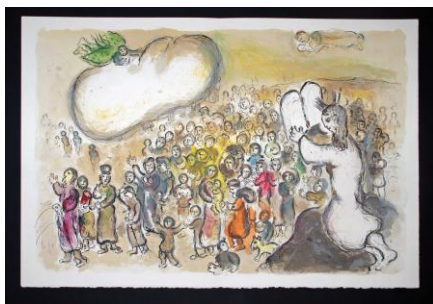


A Mysterious Word

Let's start with a quiz today. What do you think is the most mysterious word in the Bible? Except for God or Jesus, please answer. Here is a hint. It is the most important word in the Bible. This word appears from the beginning to the end of the Bible. We say so often, but when we try to explain what it is, we get to know it is challenging to define. The answer is the word GLORY. Today, we will explore the word, Glory.



The Bible says that Heaven and Earth are full of God's Glory. God's Glory was in the Garden of Eden. In the Book of Revelation, it is said that we do not need the sun or moon because God's Glory becomes the lighting system of the new Heaven and Earth. Westminster Dictionary of theological terms defines GLORY as the Divine essence of God as absolutely resplendent and ultimately great. It is a word that describes God's very essence. It's a word that summarizes all of his character and attributes. However, knowing the definition doesn't mean that we know the word, Glory. It is only a definition. What is the real Glory like? We do not know. The word doesn't send the reality of Glory at all.



What does Glory look like? It is also translated as Goodness. Let's go to Exodus 33. We find there a conversation scene between Moses and God when the Israelites rebelled against God. Moses interceded for the Israelites. And he requested God to show God's glory. The Lord replied, **"I will make all my goodness pass before you, ... 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." 21 The Lord continued, "Look, stand near me on this rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed. 23 I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen."**

I don't understand this story. It is like a puzzle. What does the backside of God mean? What is glorious presence? Moses was able to see only the backside of God. Moses was the most meek person in the biblical sense. It is referring to a gentle, humble, and submissive spirit toward God rather than weakness or timidity.

This encounter with the goodness of God, even with its backside, changed Moses' face. When God's goodness is seen clearly, it changes your own countenance and your value system. There's healing from addiction and depression, etc. I desire a seamless connection with God. I will not settle for anything less than a seamless connection with the Spirit of God.

And when Moses came off Mount Sinai, the Bible says that Moses' face physically shined with the radiant glory of God, so much so that when people saw him, they feared Moses. So, Moses put a veil over his face. That's a glimpse of the glory of God. The Bible says that when we see the goodness of Jesus on the last day, we will bow before him with fear and trembling. What kind of goodness causes people to fear and tremble? We do not know. It is mysterious.

God has tested Moses and discovered that he can wield the power of God without succumbing to independence, arrogance, and pride. God is constantly evaluating us, you and me, in various aspects of our lives. How we manage money, power, and fame is under scrutiny. When these aspects are guided by God's presence, that divine presence, anointing, and glory are bestowed upon us. This is because God has measured us.

That was the pinnacle of the Old Testament. It serves as an introduction to the New Testament. What was impossible in the Old Testament became possible in the New Testament because the blood of Jesus made you righteous and qualified you to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. The blood of Jesus enabled you to host the Spirit of the Almighty God. Within you lies the Holy of Holies, where God resides.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites had to visit the temple to worship God. They sought God, establishing a more visitational relationship. When people sinned, God seemed distant. However, for special individuals like prophets, judges, or kings, God empowered them for specific tasks or reasons, yet God remained more hidden. This was the Old Testament paradigm, where God's absence was more prominent in people's lives. They prayed to God, hoping that their prayers would be heard.

God wanted to infuse you with His magnificent Glory. This is a divine gift bestowed upon you through Jesus Christ. How does this happen? What does it signify? When you declare, "I have Jesus in my heart," you are acknowledging the presence of God within you. This is the gift of God through Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:27** states, **"The glorious riches of this mystery [the mystery of God's Glory] are in you."** This implies that Christ is not only present with you but also residing within you.

In the New Testament, through Jesus and the New Covenant, the relationship shifts from a transactional one to **a more intimate and personal one**. By witnessing Jesus' righteousness in us, God perceives us as righteous children. God's love for you and me is as profound as His love for Jesus. God is already dwelling within us, and the glory resides within us. The mysterious power and glory reside within us. We don't have to wait for God's physical presence; He has already made His home within us. We are empowered with great strength and abilities. God's generosity knows no bounds. To bestow upon every human being all of God's power and glory, He chose to become an invisible human and endured a horrific death.



Now, God is already present in every situation and circumstance within you. God's light shines through you in so many ways. Obediently, let the Holy Spirit flow through you. God's presence is permanent; we are the home of the Holy Spirit. We are like **clay jars holding incredible treasure within us**.

We are new race, new humans, new creations that never existed in the Old Testament. Did God in the OT change? No. The same God with passionate and fiery love as in Song of Songs. But Through Jesus God is able to be closer to you and me. God wants you to be happy, powerful, splendid and glorious like God.

Still, the shadow of the old Self claims us and leads us into the misery of life. The old Self does not know satisfaction; it deceives us to pursue wealth, fame, and worldly pleasure. We should surrender that Self fully to God and acknowledge God in life's moments. When we fully surrender the old Self to God, God's glory hidden in us is revealed. If we do not surrender to the word, no glory of God is visible in our lives.

Our Self wants to live without God. It is a very tenacious tendency in us. So, the old Self should be given to God constantly. **How can we give ourselves to God continuously so that God's glory shines through us? First, be aware of yourself. Watch yourself as a third person what you think, speak, and feel. If it is not aligned, then give it to Jesus again and again. Which means that you breathe in the Holy Spirit every moment.** Then, the Holy Spirit in you lives as you. Then, you live an extraordinary life. **And a surrendered life is an extraordinary life.** It is like the life of Jesus' ministry of continuous miracles and healings. If you are fully surrendered to God, you cannot be ordinary. We are created to live as extraordinary, mysterious, and beautiful beings. Isn't it exciting?!

Since **our Self always holds us tenaciously and brings us back to ordinary human life,** what should we do? What I am practicing is talking to God about every detail of my life. I praise God, I worship God. Do not give the old self a chance to come up. If you start to feel uneasy in your heart, immediately confess and give it to God. In all, there is great joy that swells up from your deepest belly that you cannot find in any place at all.

What is your greatest pleasure? If your joy is from the earthly life, it means that you do not know what true joy from God is like. It is worth investing all your wealth, all your fame, all your time, all your gifts, and all you have. Once you have this joy, the pleasures you loved in the world look like nothing. Paul regarded all the precious worldly things as garbage.

Consider that the old Self already died (Roman 6:11). Then it is easy to surrender for our earthly life to reveal the Glory of God. For our eternal Glory, we should sleep passing through a special door and wake again so that our body is changed into a new body. It is that simple. Our God's way is amazing.

Friends, Glory is in us. Glory is waiting for us. What do you face in your life right now? One of my friends says, "I know suffering will bring something precious in the relationship with God. But it is REALLY hard." Isn't it right? Still trust in God while walking one step and another step together with God. Give the struggle to God. God will take your struggle and lead you to victory, and God will journey with you one step after another. You will live in extraordinary generosity, you will live in empathy, and deep love and righteousness from the compassionate heart of God.

St Theresa of Avila said that Our life is like a night in an uncomfortable Inn. Through all the barriers and struggles, glorious light from eternity will penetrate the present darkness. You will find the holy lightness of your Spirit and joy from eternity. It will let us envision the future Glory prepared by our Lord.