

Glorify

When you glorify something, you are treating it to be more excellent than it would normally be considered. You are honoring it, praising it.

We glorify lots of things in our lives. When you tell someone of a great book or tv show...you glorify it. To talk about how excellent it is.

And that's all fine. But what do we glorify with our lives? What does our life shout out?

We were all created to glorify God. And Jesus showed us how.

John 17:1-5 (NKJV)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

This is the opening of a much longer prayer, one that I'd encourage you to read and meditate on this week.

But this section is about GLORY. The Father is glorified, Jesus is glorified, but what exactly does that mean? Isn't it one of those things we say "I glorify your name" without really thinking about what it means?

To make it simple, let's think about lighting. Most lights are meant to illuminate a large area. They are for you to see many things. Up here we have flood lights (which are not at all stage lights) flood lights do what they sound like they would do...flood the area with light...a wide beam to cover as much as possible.

Then there's another kind of light that instead of trying to illuminate many things, its purpose is to draw your attention to ONE thing...a spotlight.

A spotlight shows you what to focus on, what's important, where the action is...it says "look at this". That is what it's like to glorify something. It's like shining a spotlight on that object.

John 17:1 (NKJV)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

Jesus had just told the disciples about the Holy Spirit and not to fear because He had overcome the world.

Now it's time...time to shine the spotlight on Jesus so He may shine the spotlight on the Father.

Jesus is selfless. It's His nature. His goal is not really about people looking at Him. How many times did He heal someone and then tell them not to tell anyone? He could have had all the attention He wanted...in fact the people wanted to make Him king. They wanted to give Him power and authority...but that's not the kind of power and authority Jesus came for (yet).

But it's time for the spotlight. This tells us that something shifted in Jesus' earthly ministry. He goes from staying out of the spotlight to now being in it.

John 17:2 (NKJV)

as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

Jesus was given authority, power over all people. Remember when He came born of a virgin, He had laid down His heavenly authority to live a life as a sinless man to defeat sin.

The Father has restored that power. And Jesus will give eternal life to all that the Father has given to Him. Jesus is the judge. He is the One that holds salvation in His hand. Because He's the One who paid the debt of sin.

With the spotlight on Him, it's time to make Him known. Not just as a teacher, or a healer, or a deliverer, but as LORD...power and authority.

Philippians 2:10-11 (NKJV)

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

But the spotlight is also on Him to make Him known as SAVIOR...

John 17:3 (NKJV)

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Jesus said if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. Now if you KNOW Jesus, you know the Father. They are One and One with the Holy Spirit.

But what is eternal life...it's not just a future inheritance, it's also a present possession...available because of our relationship with the Father through the Son.

To know Him.

This is something that is missing in the lives of so many believers. People want to be saved so they can “go to heaven” but that’s not the fullness of salvation, it’s KNOWING JESUS today!

It’s knowing the love that was poured out for you on the cross to save you from your sin...

But THEN it’s that we know the God who was risen from the dead! That really happened! It’s not just a story!

He wants you to know Him. And He wants to know you...personally. Heaven’s spotlight is on Jesus...but is YOUR spotlight on Him? Are you glorifying God with your life?

John 17:4 (NKJV)

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus modeled what it looks like to glorify God. When He came to live a human life, He glorified God ON THE EARTH.

The same sinful earth we live on today. The same struggles. The same hurts and pains. The same demonic opposition. The same busyness. The same 24 hours in a day. And He didn’t have a car and a smartphone.

But He glorified God on the earth. He put the spotlight on the Father on the earth. How many times does He say things like “I only do what I see the Father do or say what I hear the Father say”. He only has what the Father has given Him. He goes and seeks the Father constantly. His life on earth was all about the spotlight being on God in heaven.

Jesus had that spotlight shining up into the sky not like a cry for help like some sort of bat signal. But as a cry for “look at our God, how amazing He is, how loving and faithful He is”

“I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”

This is how He glorified the Father of the earth...by completing the work.

The work of the cross, the work in the grave, the work of sending His Spirit to start the church who would now be given work to do so they can continue the work of Jesus!

How do we glorify God?

By What We Do

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

When we let our light shine in front of people...they see what we do, and glorify our Father in heaven. When they see Christ in us, it puts the spotlight on God, not us.

It's not about our works being seen, it's about the light being seen. Then the light shines on the works and the spotlight is turned toward heaven. Look at God!

"It is inbred in us that we have to do exceptional things for God, but we have not. We have to be exceptional in the ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, and this is not learned in five minutes."

~ **Oswald Chambers**

Glorifying God is not about grand gestures. It's not just about telling of the miracle He's done. It's about glorifying Him in the little things, the ordinary things.

It's kind of like a husband just doing something to acknowledge his wife on her birthday and anniversary but never says a kind thing to her or about her any other day of the year. It should be a regular thing.

What are the little things God is doing where you can point to Him?

I want to say "Praise the Lord" or "Glory to God" every single day...hopefully more than once! But start there. Include God in your conversation with people "I'm blessed" or "God is good"

The other day we were at Walmart and we were looking for the healthy choice cream of chicken soup. We needed 2 cans and it was all gone. Kristi looks around and reaches up to the top and says "oh, here's one!" and then a few seconds later "what is that?" as she reaches for one a couple feet down and grabs a can that is backwards...healthy choice cream of chicken soup. I said "Praise God!"

This was a little thing. Do you acknowledge Him in the smallest of blessings?

Because this is where it needs to start. Probably nobody heard me say "Praise God". But when you acknowledge Him in private and that becomes a habit, you'll do it in public...and that's where we've got to be so it shines the light on Him.

John 1:4 (NKJV)

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Do people see Christ in you? Does His light shine on the things you do? That's how you glorify the Father!

By What We Say

Romans 15:5-6 (NKJV)

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With one mind and one mouth, glorify God.

God is not a God of confusion or chaos and God does not glorify sin. Yet why is so much of what comes out of the mouth of believers cause division or is rooted in doubt, worry, and fear?

Why when people give testimony do they tend to put the spotlight on themselves...we're supposed to be testifying of what JESUS has done. It's not about getting attention, it's about giving attention...spotlight on Jesus!

Watch the things you speak. Do they point to Him?

When you combine the things you do with the things you say and they are both focused on glorifying God, that leads to a life that is pleasing to Him...because it leads to a life that is God centered, striving to do what Jesus did - finish the work that He's given you to do.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

"You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created."

"You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking."

~ **Henri Nouwen**