

WCCC 2025
Brother Dana Congdon
We Beheld His Glory (1)

Good morning brothers and sisters. Our theme verse, Isaiah 43:7.

*"Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him."
Isaiah 43:7 NKJV*

Lord willing, we will look at the context of this verse at some point. But let me just say this to begin: Isaiah is prophesying to get the remnant to higher ground. Down through the history of God's people, there has been a common ground where man and God could meet. At first, it was called paradise. Then it was called Mount Zion. Then it was called "in the heavenlies". And back in Hebrews, again, you have come to Mount Zion.

That is our choice as people who live on this earth. Either we live as earthlings, thinking of things on earth and nothing more. Or something catches our eye and gives us a desire for higher ground. This is really what we are talking about at the present time. We are not in glory yet. When Jesus comes again, there will be glory.

Do you know there is glory every day in the heavenlies? Are you there?

Our Lord, we pray for higher ground. In the last days we find ourselves too long on this earth. All its promises frustrated. But something tells us there is something more. And having caught a gleam of glory bright in Jesus Christ, for the rest of our lives, we want to find that place on higher ground. So we pray together in this hour that will motivate us to find that higher ground today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint this time. We pray in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Now I sure am glad that I am going last. My brothers have shared some wonderful words. And we have a special gift here this weekend, because our brother Kwok not only speaks Mandarin and English, but he speaks the language of Gen Z. For he spoke so fast and covered so much ground.

There are 467 references to glory, and he has covered 465. The brothers gave me some scripture which he has tread over. He stole all my ideas, but he did a wonderful job.

Unfortunately that leaves me with having to share 3 messages on the 2 remaining verses on glory that he didn't share.

The first one is 1 Corinthians 11:15 where it says if a woman has long hair it is her glory. I'm afraid I'm not qualified on that one. But he left for me one scripture I can preach on. Proverbs 16:31 says that "a man's hoary gray head is his crown of glory". Now I can take some time to preach to bald-headed men that they have fallen short of the glory of God.

But since everything has been taken, I am so glad I can talk about things so large and wonderful. Our brother Godwin shared the wonderful straight line of God's purpose for His glory to come. I hope his message was clear to you because now I am going to take you into the cloud of mystery. Because, after all, glory is a mystery. And all attempts at defining it are only partial.

There are those who have been apprehended by glory and they don't even know what that means. And there are those who sing, "My eyes have seen the glory of the Lord" and they have no idea what that means in their lives.

But fortunately, even as I thought about sharing this morning, in San Francisco, the glory cloud came down. At the risk of leaving you in a fog, I have some riddles to share with you. Strangely, the answer to these riddles are the same word which I won't mention.

Riddle number one: what can be seen by all, but not seen by most? What can not be seen by you but seen by everyone else? What can evoke both terror and strong desire at the same moment? What is most manifest when hidden? What is a macro-cosmic place beyond the universe and yet located within an invisible heart? What defines an age and also a place? What is not seen but gives a life-changing vision? What can produce a longing and a memory of things you have never yet experienced?

The glory of God brings us into mysteries beyond what we understand. In fact, the glory of God is so absolutely important that it is at the very center of the gospel we preach.

Do you remember how Paul in Romans 1 says man saw God's glory but didn't recognize God's glory and instead went towards the glory of an eagle, or the moon, or a person instead of the all-glorious God? The way he puts it in verse 22,

"Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."

Romans 1:22-23 NKJV

Foolish. Making anything an idol. After seeing the Creator God in His great power and Godhead in the universe. It would be like standing at the edge of the Great Canyon and singing "How Great I am! How Great I am!" What kind of a foolish person would do that? The majority of mankind. Hopefully, not you.

We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. What a tragedy. The Bible says Satan's strategy is to keep us blind to the glory of God. He continually distracts us. Paul says this in 2 Corinthians 4:3,

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV

Praise God for the day you looked in Jesus' face and saw God His Father. The Holy Spirit had to take off that veil that Satan had placed on our hearts. And now we can give praise and glory to God. Many of you have believed the truth and are on the road to glory.

You remember in 2 Thessalonians where Paul speaks to the young Christians,

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 NKJV

I don't know if you agree with me, but certainly one of the most wonderful mysterious verses is this: Now we are the children of God, yet it does not appear what we shall be like but we shall when we see Him, be like Him. So we are being drawn into the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, created for His glory.

In England, in the 17th Century, there were some wonderful Christian men. They wrote a little booklet for young Christians. It was based upon the Westminster Confession of Faith which is a large document of things Christians believe. But in this Westminster Shorter Catechism for Young People, they simply defined the very purpose of our lives, "Created for His glory".

It says this: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." That is a very profound summing up for the reason for us being alive. To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. It is wonderful that since we were saved, we can enjoy God. We can worship Him. We can pray to Him. We can seek after Him. We can see Him doing things in the lives of others. We can know many blessings in our enjoyment of God. And indeed, this definition "enjoy Him together" could define what it means to keep the Sabbath.

You may be a servant of God or a Sunday School teacher, whatever you are, are you observing and obeying the Sabbath? Are you enjoying God? Are you spending time with Him? It is a wonderful part of our Christian life.

But by the grace of God when we were saved, we were also recreated as a new creation that we would serve as vessels of glory. Now as we stand at the very threshold of the return of the Son of Man on the clouds of glory, with His angels with Him, to collect those of the elect from the north, east, south and west of the very threshold, there is one great problem for many Christians today. They indeed enjoy God forever, but they are not vessels of glory. They have no thought of glorifying God. They would rather be an opera singer, singing "Me, Me, Me, Me, Me!". Praying prayers for themselves, enjoying God when God does things for them, wanting to hear messages about how they can be happy Christians.

Although Jesus clearly says, "now as my servant, you are to be the light of the world. So shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Now you can't blame a Christian for being totally selfish if they have never seen the glory. What can remove us from looking at our own belly button? Only a whisper from the glory. Only a moment where we see something more beautiful than anything we have ever conceived. And having seen eternal glory, something changes in our life.

Brothers and sisters, I can't blame the saints because too much of Christian preaching is just "enjoy God" and nothing about being a vessel of glory. The challenge of it, the cost of it, the glory of it.

I'll tell you upon whose faces you can see the glory of God today - it is those who have served the Lord.

"When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
What a glory He shines on our way!"

Those of you who serve the Lord with all your heart. It has taken you through tough times, but have you ever regretted the glory? To know Him sometimes in the miraculous power of His resurrection, and sometimes as He joins with us in fellowship in our suffering. Oh, we have been called into an eternal glory to be tasted even now.

So our dear brother Peter says in 1 Peter 5:10,

"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." 1 Peter 5:10-11 NKJV

Have you ever seen the glory? Can you forget it? Can the heavenly vision be forgotten? Can Abraham forget when the Lord of glory appeared? Can Moses forget when he saw the burning bush? Can Isaiah forget when he saw the temple full of the glory of God?

It is pretty hard to forget. When Paul met the glory of Jesus on the road to Damascus, do you think he ever forgot that experience? What could be so fascinating about this world once you have seen eternal glory?

Back when I was a kid in 8th grade, we studied geometry. Our teacher made us all read a little book called “Flat Land”. I won’t even ask how many of you have read “Flat Land” because it was written when I was going to school, even before there was electricity. The story is about this wonderful girl named Square. She lived in length and width, so happy in her two-dimensional life, until she met and fell in love with Sphere. She could somehow figure out there was a length and a width, but what is this other dimension? So Sphere tried to help Square understand what life is really like in a third dimension.

And then our teacher introduced us to solid geometry and I lost the way all from there.

But I noticed something that happened down through the history of my lifetime, from Gen X and the Millennials. Now as I taught young people., the Millennials and Gen X, I would share with them all the things in the Bible and they would say “yeah, yeah, yeah we know.” But many of them, as it were, found that transcendent dimension of glory in Narnia. They found it in Middle Earth. And these fantasies became more real than the reality they were living in. Because C.S. Lewis and Tolkien had captured something in the gospel.

They showed that life was something more than waking up in the morning, eating your congee, going to school. There was a wardrobe you could go through. There was transcendence to life.

After World War Two, C.S. Lewis stopped writing his books on apologetics. He had written “The Problem of Pain” and “Mere Christianity” and other books to appeal to the Christian message. His answer, when he was interviewed on radio on why he switched away from these things to fantasy, was very perceptive. He presciently realized that even in the early 50s, we had entered the postmodern era. Up to that point, and it is true in history, I believe, you could reason with people. There was logic. There was truth and error. But after World War Two people scrapped logic and reasoning. They left the modern logic and began to think and believe “what feels for me”.

So C.S. Lewis found his way into the imagination of this new generation to see transcendence in his stories.

Sorry for getting off track here. Salvation has great blessing even while here on earth, but our salvation has bigger goals than what we can gain on this earth. Glory can come suddenly. Our brother last night shared the straight line of glory where things have to be plumblined according to God's pleasure, and then His glory shines. But these are all types - the tabernacle and temple - of the final glory. We find in our Christian life the Lord breaks forth suddenly in glory.

Glory is wildly unpredictable. Some time, some saint will pray, "Lord, rend the heavens and come down and show Yourself because the people have forgotten what You are like," and His glory appears. As a matter of fact, the Lord Jesus is manifesting His Shekinah glory all the time for those who have an ear to hear and an eye to see.

Now, many Christians say, "yes I have seen the glory. I pray for the glory. I think about the glory. I preach about the glory." But they have never seen the glory. It is like an abstract, sentimental thing.

"Oh there will be glory
Be glory for me!"

Wouldn't that be wonderful that one day we will go into glory?

I was saved at 20 years old. My wife and I were living in the mountains of North Carolina. We were going to this little Baptist church there. There was a brother in that church. I have since found out that in every church there must be one brother who occasionally shouts.

I was a new Christian. It was a particular Sunday. Something happened, somebody got saved, somebody got an answer to prayer, somebody got healed from a disease. You know, in Baptist churches, we always gave an invitation for people to come forward and be saved. One Sunday this person came to be saved, and this brother stood up, raised his hands in the air and said, "Glory!". He made "glory" a five-syllable word. "GLLLOOOORRRY!"

The first time I heard it, it scared me to death. I had no idea what glory meant. I was a brand new Christian. Later I got to know the brother. And indeed he had what I call "glory sensitivity". How sensitive is your glory-o-meter? God is doing glorious things. Does it even register on the needle for you?

Now this brother only stood up and shouted every two or three months. It wasn't a regular thing. You know what I saw as a young, naive Christian? This guy saw God, and I missed Him. It opened my eyes to the mystery of glory in some way.

If we have seen the glory, then we are the more responsible when we come before the judgement seat of glory. How many Christians do you hear say "glory for the

judgement seat”? Everyone is afraid of the judgement seat. We say every Christian will come before the judgement seat of Christ, and everyone says “oh no not me”. But there will be glory. And we are responsible.

Do you remember how that moment came in Kadesh Barnea when God said, “I am not letting you go into the glory land”? Listen to what God said in Numbers 14:21.

*"But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it."
Numbers 14:21-23 ESV*

God forbid, even as the writer of Hebrews wrote, that anyone having seen the glory turns their back from following the road to glory. And Revelation also warns us: the churches that had seen the Lord holding the lampstand - that is who they are - and see the lampstand removed, are in for judgement.

I cannot imagine what will happen to those churches and testimonies that began with the golden lampstand and lost it in the journey of worldly pursuits. When the hope of glory invades our heart as Christ dwells within, from then on our lives become a search for more of His glory.

That’s what Paul was doing on the mountaintops. “I press on that I may lay hold of Him who lay hold of me”. Are you pursuing glory? I hope your water has not been so contaminated by the world’s fluorides. If your concerns and worries are 90% earthly, you are on the wrong track. Because we have been warned by our Lord as the King of the kingdom of heavens, that His glory can come forth at any moment.

Now it’s true that we also need to prepare the way for His glory. Our brother’s wonderful message last night pointed that way. Isaiah says in 40:3,

*"A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
Isaiah 40:3-5 ESV*

You can just picture all of those Israelites coming out to the wilderness to listen to John the Baptist speaking. As he told them to repent and to prepare the way, then suddenly the glory of the Lord came in Jesus Christ. And He preached that same message of repentance.

They had to repent of their sins, for sure. And their baptism was a baptism for the remission of sins. But I will never forget how back in 1975, I first heard my brother Stephen Kaung speak of this repentance. He said that repentance was not only for their sins, but repentance came when Jesus was in their midst, and they realized that they were not ready. Our lives are not ready. We are not on the way to glory. We are not preparing the glory road. If that is a testimony of our need for repentance as Christians, are we ready? Have we dug a highway for our Lord?

This is a serious matter - glory. This isn't a pie-in-the-sky, one day when we are in glory. This is a glory that shines even now on this earth and changes everything it touches. The glory comes and burns up all that is unworthy. And if glory touches you, eternal life has touched you too.

My prayer is that you have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Such a heavenly vision has great keeping power to keep your life on the way. And if you live on that higher tableland long enough, your ambition becomes not just treasuring up things on earth, but an ambition to treasure up riches in glory. And the desire, the ambition to do all things for the glory of God becomes the desire of your heart.

Remember Paul in the midst of his argument in 1 Corinthians 10:31, he ends by saying,

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV

Praise God. Go to school for the glory of God. Work on that job for the glory of God. Raise a godly family to the glory of God. This prepares the way for His glory to come.

Now, before we go any further, I want to spend the rest of this time defining the mystery of glory a little bit more.

Our brother Kwok covered all of this in 2.5 minutes. It will probably take me a little bit longer.

When we look at this word “glory”, it is very interesting, isn’t it? In the Old Testament, there is the word “kāḇōḏ”. It is used 185 times. Do you know what it means when it is not used in religious talk? It means “heavy”.

I don’t know if you remember the story where Eli was sitting on a bench next to the tabernacle. A warrior came back from the battle and said, “the ark of the covenant has been taken by the Philistines!”. When he heard it, he had a heart attack, fell over and broke his neck. It says in 1 Samuel 4 that he broke his neck because Eli was kāḇōḏ. My English translation just says “because Eli was fat”.

Whenever somebody has glory they are fat. It is the first meaning of this word “glory”. Now as you probably have learned, Hebrew words are very visual. This is what they are trying to describe: when God comes near, the atmosphere gets heavy. Heavy with His presence.

When Stephen said, “the God of glory called Abraham”, we are not given any further details as to what Abraham saw of the Lord of glory, but we see a key significance regarding kāḇōḏ. Because God’s calling of Abraham was so heavy that it laid on him the rest of his life. He may not have actually seen anything. But the heaviness was there. God’s promise sent him out on a sojourn to find a city who has foundations and whose maker and builder is God.

There is no more earthly guy than Abraham. He went through Bethel and Shechem and all kinds of cities. Now he really wasn’t looking for a heavenly city, he was looking for that heaviness that called him. “I want to live where He lives.” Isn’t that wonderful?

Here’s the first example. During this weekend, as different people are speaking, some people here will sense that heaviness of God’s Word when it comes to them. And others will think “they are just more words.” God’s Word comes with heaviness. Sometimes we say “it becomes rhema”.

There I was in 1964, sitting in my armchair, reading C.S. Lewis. And there had been a revival that week in our little Baptist church. Nobody got saved Monday night, Tuesday night, Thursday night. I was going to college at that time. I picked up that book, “The Problem of Pain” by C.S. Lewis and a thought came to me:

“Here you are, 20 years old, and God created you. And the preacher said that Jesus died because He loves you. And you, for 20 years, have never gotten down on your knees one time and thanked Him.”

And that thought was so heavy it brought me to my knees. And I had the shortest prayer ever prayed. Because when I said “Dear God”, the fountain of my tears opened up, and I realized how proud I was. I looked so bad, and the Lord was so good. And I cried and I cried.

Then I remembered the chorus that the choir always sang. Every meeting, every service they would sing this song: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus". And as I looked full in His wonderful face, I was saved that night, April 1st, 1964.

Don't you tell me the Word of God doesn't have glory. The Word of God is heavy if we hear it by the Holy Spirit.

I just read a wonderful testimony in recent days by Elizabeth Fischbacher. I believe most of you know that our sister was a missionary in China and worked with Watchman Nee. It was her wonderful personal testimony of how she came into the fullness of the Holy Spirit. She marked several points along the road.

One of her testimonies was about a heavy word that changed her whole life. The heavy word was Philippians 4:6-7.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Now her own testimony is that when she got into difficulties - difficult situations and relationships - she felt like they were such burdens to her. In those early days she was always praying to God to take that problem or person away. They were such problems. But the heavy rhema that came to her was this: Now be anxious for nothing, but by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving..." and God spoke to her:

"Every time you pray to me about a problem, come with thanksgiving. Thank me for the problem. Thank me for the situation."

And it changed her whole life. The Lord began to show her how all these difficulties were working in her an eternal weight of glory.

Do you believe that Word? Do you still pray and supplicate and complain? Or do you always thank God for everything that is coming your way?

A heavy Word

When the glory of God came down on Mount Sinai, those Ten Commandments were a heavy Word that could produce the birth of a nation. How do you describe the glory of God? It is heavy.

I was saved in the days where there was what they called the “Jesus movement” here in California. Many hippies and drug users got saved by the grace of God. A group of these young people called me to speak to them on the book of Revelation. So I would open up the book and speak the things in the book of Revelation and do you know what they always said? “Heavy man, it’s heavy.”

That’s the idea! This isn’t just normal talk. The precious Word of God isn’t just normal words. When they become heavy, they transform us from glory to glory. To this word *kāhōd* was added 2 more Hebrew words to describe glory, “*hadar*” and “*tipharah*”. Added to “heavy” were these words that meant “splendour”, “brightness” and “beauty”.

How did the Old Testament saints define glory? Here we are. “Beauty, splendour, radiance, heavy”. The rabbis tell us that during the time when Solomon built the temple to the time the temple was destroyed, there was a phenomenon in Jerusalem. Whenever people came towards the temple, they felt the heaviness. There was a beauty that was more than just the outward beauty of gold and all its fine furnishings. That is how they got to one of song of ascents:

*“I was glad when they said unto me
Let us go into the house of the Lord”*

Could you imagine being a shepherd out there in Galilee, and once a year you’d go to this place where there is a transcendent feeling. Nobody had to tell them. The young, even the little children would know that God is in the midst of her.

Now of course that is the way the Church is to be today. I hope that when you gather together on the Lord’s Day, somebody would say “God is in the midst of these people.” Sometimes the more words we preach and have, the less glory there is. But to have God’s presence, even in a small assembly, a group of 30 people around a chair, when His presence is there, there is glory.

Doxa

In the later days, in the New Testament, the Old Testament was translated from Hebrew to Greek. They found a Greek Word for glory, “*doxa*”. This means “appearing”. It was a descriptive word used by the silversmiths. When they were creating silver things, they would boil that silver and all of the bad particles would come to the surface. They would scrape away the impurities. And then burn it some more and scrape away the impurities. They would then look down and see their face in that silver.

Now the word “glory” takes on a moral meaning as well, because it means glory is a manifestation of something of worth. As our brother shared about glory and virtue, there is a moral element to glory.

These are some definitional words in the Bible.

Finally, I am going to share some contexts in which we see glory mentioned. The first context in which we all know is created glory. “You were created for my glory”. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmaments His handiwork.”

Let us unpack this just a moment. Every created thing has its glory. The very fact that God created you makes you of value.

Do you remember how Paul brings up in 1 Corinthians 15 about our mortal body and immortal body? He says “everything in the heavens has its own glory”. There is the glory of the moon, of the stars, of the heavens, implying that each of these has its own light that comes to the earth.

Everything that God creates has value. Everything that God creates is not random. God says, “I love you, and I am going to make you 5’10”. You have a place in my glorious house.” It is important to understand that there are actually 3 steps in this glory.

Isaiah 43:7 is a wonderful verse. Let us look at it again.

*“Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”
Isaiah 43:7 NKJV*

We are created for His glory. And then we are fashioned - formed - this word *yāšar* means the fashioning by a potter on the wheel. So you are created with glory as a raw material, and then you go through the fashioning stage, which you call transitional glory. From glory to glory. It increases as He fashions.

And finally He says, “yes I have made him”. Done. Here you are created. Fashioned from glory to glory. And then done. Which means, not that you are perfect yet. But you are a vessel of honor of use to the Lord.

So all creation starts out as raw material for glory. Paul tells us that when we go outside, we hear the trees groaning. The eucalyptus tree groaning, because their created purpose is being held down by the sins of this world. We know the eucalyptus is meant for the healing of the nations, but it is groaning until the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

This is all creation. When we come to man, man also has a created glory. Isn’t it wonderful that David saw through the curtain of eternity? In Psalm 8, as he looked over the universe, he said, “What is man that you care about, even think

about him? Indeed you have made him a little lower than the angels - indeed that is where we are - but you have crowned us with glory and honor and put all things in subjection under our feet.”

That was the created purpose for man and for woman. God said, “be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and take dominion over the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea and the animals of the earth.” But something happened to make women deathly afraid of spiders and mice. Our domain was the earth - to rule and to reign - that was our created glory. And that is a heavy mantle we wear. Full of authority and glory.

Man has such significance

Now the idea was for Adam and Eve to become fashioned by God. Adam and Eve weren't eternal. As they would eat of the Tree of Life, they would find that eternal life. Created and fashioned, until they were done. And then man sinned and fell short of their glorious purpose.

There you are, supposed to be a top surgeon, and now you are a garbage collector. What happened to God's purpose for you? You lost and fell short of the glory of God. Right here we learn an important secret: our glory is not intrinsic glory. It is derived. It is a glory in relationship with the Father of Glory. In that sense, as we look at the heavenly masses, we are like the moon where the sun gives us a brightness as it reflects upon us.

We do not have glory ourselves, but we are meant to be vessels of His glory. And when that glory shines upon us, it gives us gravity. It gives us a splendor. It gives us authority as Adam and Eve both had in the garden. But when they lost that relationship with the Father of Glory, they were stripped down, wearing their maple tree bikinis. Instead of feeling that they were weighted with a mantle, they were stripped naked. We know in Isaiah, the same thing happened to Lucifer.

Lucifer comes from a Latin word, “lux” (light), and “ferrer” (to bear). So “to bear light”. He used to be a bearer of light. He was not intrinsically light. When he looked at himself in the mirror, he said “I will be like God. I will sit on the throne of the Son of God. I have ambition.” Suddenly Lucifer lost his light and had to change his name to Satan.

Man is meant to be a vessel of glory. How the mighty have fallen! That's what David sang and lamented when he saw the great tall, handsome King Saul stripped down to being afraid before a witch. What a fall. How the mighty have fallen! That is what David sang.

When man falls, does he still have glory? Well, yes, in a fashion, but it is only temporary. Peter quotes the Old Testament, “flesh is as grass and all the glory of man is a flower of the grass which withers, and flowers fade away.”

Every person on this earth, as sinners, has an ambition now. They seek after status. Heaviness. Even in the church, people seek after an outward position. They know they have lost the glory. They seek after something which gives them gravitas. And on the other hand, they have an unceasing desire to be appreciated. Because what is glory’s reward?

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

When God says that to your heart, it is a reward in itself. So man searches the world for love, for appreciation, for somebody to say, “you’re valuable”. Then the glory of God appeared to you, and now He is bringing many sons to glory.

One more context of glory, then we finish.

The glory of God. That means something unique. It is not like the glory of man or of created things. First, we talk about the Father of Glory. Remember when Paul is praying in Ephesians 1,

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,”
Ephesians 1:17 NKJV

He is the origin of all glory. Glory is that manifestation of who He is. It may be a manifestation of love. Full of grace. Paul says that so much He has done in our lives is for the praise of the glory of His grace. Sometimes He manifests as light. God is not only love, He is light. Sometimes He manifests as righteousness, and when He manifests there is judgement and reward. Sometimes He manifests as holy, where He purifies and possesses a vessel for His use.

He loves to display His glory whenever somebody is on the glory road. If you are reading the Word and the Word is heavy, He wants to reveal it to you. If you are meditating upon His Son, the Spirit wants to reveal all the truth regarding Him. All these things God wants to reveal to the heart that wants to see.

As our brothers have been defining, whenever He is satisfied, He shows His glory and then hides again.

And then there is the glory of the Son. Our brothers have spoken well on this matter. Jesus has always been the Son of God. That is why Hebrews says of Him as the “radiance of the glory and the exact representation of God’s nature”. He has always been and always will be.

All the angels worship Him. They see the emanations of God coming forth from the Son of God. There is a lot of light in heaven, but we all heard the story of how He came down to earth as the Son of Man, stripped of the power of His glory to die on our behalf. But God raised Him up, and exalted Him into the heavens; sat Him at His right hand and made Him the glorious Son of Man.

Such a wonderful title! Glorious Son of God! Glorious Son of Man! And He is the first man to make it to glory, and now He is bringing the rest of the sons into glory.

And finally, the Spirit of Glory. We find out in 1 Peter 4:14. What an interesting work that the Spirit of Glory does. Peter says,

“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”
1 Peter 4:14 NKJV

When you bear reproach for Christ’s name, like Stephen who preached the gospel, the glory of God rested on Stephen. Was he an angel or was he a man! This is the Spirit’s role right now in bringing us to glory. The Spirit takes all the limitations of our sin, our self-life, our persecutions and weaknesses and transforms them into glory for the Lord.

He operates on the basis of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. He takes those who have gone to the cross and says, “Now I am going to set you on to resurrection ground.” And all of that trouble becomes all of that glory.

The Spirit’s role throughout the dispensations of man is the Creator. So God is taking you and is making you a new creation. From the time He says into your soul, “let there be light”, He creates a new man in Christ. And this new man is on the road to glory.

When we meet the glory of God, what a wonderful thing!

Do you sense the heaviness on this matter of glory? Some take it lightly. Some take the second coming of the Lord lightly. But there is a precious heaviness when our brother Godwin shared last night on our need to be ready in the kingdom for His return.

In the last days, not all in the Church has ears to hear. But to those who hear, they overcome.

Dear Lord, we come to You and pray that all those here would be overcomers. That the heaviness of Your glory would invade the shallowness of our lives. That our earthly purposes would find higher ground on heaven’s tableland. Oh we are

headed for glory! What a great mystery! How beautiful are the saints who manifest your glory! Help us to see the riches of Your glory among brothers and sisters in the Church. Open our eyes that we may see. Your glory shines about us. Bless us Lord. Rend the heavens, come down, reveal Your glory again. For the glory of our Lord Jesus we pray, Amen.

West Coast Christian Conference