

From Glory to Glory

(II Cor. 3:18; Ephesians 5:27; I Cor. 15: 43)

And all of us, as with unveiled face, continued to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into **His very own image** in ever **increasing splendor** and from **one degree of glory** to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [who is] the Spirit (II Cor. 3: 18).

"In justification, through faith into Christ the sinner is accepted in Christ (Ephesians. 5:17) who Himself is the pure and perfect Image of God, and that divine image is freely imputed to the believer. In sanctification, through the operation of the Holy Spirit who enables the believer constantly to behold the glory of the Lord, that image is increasingly imparted to the Christian. In glorification, justification and sanctification become complete in one, for that image is then finally impressed upon the redeemed in unobscured fullness, to the glory of God throughout eternity" (Second Corinthians, p. 120) Philip Hughes.

When God created Adam and Eve, He made them in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26). But when they failed out of God's image, they received the spirit of fear instead. In His customary time when He came to talk to them, God found them hidden and afraid when they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself (Gen. 3:8-10). Because Adam and Eve had lost the image of God, they became slaves to the spirit of fear and to the demands of the flesh. Men lost the sparkle of the glory of God. A wall was now in between them and God; no longer did God walk in the garden to talk to them. But God's love for men compelled Him to do something to restore them to Him again. And at the fullness of time He sent His Son YAHSHUA to restore and reconcile men to His Father, God. In that reconciliation man was justified through faith in Messiah; he was sanctified through the work of the Holy Spirit given him at the moment of his spiritual birth; God gave them His image through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. The fullness of the glory of God will be complete in those who have accepted Him in their glorification, God's final work

in men. Man is justified, acquitted, and forgiven in the process of salvation; he is sanctified to reflect the glory of YAHSHUA, which is increasing from one glory to another, as he grows in Christ and matures in Him. Finally he will be glorified and completely holy and blameless and he will be as YAHSHUA is when men see Him.

Moses, God's chosen one to lead Israel to the Promised Land, reflected the glory of God every time he left the presence of the Lord. There was a shine on his face calling the attention to all who saw him. But that glory was temporal, it did not remain in him. In fact, the Bible says that he veiled his face so that the people would not see the glory fading away. Today, believers reflect or mirror the glory of God in their lives when they walk with God. That glory is the evidence of the presence of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. As we allow Him to work in us and transform us into His image, we are at the same time achieving degrees of glory from one degree to a higher degree. It is a continuous process of work of sanctification until we are taken from this world to our heavenly home. This is the work of restoration of the image of God, which we lost with our forefathers, Adam and Eve, before we existed. By turning to the Lord in repentance for salvation, something supernatural happened. We now behold His glory. The Apostle John says in one of his epistles, Beloved, we are now God's children; it is not yet disclosed what we shall be, but we know that **when He comes and is manifested, we shall resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.** And everyone who has this hope in Him cleanses himself just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3). When we see Him in our glorified body, we will behold Him "just as He really is." We will reflect His perfect glory. As He is, so shall we be!

The transforming power that takes place in our life after we accept Him comes from Him alone. We are benefitted by beholding Him. Only the believer will be like Christ. His work of transformation starts at the point of our salvation and continues through our earthly life until He takes us home. His Holy Spirit is our sanctifier. Through His work He convicts us, He corrects us, He teaches us, He comforts us and at the end we will be presented to YAHSHUA in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things (Ephesians 5: 27). As of now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim reflection, but then [when perfection comes] we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood [by God] (1 Cor. 13: 12).

Before becoming a new creation in Christ our understanding of spiritual things are veiled by the hardness of our hearts, like that of the Israelites. The life of the unbeliever is darkened by the veil of unbelief; there is no glory in him who do not know the Lord YAHSHUA, for the brilliance of one's life comes from knowing God in the person of His Son. To this day, the Bible says, whenever the Old Testament is read to Israel, a veil lies upon their minds and hearts until they turn [in repentance] to the Lord. When that happens, then the veil is stripped and taken away (II Cor. 3:14-16). In a new creation they become, beneficiary of the continuous glory into the image of the Lord from one degree of glory to another. We must see the glory of the Lord when we seek Him, when we humble ourselves before Him and when we rejoice in our tribulation or adversities. In his most difficult time, Moses cried to the Lord, I beseech You, show me your glory! God answered him, I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you... The Lord told Moses, I will show you my character, but you cannot see my face, for no man shall see Me and live (Exodus 33: 18-20). The glory of God is manifested in His character: loving- goodness, love, mercy, holiness, and all that He is. The glory of God is like a devouring fire seen by the Israelites on the top of the mountain (Exodus 24:17).

YAHSHUA is the sole expression of the glory of God; He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature. .. (Heb. 1:3a). When He was transfigured before his disciples on the mountain of the Lord, they saw Who He was from eternity to eternity in glorious splendor, now visible to their eyes. They saw Him Who He really was. Some day we will be able to see him in that splendorous glory, of which we will be sharers. Ezekiel describes his vision of the glory of God: the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north and a great cloud with a fire enveloping it and flashing continually; a brightness was about it and out of the midst of it there seemed to glow amber metal, out of the midst of the fire... (Ezekiel 1:1,4). That was the manifestation of the presence of God! Isaiah also saw the Lord and in these words he describes the awesome glory he saw: I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the skirts of His train filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings, with two covered his face, and with two covered his feet and with two flew. And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with

smoke (Isaiah 6: 1-4). Isaiah's experience had a tremendous affect in his life. He was spiritually transformed, as he beheld the beauty of the glory and holiness of the Lord.

Earthly glory is not like the divine glory, which is temporal and limited to the human's ways and ideas; but the divine glory is manifested with endless great power, splendor and holiness, and with heavenly beings and nature confirming Who God is, separating His glory from the frailty of men's glory. He wants to partake of His glory every person who honors and respects Him; who seeks Him and accepts His Son. He wants to transfigure us into "His image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another." Paul says, For our light, momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory (II Cor. 4: 17). Our sufferings are for the purpose of producing in us an everlasting weight of glory; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us! (Rom. 8: 17b-18).

As we behold Him we will experience degrees of glory imparted to us; but only if we are walking with Him and staying in His word. That's the only way to have Isaiah's experience. Let the Word of God be fulfilled in your life today; experience His glory and behold His holiness and be sanctified!

