



GLORY AND HONOUR

PART 11

GOD'S WORD IS STILL GOOD

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"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." (Luke 5:5 KJV)

The world is getting darker by the minute. If you can remember well, the first cyber attack was recorded in the Bible. It happened when the Bible described that the earth was out of course. The entire universe was without form, void, and darkness was upon the face of deep. God, however, rescued the situation and restored the beauty of His creation. The same earth still exists and is now under severe cyber attack from the kingdom of darkness. In today's world, however, darkness is so prevalent that you can cut through it with a knife, no matter your area or dwelling. Let me give you an example. Nothing short of total darkness will make a man get a gun, go into a school, and start shooting innocent schoolchildren just beginning their lives. It is absolute madness and evil to the core. Yet, this is happening again and again in the United States of America. What about an uncle (about 50 years old) who impregnated a 10-year-old niece? The world has gone crazy! Discrimination and racial tension keep growing at an alarming rate. We seem to have forgotten that God created man and woman, not white, black or brown people, but the devil has caused a great divide worldwide.

Consequently, some elements in the world, even at the highest level of leadership, are using racism as a weapon to cause trouble. Many systems in the world are not functioning as they should—for example, our climate. The planet is revolting through global warming and severe climate changes. Only God knows the extent of the damage Hurricane Ian has caused. Experts estimate that it will be one of the most expensive hurricanes in the world, given the unquantifiable damages that have been done to those insured. The job market is not working right as inflation is at an all-time high, and the world's powerful currencies are losing value by the minute. By implication, my friend, the toiling of humankind has increased, and it seems that there's no rest on the horizon. We are sweating more; homelessness is on the rise. Instead of increasing wealth, more people are impoverished now than at any time in history.

All of these notwithstanding, a secret can get you out of this rat race! Here's the secret: Some people in this same broken world live by different standards and are transcendent over all these calamities. A story in Luke 5 can help us make sense of this:

"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." (Luke 5:55)

Here was a man living in a typical situation of the prevalent darkness in this world. He was toiling hard but had nothing to show for it. All that changed, however, when he encountered Jesus and His word. He said, ***"we have toiled all night"*** and have nothing. I know many of us are in this situation. Today I introduce to you a 'nevertheless God' who changes everything by His word. I am introducing you to this everlasting that can bring all your days of fruitless labor to the past. If you are born again, then you have encountered that word. All you need to do is to let your net down in the troubled water of this world for a mighty harvest. If you are not born again, however, your toiling is yet to begin in the fullest sense of the word. The days of 'catching nothing' will continue to increase by the minute. You can change that right now by praying with me; say this after me: ***"Lord Jesus, come into my life. I am tired of toiling every day and having nothing to show for it. I confess my sins and accept you as my Lord and Savior. I know you died and were risen on the third day. Thank you for saving me in Jesus' name."*** It is that easy! Your days of toiling are over, and you will begin to have a bountiful harvest in Jesus' name. If you are doing it for the first time or rededicating your life again to

our Lord Jesus, let me be the first one to welcome you to the Kingdom of God.

GLORY AND HONOR (Part 11)

If our worth is determined by the amount of sweat we generate while working, then manual laborers would appear on the Forbes billionaires list. Unfortunately, that's not the story. This makes it more evident that a life of glory and honor doesn't require much sweat. When God created us and gave us dominion, He built a garden for us to work and not to sweat profusely; here's how the narration goes as recorded in Genesis 2:8-10:

***"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden,
and there he put the man whom he had formed."***

God did all the planting and watering by the river Pison; man's responsibility was simple: to keep the weed out and enjoy the good food the garden produced. God would seldom visit the man in the cool of the day to have fellowship with him. He sat down with the man whom He created to have a dialogue about everything. What a sight! What a robust relationship with man! God's destiny for man was clear: a life of glory and honor. He has crowned us as a sign of royalty.

To be clear, God hates laziness and doesn't condone a barely-getting-by lifestyle. A life of glory and honor belongs to a man or woman who is diligent and temperate in all things. As Solomon said,

***"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand
before kings; He shall not stand before mean men." (Proverbs 22:29)***

Diligence brings kings together in a meeting; you are a king with a crown of glory and honor in majesty! God was intentional in growing and crowning us from the beginning of creation. Whenever anyone tells you that God tests His children with sickness, show them His kindness from the scriptures.

To show that God is on the same page from the beginning of creation till we will see Him face to face, let's see what the scriptures tell us about what the resurrection of Jesus bought for us:

"saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever." (Revelation 5:12-13)

I love the way this verse was introduced to us: **"SAYING WITH A LOUD VOICE . . ."** This is very important because God doesn't need to shout for Him to be heard. The scriptures say that His voice is like the sound of many waters. That loud voice is for you not to doubt what He's delivering to you; we are destined to manifest a life of glory and honor on earth. It gets even better! God has more for you and me: POWER, RICHES, WISDOM, STRENGTH, and BLESSING. Can you see what the Lord has done? What settled it for me was verse 13; God made sure everyone heard this proclamation about our new status. If you want to see the manifestation of these things, the starting point is to BELIEVE in the finished work of Christ on your behalf. That is what purchased your access to these benefits.

ANCHOR TEXT

God wants the best for us and doesn't require much from us other than our simple obedience to His command. Do you know that if humankind had not chosen the path of disobedience (through Adam and Eve), our crown of glory and honor wouldn't have been taken away from us? To put this in perspective, let us compare the story of two brothers in the scripture. God had done everything for them and just wanted to test their obedience. God doesn't need anything from us; He wants to get many of His blessings to us, but glory and honor can only come on the path of our obedience. The story is in Genesis 4 when God called for Cain and Abel to bring an offering.

"And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering" (Genesis 4:3-4)

Please be careful your offering might just become your point of enshrinement into the hall of fame of glory and honor. We all know how this story ended; God had respect for Abel's offering because he brought the FIRSTLING. Though he died, his blood speaks on till today. Cain was relegated to the base of the base and became a fugitive. Your ladder of glory and honor is in your hand; please be careful with it.

Our foundational text is found in Psalm 8:5,

***"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
And hast crowned him with glory and honour." (Psalm 8:5 KJV)***

I pray that your seed will always elevate you to a life of glory and honor. May you never become a fugitive in Jesus' name.

WHY ARE THE GLORY AND HONOR FADED?

So far, we have considered ten reasons, viz:

1. SIN
2. STRANGE FIRE: THE CASE STUDY OF NADAB AND ABIHU
3. THE EFFECT OF TERRITORIAL POWER
4. THE PRESENCE OF STRONGHOLDS IN A FAMILY AND A NATION
5. WRONG DECREES THAT CAN KILL YOUR DESTINY
6. COMMITTING A GRAVE MISTAKE
7. UNFORGIVENESS
8. THE EFFECT OF SPIRITUAL ATTACK
9. OUR INABILITY TO KEEP SECRETS
10. LACK OF ACCESS—SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL BARRICADE

Let's continue from there today.

11. WHEN YOUR NAME IS LEFT OUT OF THE LIST

"And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the

youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither." (1 Samuel 16:11 KJV)

Case Study: DAVID AND THE HOUSE OF JESSE

"Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he." (1 Samuel 16:8-12 KJV)

My friend, this is serious business. It is always crucial to pray thus: **"God, wherever my name needs to be mentioned for elevation, let Your voice roar on my behalf. God, let my name never be forgotten in high places."** Here's the point: you will always need a man to speak for you. In the elevation process, God always uses men to fulfill His plan and purpose on earth. Even though God had spoken to Samuel to go to the house of Jesse for the next king of Israel, Jesse had the option of whom he would present. Anyone that God has not chosen who is blocking your visibility, may God remove them immediately. If there was not a 'Samuel' speaking for David at that crucial destiny moment, he might have remained just a shepherd boy for the rest of his life. I pray that the members of your household will block you from reaching your God-ordained height in Jesus' name. Wherever you are now, they will send you to take your rightful place in life.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you toiling now?
 Are you in need?
 Is your basket empty?
 Are you toiling without anything to show for it?
 Do you know what God has said belongs to you?
 Are you stingy towards God in your offerings?
 Are you responding to your name being mentioned in high places?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "HOLD YOUR PEACE"

"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:14 KJV)
 When your name is not called in the rightful places, it is only God that can fight for you. Hold your peace and worship where you are now for where you are going.
 Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, wherever my name needs to be mentioned for elevation, let Your voice roar on my behalf in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, let my name never be forgotten in high places in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.