

Give God the Glory Due Him

Acts 12:20-25
November 22, 2026
Ken Dalton

The Big Idea: God alone is worthy to be glorified. To give a man or woman glory is to break the first commandment of having "no other gods" before Him. No human being can ever stop God from being glorified nor prevent the Gospel from working.

Acts 12 (ESV)

12 20 Now Herod was *angry* with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, *they asked for peace*, because their country depended on the king's country for food. 21 On an appointed day *Herod put on his royal robes*, took his seat upon *the throne*, and *delivered an oration* to them. 22 And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord *struck him down*, ***because*** he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

24 ***But*** the *word of God increased and multiplied*.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Two Things We Know:

1. God Will Not Share His Glory

- Isaiah 42:8 – "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
- John 5:44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"
- Psalm 115:1 - "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be glory."

Defining God's Glory

- "To be heavy or weighty" and has to do with "reputation, fame, splendor and prestige."
  - "God's glory is His reputation. To live for God's glory means to live so that God's reputation is enhanced (heightened in quantity and quality) and not diminished in any way." – Charles Ryrie
- The Greeks equated "glory" with "opinion." To have a high opinion of someone, was to give them glory. The Hebrews on the other hand, would think of the brilliance of God's Shekinah glory, as the sum of all His attributes.
- Glory is also related to the word "magnify". I am helping others see how beautiful, magnificent, and all-encompassing God is.
- The opposite of giving glory to God is selfishness and pride. If I'm interested in taking credit or just focusing on myself, then God doesn't get the glory.
- **A Critical Point:** We are not giving to God what He doesn't have - God already has glory innately; we simply acknowledge and magnify what He already has, and who He already is.

Thomas Watson's 3 Ways We Kow We Are Living for God's Glory:

- ✓ **Supreme preference:** We prefer God's glory above everything else.
- ✓ **Submission to God's will:** We accept God's will taking place, even when it goes against our own.
- ✓ **Humility before others:** We willingly let others outshine us in gifts and esteem so God's glory increases.

2. The Gospel Always Works and Cannot Be Stopped

→ Verse 24 draws the contrast between the futility of Agrippa's pride, self-promotion, and very existence and the eternal, powerful, ever-expanding Word of God.

None are so empty as those who are full of themselves.

Benjamin Whichcote
