

The Glory of God

A Teaching by Ron Brown

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

There is so much that Scripture says about the glory of God—from Genesis all the way through Revelation. I really believe that this is a season to seek him and to ask him to show his glory to us. Like Moses said, “Lord, show me your glory.” We need the glory of God.

As I’ve been praying and meditating and seeking the Lord over the last few weeks and months, I sense that the Lord is speaking very clearly in my heart that this is a season in which he wants to manifest his glory in a powerful way through the church but we have to desire his glory. We have to want his glory. We have to ask for his glory.

Second Corinthians 3 talks about the veil that was on the hearts and minds of the children of Israel and how that veil was taken away. There was a veil on their hearts that kept them from seeing the Messiah. Second Corinthians 3:15–18 says, “But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

When they talk about Moses, they’re talking about reading the books of Moses—the first five books of the Bible—as they read the Scriptures that prophesy about the Messiah and that give the revelation of the heart of God. There’s a veil there over the hearts of the Jewish people that Paul was referring to, but when we meet the Lord Jesus Christ that veil is removed and we’re able to see clearly that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is God in the flesh. He is the one who came to reveal and

to show us the truth and to show us the way.

The glory of God is his presence. It’s when God’s presence is among us. It showed up in the temple of Solomon. It is when God’s manifest presence was there. He manifested his presence as a pillar of fire by night and a billow of smoke that protected the children of Israel in the exodus. God’s glory manifests in a number of different ways but it is when his presence, when the presence of God, when the substance of heaven, invades our space and we are able to contact that. We’re able to hear it. We’re able to feel it. We’re able to be in rapture and caught up in God’s presence. It’s when his tangible presence is so real that we’re able to actually see it with our natural senses.

When God’s Glory Shows Up

Miracles: There are a number of things that happen when God’s glory shows up. When God’s glory shows up, there are miracles that occur. There’s a change in the natural order of things. We see things like water standing up and people going over on dry land, like when the Red Sea opened up or when the Jordan opened. That’s the glory of God. The natural elements of the world begin to rearrange themselves and we see miracles when the glory of God shows up.

Abundance: When the glory of God shows up, there’s abundance. There’s always provision and abundance when the glory of God shows up. We can see that in Luke 5, when Peter was out fishing and they had fished all night and they hadn’t caught anything, Jesus came and told them to launch out into the deep, cast the net on the other side and there was an abundance, a haul of fish given and it says in that passage



Stirrings—inspired by 2 Timothy 1:6, Amplified Version—is an abridged summary of devotionals and leadership teachings by Ron Brown, Executive Director of Teen Challenge of Southern California. They are presented at regular meetings of the TCSC Leadership Team as part of its commitment to excellence, personal growth, and spiritual vitality. The complete audio is available at <http://www.teenchallenge.org/stirrings>.



that God's glory was manifest. So there's an abundance that happens when God's glory comes.

We need the glory of God because we want to see the abundance of God on this ministry in every way, in people, in finances, in all that is needed. We need to see the glory of God. And we have been seeing the miracles and we've been

seeing the glory of God in Teen Challenge of Southern California but I believe that God wants to

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give us more. We serve a God who's always God of the more. Isn't that wonderful? He always wants to give us more grace. He wants to give us more peace. He wants to give us more blessings. Why? So we can be a more graceful people. So that we can be a people who bless the nations. God is always a God of the more, so abundance comes when the glory of God shows up.

Healings: When the glory of God shows up, healings occur. In Matthew 9, people were asking if this was a sin the man committed or his family, he said, "No, this all happened for the glory of God." It was for the glory of God to show up. So when the glory of God shows up, there are healings. We get reports every week of people who have inoperable cancers and all other kinds of reports that they're getting in their lives. They need the miracle touch of God. We need the glory of God to show up so when we call on his name and God's glory shows up, that people's bodies are healed.

Revelation: In Isaiah 6, when the glory of God showed up, Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up and his glory filled the temple. Isaiah began to see and have a revelation and a vision of who God is. Moses stood before the burning bush and the bush was not consumed. That was the glory of God in manifestation. He could see it with his eyes, he could hear with his ears the voice of God. God's glory showed up and Moses had this vision of who the Lord was.

Supernatural Protection: When the glory of God shows up, there's supernatural protection. We need the protection of the Lord upon us. We have so many vans that travel up and down these roads every week. We have aging facilities and issues in our buildings and I'm always praying, "Lord, I need your glory to cover Riverside, cover Ventura, cover Orange County, because there are so many things there that could go wrong and I believe it because of the glory of God that we are protected in so many ways—from dangers seen and unseen. And so we need the glory of God for supernatural protection.

Peace and Rest: When the glory of God shows up, there's peace and there's rest. When the Israelites were in the

exodus, they were able to rest and be at peace. Whenever they saw that pillar of fire, they saw that cloud, they knew God was there and they would be alright. Even when they were going through difficult territory, there was no water, all kinds of things out there in the midst of the desert, but God's glory was with them and so there was a sense of peace and a sense of rest.

God's Visible Kingdom: When God's glory shows up, his kingdom becomes visible. When Jesus came and he started preaching, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." When the kingdom of heaven is at hand, people start getting delivered from demonic oppression and all kinds of miracles of God's grace are imparted on people and it's all through the glory of God.

Enemies Destroyed: When the glory of God shows up, enemies are destroyed. The Israelites looked back and the waters closed on the Egyptians. When they were marching across Canaan, the glory of God was with Joshua and they were able to defeat all of their enemies that were possessing the lands so they could dispossess the land of their inheritance. I want you to know that God has given us a land of inheritance but we have to dispossess the land still.

You might say, "Well, Jesus did it all!" Yes, he broke the back of principalities and powers when he got up from the dead on the third day. He's alive forevermore. But we have to co-labor with him in order to seize and to take back all that has been taken from us and to enforce the decree of God's word on the enemy. So that requires a forceful, forward advance.

Matthew 11 says the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent must take it by force. The devil is not going to lay down and give you your land. We have to fight for it and we have to demand it. But God is with us and so we want to see the kingdom of God and God's enemies destroyed.

Salvation: When God's glory shows up, people are saved. There is salvation that comes when the glory of God shows up on

the scene. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul was talking to the church at Corinth about the moving of the gifts of the spirit within the body and he

talked about when people come in who are unlearned and they are unsaved. He said that when they see the glory of God manifest in the spirit operating, with tongues and interpretation and words of wisdom and word of knowledge, he says they are convicted and they fall down and they say, "Surely God is among you. Tell me how to meet him!" and they get saved. So

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Revelation of God's Holiness: When the glory of God shows up, we get a revelation of his holiness. We get a revelation of his "otherness" because God is holiness, he's separated, he is not like the things of this world. And when we see the holiness of God, it causes us to begin to cry out as Isaiah did, "Woe am I! A man of unclean lips. I need a coal off of the altar because I have seen the Lord!" And when we see the Lord, that holiness of God causes us to recognize the places of brokenness in us that we need God to come and cover. So when God's glory shows up, there's a revelation of his holiness.

Repentance: When God's glory shows up, it leads us to repentance. I think about the prodigal son. He was on his way home. He was already deciding how he was going to repent when he got home, but when he got home and he experienced the lavish love of the father, he said, "Oh my! I've sinned against heaven and I've sinned against you." When you experience that unconditional love of God enfold and envelop you, it causes you to repent and to turn from your thoughts and from your ways that are contrary to the precepts and the teachings of who God is because you really begin to see just how much you're loved.

Deeper Commitment: When the glory of God shows up, there's a deeper commitment to sanctification of life and to the call to serve. Our call to serve is confirmed when the glory of God shows up. We become confirmed in who we are. I think about Jacob wrestling with the angel of the Lord. As he wrestled with the glory of God, he wrestled with God himself. He was touched and his life was forever changed. He was separated and sanctified for his purpose. He was no longer Jacob but he became Israel because he was touched by the glory and by the presence of God. And so he was separated, totally sanctified from his old ways of trickery and cunning to a place where he was called a prince with God. So when you wrestle with the glory of God, you are changed, you are confirmed in your identity.

I think about the Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when they were in the fiery furnace, the glory of God was in the furnace with them. And as they were in the midst of the furnace, they were not touched. They were protected by the glory of God, but they were also confirmed in their commitment because they would not bow down, they would not compromise, so there was protection. There was also confirmation in that whole experience, that the glory of God was with them, that helped them to see their identity. Of course, there was also Daniel in the lion's den, and many others.

The Other Side of the Glory of God

Now there are some things that happen on the other side when the glory of God shows up. Pharaoh also saw the glory of God but it hardened his heart. And so the glory of God that comes to bring protection, grace, mercy and all the wonderful things that I just got through sharing about, that same glory caused Pharaoh to harden his heart even more against God.

When the glory of God shows up, it can cause rebellion. It caused a spirit of insanity to come on Nebuchadnezzar because he would not surrender himself to the glory of God. That's why it says in 2 Corinthians 3:16, "But whenever...the veil is taken away." Pharaoh did not turn to God—the veil was not taken away, so he didn't understand what the glory of God was all about. As a matter of fact, he kept trying to imitate the glory of God with his own staff magicians. So when the veil is not taken away, people don't know what to do with the glory of God. But when the veil is taken away, we understand how to enter into the fullness of what God has.

When the glory of God shows up, sometimes it can produce bitterness and anger and resentment. I believe that's what happened with Saul when they sang the song, "Saul has killed his thousands, David has killed his tens of thousands." The glory of God was upon David's life as he killed Goliath and performed all of the exploits that he did under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And so Saul saw the glory of God and it caused him to become resentful and angry and bitter because the veil had not been removed from his eyes so that he understood that it was a God thing.

When the glory of God shows up, it can cause persecution. I think about the early church. They saw the glory of God in the upper room when the spirit of God showed up on the day of Pentecost and Peter stood up and he began to preach and the power of God was seen upon the church. It says the glory of God was seen upon the church and as a result, they entered into a great time of persecution because the glory of God was upon them.

When the glory of God shows up, there's also temptation to build religious monuments and to stop moving. God's presence is always moving. On the mount of transfiguration when Jesus was transfigured before them and Elijah and Moses were there on the mountain and Peter said he wanted "to build a booth to this and we just want to camp out right here" and Jesus said, "No, we're not going to build a tabernacle here and camp out on this mountain." Because God is always

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moving. Remember, the glory cloud kept moving. The pillar of fire kept moving. Why? Because we're going somewhere. And so God's always moving. But there's a temptation when the glory shows up that we want to try to own it and we want to put some kind of shelter around it and we want to hold on to it and that's not what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to be changed by this glory and begin to reflect the image of the Lord Jesus.

The Transforming Power of the Glory of God

It says in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory." From glory to glory. So literally, what's supposed to happen when we come in contact with the glory of God is that we are to be transformed. And it's the same as the word used in Romans 12 (*metamorphoo*) that we are literally transformed. Like it says in Romans 12, that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind.

When the glory of God comes, there is a transformation of our character, there's a transformation of our nature, there's a transformation of who we are as a person so that we begin to shine with the glory of Almighty God, so that when people look at us, they should not just see the reflection of who we are, but they should also see the glory of God. They should see the face of Jesus as we walk about the Earth. So we need

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the glory of God. People don't need to look at us and say, "Oh, those are the religious people." They need to see the glory of God. These are folks who have been transformed by God's power and

now they're out transforming their community, they're transforming their dead church, they're transforming their nation, they're transforming the world.

And so we need to be reflectors of the glory of God as we move out into the world and he takes us from faith to faith and from glory to glory. So we don't camp out and say, "Oh, that was a good meeting, wasn't it?" and we just want to stay with that meeting. No, no, no. God has another meeting he wants to have with you. He says, "Come on. I need to meet with you today." And if we meet with the Lord on a regular basis, we are changed more and more into the image of Christ so that when people come in contact with us that we should be able to bring the glory of God into their lives.

Recognize the Glory of God

I believe this is a season where God is saying, "Do you want my glory?" Then the glory of God must be recognized. You must recognize when the glory of God is among you. As I was sharing a little bit with our students at Spiritual Emphasis, when we get up and we worship and we dance and we jump and we do all that stuff—which is great. It's wonderful to be expressive. I never want to stop that. But when the glory of God shows up, there has to be a different kind of response. And so we have to start teaching people how to respond. If we get up and we're say, "Oh, God! Come and touch us! We worship you! We praise you! Oh, God! Come! Come!" and we do all of this stuff and then he comes, we need to recognize that he's there. If we don't recognize that he came, with all that worship and all that praise and asking that we did, and we don't know how to properly respond when the glory comes, then we will miss our moment of visitation, because we treat it as a song service. We treat it as an entertainment moment. We treat it as an exercise of vibrato before God, not recognizing that the seriousness of what we're doing is that we are literally invoking the presence of God, we're asking for the *shekinah* glory of God to show up.

Then he shows up and we don't even recognize he's there. And he's there to meet all of our needs, he's there to transform us more and more into the image of his son, he's there to do miracles in our lives, and we're not even aware that he was there. We have to learn to recognize when the glory of God has moved into the room. And it has moved into our lives when the glory of God has moved into our situation.

Expect the Glory of God

The next thing is we need is to expect the glory of God to come. Do you expect the glory of God to come or are we just going to have another chapel service? We're just going to do another Spiritual Emphasis? A jumping-up-and-down time? Are we just going to have another time together?

Do you expect the glory of God? We must not only recognize it but we must expect. We should have an expectancy that the glory of God is going to show up.

I think about Elijah when he was on Mount Carmel. He was up there. He had them prepare the sacrifice, dig some trenches, put in some water, put some wood out and completely wet it down. Because the glory of God is going to show up. "I'm expecting the glory of God because I've been praying and God told me he's going to come here, reveal himself and he was going to show that the prophets of Baal were nothing but false prophets and God is going to show up." He expected God to show up. And guess what? God showed up! He came in fire—the glory of God manifested in the form of fire and totally consumed the altar and everything on and around it and

it showed the truth of who he is. We must expect the glory of God to show up.

I don't know how great the expectancy was of the people in the upper room but I think it was pretty high because Jesus was gone and so they were in the upper room. He told them to "Go wait, because I'm sending you some glory." That's what he told them. "I'm sending you the glory of my presence." And so they did not move until they got it. Now if they had not been expecting anything—they didn't know what it was going to be like. They didn't know it was going to be a sound as a rushing mighty wind. They didn't know that tongues of fire were going to sit on each one of them. They didn't know that. But they knew that Jesus said, "Wait until you get it." So they were expecting something to happen. So there was a great anticipation and a great air of expectancy in the upper room.

We can't predict exactly what God's going to do. Too many of our services are predictable. We can set our watch by, "by this time they're having a slow song after the fast song and then they're going to pass the offering basket, then the pastor's going to do his two-point, three points, then it's going to be 'Amen,' 'Hallelujah,' 'Kumbayah,' 'Let's go home.'" That's because there's no expectancy for the glory of God to show up.

But they were expecting something to happen and when something happened, they understood, recognized and honored the presence of God, allowed the presence of God to transform them and to change them. Peter stood up and he was a changed man. This was the same guy who had spent three years with Jesus, had denied Jesus and all of a sudden, when the glory showed up, this man was changed. It says that we are changed and transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, who is the Spirit. When the Spirit of God showed up, Peter was transformed and he began to speak and 3,000 people came to the Lord. Why? Because the glory of God transformed him so completely. And that's the thing that we have to recognize—that we must expect the glory of God.

Desire the Glory of God

The next thing is we need to desire. Do you want the glory of God? I think the people in the upper room wanted something to happen because they felt like they were all alone and Jesus was gone, so they desired him to come in power. They desired him to come in demonstration. They desired him to come in manifestation.

They were in a land that was occupied by the enemy. The Roman soldiers were occupying their land, because Jesus

didn't kick out the Roman soldiers as they anticipated and expected, so they were looking for something to give them some solace and some peace and some comfort in the midst of a land that was overrun by the enemy. I want you to know that the enemy is all around us. We need to recognize that. We need to understand that we must desire the glory of God so we're not trying to operate in our own strength, in our own power, trying to fix things ourselves. We need the glory. We need to say, "God, I just need your glory to show up. I need your glory. I desire your glory. I want your glory to show up, God."

At one point Moses said, "God, I'm not even leaving from this place until I know that you're going to go with me." In other words, he said, "Until your glory comes, I'm not moving. Those folks can

sit out there and they can whine and complain all day long, but I will not move from this place until your glory comes." And so he waited for the glory of God to show up and to lead him forward.

There's something about the glory of God and entertaining the presence of God that we have to participate with. Elijah was on Mount Carmel. He believed, he desired, he expected that the glory of God was going to come. However, it required an activation and a touch point with heaven in order for that to occur. The touch point is this: it says he stepped out and he began to speak. It says in 1 Kings 18, "At the time of the evening sacrifice"—which is the time of worship, which is the time of honoring his presence, which is the time of invoking his presence and invoking his glory to come—it says, "At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah stepped forth and he began to speak."

When the glory of God moves into the house and moves into our lives, we have to give voice to what the spirit of God is saying. God activates everything by the spoken word. It is the word of faith that is revealed to us. When the glory of God shows up, God begins to talk. The spirit of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, so when the glory of God is there, he's going to begin to speak to you. It might be that right now, you need to call people up for healing. Right now, you need to give an altar call, there's somebody that needs to get saved right now. Right now, this is what I'm doing—I'm going to bless some people with some jobs. You need to speak that out—that "I'm going to get some jobs, some better jobs for you."

So when the glory of God shows up, we have to listen and give voice to what he's speaking in the atmosphere. Because what he's speaking in the atmosphere is already what he's willed. We don't have to say, "Lord if it be your will, give this brother a job." "Lord, if it be your will, heal this brother."

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No, no. Because his will is revealed. Because the Spirit of God searches the heart of God and the deep things of God and he brings them and reveals them to us. And so the Spirit of God will speak to us when the glory of God comes and then we give voice to what God is saying.

Just like Peter did on the day of Pentecost. When the glory of God came, they were all sitting there. Nobody knew what to say. But old Peter, he was listening and he gave voice. He said, "Well, these folks aren't drunk as you suppose, seeing it's still early in the morning. Let me tell you, this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." He began to give voice to what he heard in the spirit because he did not have a class that taught him that this is what the prophet Joel spoke. That came from the Holy Ghost. He got up under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He heard God and he gave voice to what God was doing, spoke it out and 3,000 people came to the Lord. So there's a need for us to give voice to the glory of God when the glory of God shows up.

In Psalm 16:11 it says that in the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy and that at his right hand there are pleasures forevermore. And it says in Psalm 22:3 that God inhabits or indwells the praises of his people.

There are a number of different Hebrew words for the word "praise." But in our Bible, all of them are "praise" throughout the Psalms—"praise the Lord," "praise him in the sanctuary," "praise him on the loud cymbals." And so the word is always just translated "praise." There's the *halal* praise, which is the dance I love to do, there's the *shabach* praise, which is loud proclamations and shouts of glory to God. And then there's a word for the praise of hand clapping. And there's the word *barak*, which means to kneel, or to lay prostrate—that word is also translated "praise" or sometimes "worship."

But in that particular passage where it says that God inhabits the praises of his people, the word is *tehila*. And *tehila*

praise is prophetic praise. It's when you actually give voice prophetically to what God is speaking in the atmosphere. And so when he says, "I inhabit the praises of my people," he's saying "All of my glory diffuses and comes and begins to work in your life when you begin to give voice prophetically to what I'm speaking when my presence is manifest among you." So if we don't ever learn how to enter into *tehila* praise, which is the prophetic voice of God that we give to the glory that is around us, we will not have God inhabiting our praises and we will not be receiving the fullness of what God has for us. So we have to get exercise in learning how to listen so that we're able to give *tehila* praise, which is the kind of praise that gives voice to what God is doing in that moment so that we can see his glory manifest in our lives.

This is A New Season

So I believe that this is a moment, this is a season, this is a time that God is saying, "I want you to be more sensitive to my spirit. I want you to desire my glory. I want you to recognize my glory when it's among you and I want you to speak because when you speak, that releases my power to begin to move in miraculous ways to bring about my will. And my will is always to bless, my will is always to do good things, my will is always to save, my will is always to deliver, my will is to always protect my people, my will is to always provide for my people, my will is to always get you to your expected end and to fulfill the destiny that I ordained and that I wrote before the foundation of the world."

So let us be men and women of God who desire the glory of God like never before in this new season, in this new time that God is bringing upon the Earth.

In Jesus' name, amen.

