

GLORY

“Since God is the one from whom glory comes, He will not let stand the assertion that glory comes from man or from the idols of man or from nature.”¹

Words can be quite baffling at times. At one point you may think you understand the meaning and then other times you are just not quite sure.

For instance, take the word GLORY, it sounds simple enough, but when you begin to search for its true meaning and think about how it is often used, it can be just a little mystifying. You may be like many of us who have used the word in several contexts; ‘to God be the glory’, ‘the train has been restored to its former glory’, they were individuals who gloried in their independence’, and the list goes on.



<https://www.gotquestions.org/glory-of-God.html>

Got Questions points out that, “In the human/earthly sense, glory is a beauty or vibrancy that rests upon the material of the earth (Psalm 37:20, Psalm 49:17), and in that sense, it fades. But the reason it fades is that material things do not last. They die and wither, but the glory that is in them belongs to God and returns to Him when death or decay takes the material. Think of the rich man mentioned earlier. The verse says, “The rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.” What does this mean? The verse is admonishing the rich man to realize that his wealth and power and beauty come from God, and to be humbled by the realization that it is God who makes him what he is, and gives him all he has. And the knowledge that he will pass away like the grass is what will bring him to the realization that God is the one from whom glory comes. God’s glory is the source, the wellspring from which all smaller glories run.”

Whether a verb, noun or interjection, when we talk about glory it is nothing that we have aside from God. As a verb, it is to rejoice profoundly, as a noun it is a distinction or credit, and as an interjection it is expressing an emotion – such as *Glory!* But man has no words to truly express what it is when it comes to the one who has created the heavens and earth and all that is within it!

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“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols”. Isaiah 42:8 (NIV)

Shame on us humans trying to take credit for those things that only God can only do. Even when we do develop the exciting and tremendous, it is only because of God has placed in us the ability to create. We will often give anything the ‘glory’ other than God. Many just refused that He is all that He is. I am drawn back to Romans 1:20 – 23. We can pretend as though we have no idea about God and His existence, but its always been clear. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” It is so easy to take credit or ‘glory’ for wonder we did not develop. It happens all through life, whether it be in the home, workplace, church or socially. Many have developed a pattern of giving glory to ‘anything but God’, less others think we are Jesus fanatics. “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and serve created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.” Romans 1:25.

But while there may be many that do not recognize God’s Gloriousness, there are a great number who do recognize God’s gift and love for mankind. There are some that get it and are thankful and acknowledge that everything—all our possessions and all that we are—belongs to God. We recognize that the dawning of a new day is a gift that is not to be taken for granted. Sarah Young in Jesus Calling Devotion for April 29th notes, “The earth is vibrantly alive with My blessings giving vivid testimony to My Presence. If you slow down your pace of life, you can find Me everywhere.” Sarah goes on to say in the July 30th Devotion, “How precious are My children who are awed by nature’s beauty; this opens them up to My holy Presence. Even before you knew me personally, you responded to My creation with wonder. This is a gift, and it carries responsibility with it. Declare My glorious Being to the world. The whole earth is full of My radiant beauty—My Glory!

That being the case glorifying God means to acknowledge His greatness and give Him honor by praising and worshipping Him, primarily because He, and He alone, deserves to be praised, honored and worshiped. God’s glory is the essence of His nature, and we give glory to Him by recognizing that essence.

