

The Glory Spotlight



Read Philippians 2:10-11 and open with prayer.

Glory. An interestingly complicated word.

In today's culture, glory refers to the height of achievement, enjoyment, or prosperity. Olympians and Fortune 500 executives strive to attain such glory in their competitive fields.

But as Christians, glory means something entirely different. Glory refers to what we lavish on God as we worship Him. It represents the overarching goal of all that we do in His Name as He works in us, and then through us.

When rivalry pits Christians against Christians or ministry against ministry, it takes the focus off of God. And those battles leave new seekers as casualties on the side of the road. God gets lost in the process.

Throughout Scripture, God makes it crystal clear that He will not share His glory with another. Jesus understood that (John 17:1) as He chose to endure torture and suffering to open wide the gates of heaven to all who believe.

- 1) The work of salvation goes far beyond the salvation of a lost soul. What do you see as its ultimate purpose according to Ephesians 1:6, 12-14?
- 2) When we attempt to take credit for the wonderful accomplishments God has worked in and through us, what does that tell the world?

In order to acknowledge Jesus as the exalted Lord, we must dethrone self. Not an easy task in today's self-glorifying culture. So many seem to be after their 15 minutes of fame to shine the spotlight of them alone.

As you think on your spiritual journey, what kinds of thrones have you built for yourself that rival or even divert people's attention away from God?

One key word can help us tremendously: humbleness. Jesus set the example as He laid aside His rights and took the form of a servant. Humbleness keeps our eyes on the One who deserves all the glory.

Our job as His children is to shine the spotlight on His goodness and love, not on our achievements or accomplishments. When we deflect any recognition or reward back to God, it brings Him glory – and rightfully so.

Dethroning self leaves the seat for the only One God intended to occupy it – His Son. When Jesus returns to earth with the armies of heaven on the Day of Judgment, every knee will bow, whether in heaven, on earth or under the earth. No one will escape.

Every tongue will confess His lordship and authority, whether willingly or by compulsion, and Jesus will reign for all eternity. Not for His glory, but to His Father's glory.

Close with prayer by asking God to work a humble spirit in you that glorifies Him alone.

