

Glory and Honor

It is amazing but no surprise how topics for weekly messages usually coincide and support each other. That being said, the essay we just read spoke of what we think. It was apparent this is along the theme of something that has been on my mind for a few days.

In keeping with the same direction from the past few weeks on building our relationship with God, here is another thought to add to your checklist. We will take the “what we think” a step further and add a parameter that can simplify our thought life. We all know the battlefield is in the mind. It may not be all that important as to why we think things we do, but if we apply a simple filter, thoughts *and* actions will fall into the right place.

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

Like most instructions in the Bible, they are never all that easy, but this is fairly simply if we can remember to do it. Whenever we speak or act, does our words or our conduct bring glory to God? Would God receive the honor we

intend, or would He turn His head from looking at the “motive” in our hearts? (There is that heart thing again).

Psalm 66:18-20- “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me; Surely God has heard; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God Who has not turned away my prayer, nor His steadfast love from me.

When you are at work, do you watch the clock, or do you thank God for giving you a job? If you are working on a tedious task or project, do you thank God for giving you the hands and eyes to see and do what it is you seek? Do we wish to be noticed or gain recognition for helping others? If we seek to glorify ourselves rather than God, we are definitely missing the mark. But do not fret, I am sure God will bring about circumstances to wake you up in time for the last trumpet.

What is our purpose and intentions when we speak to someone? What is our purpose towards circumstances or conduct? Would we speak in the same manner and words to Jesus Himself?

1 Peter 4:10-11- “*Let* each one, according as he has received a gift from God, *be using* it to serve the others as good stewards of the grace of God *which* manifests *itself* in various ways. If anyone speaks, *let it be* as *the* words of God; if anyone serves, *let it be* as from the strength which God supplies; so that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to Whom is the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

In our spiritual growth, we are building upon other scriptures in developing our relationship. Eventually you will realize that **we are truly to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. p**

We always add definitions for key words so that everyone has a full grasp on how they are used in the biblical context.

Glory was defined in the Cambridge Dictionary as; praise and thanks, especially as given to God. I am surprised to see them actually post this reference to the Almighty with the way definitions are changed to fit narratives or erased completely. They even used a capital “G.”

The Oxford On-line Dictionary defines Honor as; high respect; great esteem.

Philippians 2:3-5- “*Let* nothing *be* done through contention or vainglory, but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not

only after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others.

Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus;”

Jesus Christ did exactly this when He gave up all He was to become the propitiation for our sins. He esteemed all mankind above Himself. We have the opportunity *now* to give Him glory, **honor**, and praise. We are still alive. We are preparing for the time when we will be resurrected, and the praising will be an eternal privilege.

Psalm 115:17- “The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence.”

Galatians 1:3-5-“ Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father; To Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

God is certainly worthy to receive glory, honor, and praise. In ever growing closer in our walk with Him, we begin to see and hear things through His eyes because of His Spirit within us.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16- “Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God; Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ.”

Having this mindset, we can better take control of our thoughts and actions. We have all seen the “WWJD” bracelets that were popular a few years ago. The better letters would be, “WDJD, “what *DID* Jesus do.” Again, this should not be something new or of any surprise.

John 13:15-17- “For I have given you an example, to show that you also should do exactly as I have done to you. Truly, truly I tell you, a servant is not

greater than his lord, nor a messenger greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

It is by God’s design that we grow to think and act like our Savior.

Genesis 1:26- “And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.”

Our efforts to grow closer to God will not go unnoticed. The enemy will not cease to bombard us with every distraction at his disposal.

1 Peter 5:8-9- “Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary, the devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who are in *the* world.”

The trials and test will come. With every test comes a “testimony.” With every trial comes an opportunity to glorify God.

1 Peter 1:3-7- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us, Who are being safeguarded by *the* power of God through faith, for salvation *that is* ready to be revealed in *the* last time. In this you yourselves greatly rejoice; though for the present, if it is necessary, you are in distress for a little while by various trials; In order that the proving of your faith, which is much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is being tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ;”

Our actions and conduct can increase our faith and devotion by our total reliance on Him to see us through.

2 Corinthians 1:20- “For whatever promises of God *there are*, in Him *is* the yes, and in Him the Amen, with glory to God by us.”

Freeing ourselves of pride and emotional responses is like swimming up Niagara Falls. It takes work. Lots of it.

Daniel 5:20- “But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was put down from his royal throne, and his glory was taken from him.”

Jeremiah 13:15-17- “Hear and give ear; do not be proud; for the LORD has spoken. Give glory to the LORD your God, before He causes darkness, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and, while you look for light, He turns it into the shadow of death, making it gross darkness. But if you will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for *your* pride. And my eye shall weep sore and run down with tears because the LORD’S flock is carried away captive.”

Jesus Himself did not take pride in His own actions but gave all glory to God the Father.

John 7:18- “The one who speaks of himself is seeking his own glory; but He Who seeks the glory of Him Who sent Him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

John 17:1-5- “Jesus spoke these words, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; Since You have given Him authority over all flesh, in order that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You did send. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave Me to do.

And now, Father, glorify Me with Your own self, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.”

People will take notice of our reactions and conduct. Is Christ visible in us?

1 Timothy 4:11-15- “These things command and teach. Do not allow anyone to despise your youth; but be an example to the believers— in word, in conduct, in love, in Spirit, in faith *and* in purity. Until I come, devote *yourself* to reading, to encouragement, *and* to doctrine. Do not neglect the *spiritual* gift *that is* in you, which was given to you by prophecy with *the* laying on of the hands of the elderhood. Meditate on these things; give yourself wholly to them so that your growth *in the faith* may be apparent to all.”

1 Peter 2:11-12- “Beloved, I exhort *you*, as strangers and sojourners, to restrain yourselves from fleshly lusts which war against the soul; Having your way of life honest among the Gentiles so that although they speak against you as evil doers, through having witnessed *your* good works, they may glorify God in *the* day of visitation.”

Anything we set out to do, it is by far better to commit it to doing it God’s way from the start. Giving Him the glory and honor for guiding and assisting us keeps the door open for calling on Him for help when we let our flesh get in the way.

Ephesians 3:19-21- “And to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, To Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

Love God, trust God, obey-keep-do His Commandments, hope on His promises, foundational steps enabling spiritual growth in our personal relationship with God.

God will always know and judge the heart. Our motives for our thoughts and actions must be pure and in the right standing. Surrendering our thought life and remaining in constant prayer are ways we can keep the devil at bay. It is not difficult to understand but keeping our focus to make it happen is the challenge.

Romans 15:5-7- “Now may the God of patience and encouragement grant you to be likeminded toward one another according to Christ Jesus, So that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, according as Christ has also received us, to *the* glory of God.” Amen.

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