilliance can be nothing but pride. Ask why are you sharing and who is it helping. Is it really blessing someone and giving God glory?

We need to recognize who we are speaking to when communing with God. Do you think people are in the throne room saying "it's just God." People don't decide not to enter worship because they don't feel like worshiping today in heaven. There is no pride or dishonor in the throne room.

Are you qualifying to experience His presence? If God is resisting you, don't expect to see His goodness or a manifestation of Glory. Pride is an issue of the flesh that everyone must deal with but is very common in youth. "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-7).

It is God's will for us to mature so that we can fulfill the call on our lives and minister His good news. In Ephesians chapter four, we are introduced to the five-fold ministry for the purpose of perfecting the church. Perfection here means equipping, maturing or developing believers to fulfill their call. "It is the purpose of the risen Christ to make us perfect in every good thing to do His will" (Kenyon 43).

It is not a blessing if teenagers act and think like three year old children. Every good parent desires to see their children grow up and mature. Diapers are appropriate for an infant but not natural for teenagers. Potty training takes love, patience, encouragement, instruction and correction. The goodness of God puts spiritual parents in our lives to instruct, discipline, encourage and lead by example so that we will mature and become all that God desires and plans.

If you desire to experience more of God's glory, be aware of five attributes that are common in pride. Pride often ignores, interrupts, intrudes, interferes and insults. If you find yourself judging which is due to pride, you will discover that these attributes are involved. If you are living a lifestyle of sin, these attributes will be threaded in your life.

Temptation

In this life, we will face trials, tribulation and temptations. Jesus was tempted and we are not greater than the Master. Praying for God to keep you from being tempted is not scriptural. The Lord will provide a way out but we must resist. As we endure, we will grow stronger and be blessed. Endure means to be fixed, planted, to suffer without yielding to the force or pressure. Titanium is used in jet engines because it can withstand the heat and pressures of fast turning compressors. As a result, jet engines provide planes with thrust that will overcome the laws of gravity and lift. If the metal had not been treated and tested, it would come apart like a cheap

toy when jet fuel was ignited and pressure applied. As Christians, we are to withstand the heat and pressure to endure without wavering. “Blessed is the man who endures temptation for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12). The Moffett translations expresses the term endures as remains firm. Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego cannot come out of a fire without even smelling like smoke if you trust and obey God. We will be tempted just as Jesus was tempted to prove us so we can be promoted.

You cannot blame other people or God when you are tempted. James is clear that God does not tempt anyone. It is our own fleshly desires that draw us away.

“Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one. But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions). Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death. Do not be misled, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse]. (James 1:13-17 AMP).

We bait and set our own trap. It comes from the Greek word “skandalon” which is where we get the English word “scandal.” It was used to describe a small piece of wood that was used to keep the door of an animal trap open. Food was placed inside the trap to lure in animals. When animals walked through the door of the trap and bumped the “skandalon,” the door would collapse, trapping the animal with no way to escape. Satan sets bait before us and uses “skandalons” to ensnare us in a trap, but there is an escape to freedom through Jesus. When you resist and escape the enemies’ traps, God is glorified.

Our flesh knows what it likes. You cannot trust your flesh. Ever hear someone say ‘I don’t trust them as far as I can throw them’? How far can you throw yourself? When I was a

teenager I went fishing with some friends. They were chewing tobacco. I thought it was gross but as a result of my prideful desire to be accepted I partook. I swallowed a whole mouth of tobacco when I jumped up to catch my pole as a large Carp endeavored to pull my pole into the creek. After throwing up for a day, it was established in my heart and mind that I would never chew. If you starve something, it grows weaker. I have no desire for any kind of tobacco. After that experience, I starved the desire! Of course, I did not eat for a day and it did me good. I still recall that experience like it was yesterday.

In James 1:15 conception is discussed. Conception is planting a seed. To let sin conceive is like having fornication or sin sex. It is sleeping with the devil. Selah! If something is implanted or engrafted, it's with you. I have metal implants in my leg and they have become part of me. I don't leave them at the door. Seeds of sin need to be cast aside so you can see the glory. Due to redemption, these seeds can be washed away setting you free.

In flying, if something is not right during a takeoff roll, the pilot is supposed to abort the takeoff before passing the point where flight must occur or the plane will run off the end of the runway. There comes a speed and a point at the end of the runway that you must lift off or crash. Christians need to abort sin before it lifts off or gives birth.

James chapter one, verse sixteen instructs us not to be deceived. This word can be translated as misled, cheated, and beguiled or diluted. Many people dilute the Word down to their experience and take away the power of the Word of God from operating in their lives. The gift of God includes health, wealth and victory but requires us to be doers of the Word according to James 1:22.

My wife and I are friends with a man who spent years in an outlaw biker club. When he got saved, he had to change the way he thought and lived. He shut down the family businesses.

He had a variety of operations and business units in this multifaceted business. Most operations centered on the idea that if you had something that he wanted, he was in the business to take it and profit from you. Chop shops can be very profitable for a short period until the Feds show up. As a result of the tough changes, God blessed him with a job that included retirement, medical and dental plans. He called me a few weeks after starting his new job and said he had to quit because the railroad he worked for was involved in money laundering. He reminded me that he had experience with money laundering. He was resisting the temptation of laundering which he previously engaged and overcame. When he discovered that the corporation adding fifty cents to every dollar he invested in his 401k program was legal, he was amazed how good God was to him.

Holiness is a key to qualify for divine revelation of the glory. Holiness requires us to separate ourselves from unrighteousness. "Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." (2 Corinthians 6:17). That does not mean we live a life as a hermit away from the lost. We are to go into the highways and byways, and preach the Gospel. If you are tempted in an area, you need to resist the enemy and he will flee. Don't even go near the harlot's house or down the cookie aisle. Avoid the environment where you are tempted. Our biker friend was endeavoring to avoid laundry schemes. He was seeking and desiring to abide in the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news about the good things our good God has done for us including deliverance and freedom.

Holiness is simply Christ likeness. Darkness can only flourish in the absent of light. Sin is violation of light and anything that is not of faith. Sin is not doing what you know is right. We are to live Holy and be clean. "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2

Corinthians 7:1). How do you cleanse yourself? There are a few ways to be cleanse yourself. The Word cleanses you when you read it in faith. Truth will cleanse you, so get real with your circumstances. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). You can also cleanse yourself by decisions; hence, we are washed by the blood when we repent.

Repentance is truth. You know if you did something against God or a brother. I encourage you to be bold and call sin exactly what it is, sin. Be honest and come clean. You may need to call a co-worker and confess that you stabbed them in the back then tried to buy them lunch so they would not know it was you. Do this a couple times and you will be free from the pride that ensnared you.

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:14-17). This scripture does not say that you will lose your salvation but that you will not see the Lord. Grace means favor, mercy or to pardon but there is more. Grace is God’s ability working in your life. When someone is defiled they are un-pure, un-holy which is the opposite of clean. If someone is not clean, they have no clarity. You cannot see clearly through glasses that are stained and dirty, but when they are cleansed, ability to see increases. The cleaner you live the easier to see the glory.

You may be experiencing a challenging time where it seems dark but rejoice and get God’s grace and help. “We may be going through hard places. We may be suffering. There may not be much happiness for us in this life, but there can be joy. Happiness comes from our surroundings; joy comes from our recreated hearts” (Kenyon 43-44). You can repent and boldly

claim your healing, provision and victory right now. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). We need to recognize the mercy and goodness in our lives. “Oh, dear Jesus, how could I ever have doubted You when You have been so good, so merciful and so true to me all the days of my life!” (McPherson 33).

Some churches that rate sin have created charts that outline the various levels of sin. A child psychologist said we should teach kids to lie to friends if the truth may hurt. Holiness for many believers has become foggy but the Word is clear. As you get deeper in the Word and closer to the things of God, you will see more of His glory and goodness.

A pilot flying an instrument approach must trust the instruments in the plane. As they approach the runway if they stay on the path, the runway will come into focus and they can land safely. If a pilot becomes double minded and ignores instruments they become unstable in the approach. The FAA has standards or ways to fly by for our protection just like the Word of God has standards for us to live by for our protection and for us to see the goodness. A pilot seeking the right glide path is similar to a man seeking the righteousness of the Lord. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). As you seek the right standard for the approach, you will find the landing point which if you are in the plane, you will consider that the goodness of God!

Power of Repentance

The first offering mentioned in Leviticus chapter nine is the sin offering. You cannot truly worship or experience greater levels of His glory if your heart has a wall up due to sin. Sins are like building blocks. Over time, if sin is not dealt with, a wall is created as a result of choices. The wall can be destroyed like a wrecking ball hitting a brick building simply by

having a willing heart and repentance. There is tremendous power in repentance. To repent means to change. You must desire to change in order to beat your body black and blue as the Amplified Bible expresses 1 Corinthians 8:27.

In the Old Testament, there were sin offerings. These were treated as holy acts of honor. With a true heart behind the sin offering, God received the offerings. God looks at the heart of a man. Due to a wrong heart of pride, Nadab and Abihu died for an unauthorized offering for their strange fire before the Lord. They disobeyed instructions, and were immediately consumed by God's fire.

“Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces. Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified'" (Leviticus 9:22 – 10:3).

We need humble ourselves and deal with sin so we can have a clean conscience. This allows you to enter worship. Repentance is part of the preparation to see the glory. As you get closer to God and obtain greater influence in the body of Christ, you are held to a higher standard of holiness and must give God glory. The glory appeared after the sin offering and purification of the camp. God personally received the offering from Moses and Aaron but not all offerings are received. Nadab and Abihu's offering was not only rejected but the two preachers died due to dishonor. They should have known better but their pride blinded them and cost them a tremendous price. They wanted to be seen rather than to glorify God. Humble yourself and God will lift you up. Don't seek your own glory but seek God and according to Matthew 6:33 all

these things will be added to you. If you don't know what to do in a situation or discussion, give God glory.

Redemptive Power of the Blood

Only God can meet every need and fulfill every void in your life. Our God loves us so much that He gave Jesus to pay the price for the redemption of all mankind for all eternity. Jesus prayed for Himself in John chapter seventeen. He prayed for the Father to Glorify the Son and that the Son be glorified.

Maintaining a pure lifestyle is detrimental to walking in the goodness of God. Sexual sin reaches into the inner spiritual depths of one's being. As a result, we are called to live a life that honors God. Our desires don't control or define us. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:27 that we are called to discipline our body and bring it into the subjection. Run from sexual immorality and God will be glorified. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). We were bought with the great price of God only Son's life. When someone buys an item there is a title and ownership transfer. It is critical to glorify God in your bodies since such a great price was offered up for us.

Joseph ran out of his coat when Potiphar's wife seduced him. I encourage you to *pull a Joseph* and run when tempted. It may not be sex, but gossip, overspending beyond your means or eating too much. If you are in a tempting situation it is not time to talk but run.

Thought Life

Sin starts in your thought life. Romans chapter seven provides insight that sin starts in the inward man. If the inner man is not renewed day by day we drift farther from God and holiness. The outward man is getting older but the inward man or spirit of a man is just getting

stronger if you are seeking and obeying the Word. We are directed to walk after the spirit and not the flesh.

God cannot give major power to most people because their words with power would make them dangerous. People will damn a piece of equipment like a mower that is not working properly. That means they are speaking empowerment over their asset to be doomed for destruction. Youth today will say something is wicked cool not realizing that they are stating that a blessing is twisted or perverted. Calling a blessing from God perverted is very dishonorable. There is no such thing as a blessing in disguise. That is like a wolf in sheep clothing. The goodness of God is clearly seen. God does not disguise His blessing with evil representations of the enemy.

The god of this world has blinded many people. Satan brings thoughts of poverty, sickness, fear, perversion and tempts you to speak them forth. You must continually choose to think on the things of God. It is your choice. Every thought you allow your mind to meditate upon matters. Every Word of God spoken out of your mouth matters. Jesus never made off colored jokes which are made from pulpits today.

A thought after a while that makes you feel contaminated is because you touched it by your spirit and you are contaminated. Satan is subtle. He puts a thought of taking one drink into a person's mind but does not reveal that it will lead to drinking a pint of Whiskey, then a joint, then heroin and ultimately death. It is best to never see or hear certain things which is why protecting what is on television in your house matters for your children's future. Your spirit knows you should not turn on a specific TV channel. If you stay with it and just say that you are appalled with what is on TV while you keep watching until your spirit dulls and your conscience is seared, then it will affect the manifestation of the Glory.

Buying a car starts with looking just like adultery. Spend time looking at the Word and your spouse. Smart people make it easy on themselves. They don't go down the street of the harlot and they cancel certain channels from their cable TV provider. Joseph ultimately passed the test of adultery by running from Potiphar's wife but why was he even in the room with her after she made passes at him. A spirit led wise child of God would avoid even being in a room alone with a flirtatious woman.

We have the mind of Christ. This alone is glorious. Jesus experienced the glory throughout His ministry. We have His mind and can experience the glory in our lives. Many people say they are complex but being Christ minded is being simple, one minded. "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). People are proud of their complexity and declare that they are complicated. In essence, they are saying they are confused and far from experiencing the simplicity that is found in Christ. They believe they are just different. This appeals to their pride. Don't fall for the devils flattery traps. Cast down dangerous thoughts quickly and hard every time they pop up in your mind. You and you alone are the keeper of your own mind. It is your mind.

IX. GETTING YOUR MIRACLE

Mary, the mother of Jesus, made a statement at a wedding party that led to the first miracle Jesus performed. "Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it. (John 2:4-5).

How did Mary know to give the servants direction like this? She knew the ways of God through prayer and the written word. The goodness of God will provide party supplies even if it

requires a molecular change. This was the beginning of signs, miracles and wonders Jesus did on earth. It was a provisional miracle which glorified God.

A key to miracles is to do whatever the Lord instructs. It sounds simple, but many Christians are not being led and obeying the Word or Spirit of God. If you are not experiencing miracles, then you are not obeying and following instructions properly. We can all mature in this realm.

The servants at the wedding honored God when they obeyed the command of Jesus to fill the pots with water. Most people would say, this guy is crazy. We need wine, not water. This rebellious, judging, faithless attitude prevents many miracles from occurring.

We are to seek His Word, not miracles. Seek him and you will experience glorious miracles. He is a miracle working God. Many people are seeking miracles and spectacular events yet missing the supernatural presence of God.

X. VISION OF VICTORY

A key to receiving the goodness of God is to keep the vision in front of you. It is challenging to complete the plan of God without keeping your mind on the Word of God. God's plan for his children is for us to live in the manifested presence of God's Glory with the blessing of health, wealth, favor and grace operating in our lives.

Christians can have the wrong vision creating a hindrance to run the race God set before them which would propel them to experience the goodness of God. Moses boldly asked God to show him His glory and received. What are you asking God to reveal?

If you don't have a vision, you will not have any focus, goals, or objectives to strive for in your life and ultimately perish. You need a vision in order to keep your faith on the goodness of God. Every public corporation releases a vision statement to operate under and for their

employees to keep their eye on as they strive to succeed in the companies goals. It may be as simple as putting your faith on the goodness of God operating in your life to experience an increase in blood pressure by three points or the ability to pay your next credit card bill. As a child, we had to learn to walk before we were able to run and jump. Faith to see the goodness of God operates in the same principles. You don't become a faith giant walking in the blessings of Abraham by starting at the top.

“Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it" (Habakkuk 2:2). Where did Habakkuk get the vision? Where do you get the vision for your prosperity, healing and ability to experience the goodness of God? Do you “dream” it up based upon desires, fantasies, wants or needs? A major problem with creating your own vision is that there are visions from hell.

Dangerous thoughts of lust, death, negative doctor reports, and debt collectors taking all you own from you are all visions from the enemy who desires to kill, steal and destroy. The enemy will put a vision of you failing and going under into your minds. We are to take captive and judge our thoughts according to the Word. A lifestyle of more than enough where you are healthy, strong and whole is the goodness of God. Habakkuk received his vision from God. “The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear?” (Habakkuk 1:1, 2).

What vision does the almighty have for us? Some people say it is not God's will for them to prosper financially, because their prosperity is within their children. Children are a blessing, but there is no scripture to indicate that financial prosperity is not for everyone who believes to see the goodness of God.

I have heard people say that God is teaching them something through their medical challenge. Does that mean that God does not want them to grow spiritually according to the Word? “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). This belief is a lie of the devil, but if you do believe it, I encourage you to learn whatever you believe God is trying to teach you and overcome your disease. If God is working with the destroyer, then we have no hope. The good news is that Satan and all his schemes are against the will and plan of God’s goodness and God’s plans for us to prosper and live a victorious life. Seek the Lord and get His vision of goodness for your life.

If you desire to experience manifestations of miracles, get Gods vision. This requires you to spend time in prayer and in the Word. Living Words from God produce vision. Vision from God will include miracles, healing, financial provision that helps people which ultimately draws men to repentance and gives God glory. You change from Glory to Glory as you get more vision.

Mind Renewal

Experiencing the glory often requires mind renewal. It is God’s desire that we prosper and be in health and to experience His presence. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). Prove means test and find out what God’s will is for us. We are supposed to find out what the will of God is for our lives. Some say everything that happens is the will of God but this is contrary to the Word. God’s will is for none to perish but people are still going to hell. It is His will for us to experience goodness but if we don’t know the Word we have nothing to stand upon when the enemy attacks.

If you believe everything is under God's control, why do you need this renewal, testing and proving if everything is His will and in His control? You wouldn't need to seek His will because everything is the will of God under this fallacy. Throughout the Word, we find scriptures that are based upon the premise that if you obey then a certain result or action will occur. There is no need for a statement based upon if an action is taken if God is totally controlling a situation. If it is good it is God. If it kills, steals or destroys, it is not from God. The will and plan of God for your life will be revealed to you as you seek Him. According to John 17:17, if you truly desire to know and do His will, He will reveal it to you. As you do the will of God, He will be glorified in your life. Dishonesty and lack of a willing heart to be doers of the Word will prevent you from hearing and seeing the will of God.

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). It is not what you know but what you do with what you know. Sin is based upon violation of light. I am not digressing. Miracles, righteousness, and obedience are attached to seeing the goodness of God which requires mind renewal. Sin will prevent you from experiencing all the goodness God has for you. “Whatever fancy name you give it, sin is sin.... God looks on the heart and as for holiness, why, without holiness no man shall see the Lord” (McPherson, 175).

XI. MANIFESTATIONS

There are different levels of the manifestation of the glory just like there are different levels of fear and reverence. Moses took off his shoes at the burning bush due to respect for God and God personally spoke to him. Jesus was reduced to just teaching and few healings because of lack of respect for Him in His own town. God can do more where He is honored and respected.

Truth & obedience is required to see the glory. Do you want God to reveal himself to you in greater ways? What could be hindering Him? Is there a wall blocking His manifestation and miracles in your life? Jesus answered this question clearly. “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21). Other translations help with clarity on the verse. “Those who really love me are the ones who not only know my commands but also obey them. My Father will love such people, and I will love them. I will make myself known to them” (John 14:21, Easy-to-Read Version). The Berkley translation uses the term *orders*. Manifest means to uncover, open, bring to light, reveal by words, or disclose the secret thoughts of the heart. It literally means to make intimately known.

Moses was given the Ten Commandments, experienced amazing miracles by the hand of God after he obeyed. Obedience is an indication that you love Him. If you obey God, you will see and experience miraculous manifestations of His glory. Obey means to value, to do, and to remember. Manifest is to uncover; to open; to bring to light, to reveal by words or to disclose the secret thoughts of the heart. It simply means to make known. As you value God’s Word, He will become more intimate with you.

There is a clear correlation with the level of reverence of God you have and the manifestation of His glory. God desires to bless His children and He will endeavor to give us a chance to get right. God sent Ezekiel to Israel to get them to repent from their rebellion so He could bless them and show them His goodness. This is the Creators’ desire.

The word blessing has been reduced to something people say when someone sneezes. The tradition of man has brought the Word down to no effect and stripped it from the power God created it to have in our lives when we say “be blessed.” The Jews understood how powerful

this word can be and that it had nothing to do with the curse of lack, disease, death and ultimately the absence of the presence of God's goodness. "In reality, however, the word *blessing* has a definite and distinct identity. Its primary biblical meaning is to say something good about. In Hebrew, a blessing is the exact opposite of a curse, which means to say something bad about" (Copeland 50).

As you speak faith and act upon the Word, the miraculous will be manifested. When God spoke the blessing forth in Genesis 1:28, it came with the power and authority within the words for the manifestation of His goodness to be carried out upon all mankind for all eternity if man would only receive.

"Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden." Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?" (Isaiah 29:13-15).

Saying "I give you glory" is meaningless unless it is stated with heart and truth. Giving God glory is a stirring of the Spirit of Truth in you. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). You can sing praise without humility, but you cannot worship God without humbling yourself. The Samaritan woman was thinking naturally in verse twenty of John chapter four. Jesus needed to get her to think spiritually. As Christians, we are to think and focus on the spiritual.

There is nothing phony about true worship. Many churches and religions sing songs and think they are worshipping but they are just singing words of emotion. Emotional pull to get people excited produces no faith, power or results. Words like "I need you God" are all about "I." How is God getting glory in this whinny, begging, and faithless song? Praise is not about

style. Just be real in your praise. You can praise God with the sound of big brass, rock, or classical if it is really you with the right heart and not fake just to be seen. It used to be a common saying for youth to tell others to get real if they were being fake. I believe God would like to tell some Christians to get real in their shallow worship. For example, some Christians will only dance if they are allowed to dance in front of the congregation where they can be seen. Such pride is an abomination to God and a distraction to others who truly want to worship in spirit and truth. Let's believe God to show us false forms of worship that would grieve Him or hinder His manifestation.

Spirit or Flesh

Let's look at three things to help identify if what you are doing and saying is spirit or flesh. First, monitor what you speak to identify what glorifies Jesus and not yourself. Everything the Spirit says and does glorifies and has an emphasis on Jesus.

A second way to identify if it is spirit is the Holy Spirit always strengthens, quickens, builds up, edifies and comforts. We should endeavor to be good at building up and edifying others. When you speak in tongues, you edify yourself or the Body of Christ. If people are not built up after discussions with you, evaluation needs to occur on what you could have done to encourage them and minister the goodness of God. We are to be led by the Spirit of God. When it is spirit, there is liberty according to 2 Corinthians 3:17.

You cannot create the manifestation of healing and prosperity. It takes faith. There is a true faith that is genuine. When the Holy Spirit moves, He magnifies and glorifies Jesus, and the Word. Recognize when Jesus is moving in your midst. It is critical to recognize, respect and respond to the Spirit of God in order to experience His Glory.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what

may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:18-21).

Do you want the wrath of God or the glory of God revealed to you? All He has to do is remove his hand of protection and the enemy has an open target to attack you. No one can say that they never knew there was a God. If you don't give God glory, you have no excuse for when He takes away His protection.

If you tell someone something that is precious to you and they forget, did they value or honor it? Of course not. If you bless someone with your most precious item and they throw it out the window, does that bless you? The truth is that they did not honor you.

If you want to see the glory, according to First Corinthians you cannot seek your own glory. It is appropriate to boast or brag as long as it is in the Lord. Paul did not brag about his ministerial accomplishments but about the goodness of the Lord. If anyone had the right to blow their own horn it would be Paul yet he humbled himself and bragged on the truth. As a result there were many demonstrations of the Spirit and of the power of God.

Boast in the glory of God. Be bold about His goodness. Rejoice in faith and the Joy of the Lord and the Spirit will manifest. Your actions either bring you closer to God and His goodness or distances you from the goodness. They are spirit or flesh.

Testimony of Goodness

As previously mentioned, earlier in my life, I raced Harley Davidson motorcycles on the professional circuit. I would like to share about events in my life that led up to a specific day where the glory of God was manifested.

We were at a raceway near Dallas, Texas on May 19, 2002. It was a glorious morning

under the pretty blue Texas sky as motorcycle drag racers warmed up their engines. I knew something was not right in my spirit. An uneasy feeling in my gut persisted even after we prayed. I said it was just pre-race excitement but in my heart I knew the truth. My whole pit crew felt the same way and questioned if I should race.

I was raised in a blue-collar family in rural Illinois. At age 14, I worked for a vice president of Nabisco cleaning horse stalls before school. During college, I worked part time for Nabisco and took a job at their corporate office when I graduated. By age 21, I earned more money in a year than I had ever imagined. I developed a love for money and the sinful lifestyle that I had entered.

My father spoke to me and I repented and got right with God. I chose to attend church again and started paying tithes. About the same time I repented and changed my lifestyle, my new job sent me as an engineer to establish plants in Russia, Asia, South America, the United States and Europe,

I worked on a project with a Saudi-based gas company. After meetings with a Muslim prince from the House of Saud and refusing their bribes and sinful lifestyles, the Lord blessed me with one of the largest contracts in the history of the industry.

After this contracted, my wife and I were led to move to Colorado to minister to outlaw bikers. This led me into drag racing as a tool to lead them to the Lord. This is how I got to the track in Dallas, Texas.

I was positioned in the right lane and prayed for God's protection when that uneasy feeling surfaced again. I did my burnout spinning my tires until they smoked. Shara watched from the starting line as I popped my clutch and quickly accelerating to cross the finish line first. "That's a new track record!" the announcer screamed. Seconds later I hit a bump in the track.

The Harley was slowing but still went airborne at 122 mph. I flew off the bike and hit a wall. The motorcycle drug me down the track at speeds still in excess of 100 mph before slamming me into a concrete culvert.

A medic said that if I lived, I would be a vegetable. This is not the good report of the Lord. It may have been the facts, but my wife Shara denied their right to remain. Truth said, “Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:10, *The Living Bible*).

I was flown by helicopter to Baylor Medical Center. Outside the ICU, Shara gathered with our pit team and friends. She said “I appreciate all of you being here but God is taking care of Mike. I’d like for all of you to get back to the raceway and fulfill the Great Commission. People who don’t know the Lord will be upset and distraught about the accident. You need to pray with them and tell them that Jesus not only bought our eternal salvation through the cross, He also paid the price for our healing. Tell them that God will heal Mike and that they will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”

A CT scan showed evidence of damage to my spinal column. My brain was swollen and the extent of the damage was unknown. My nose had been destroyed and my jaw broken.

“He’ll probably live,” the doctor told Shara, “but he’ll face a very long rehabilitation.” That night at 2 a.m. I woke up from my unconscious state and asked questions. The next day, Tuesday, I left the hospital for home. On Wednesday, I climbed onto my Harley street bike and took it for a spin. That night I stood during praise and worship at Eagle Mountain International Church and thanked God giving Him all the praise and glory. God was not glorified in my disobedience, sinful lifestyle or accident but with the miraculous healing in my body and lifestyle change. God gets all the glory.

CLOSING

When the Holy Spirit manifests, He magnifies Jesus and reveals the Word of God. As we seek the Lord, we will experience greater manifestations but until we get our glorified body, we will not experience all there is in the glory because our bodies in their current sinful nature could not handle the full presence of God.

As we grow in the things of God, we will experience more of His goodness and the glory of the Lord will shine upon us. Within His glory is health, wealth, protection along with all the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant. Seek Him and obey His Word and you will experience all the goodness God has for you.

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