



GLORY AND HONOR

PART 12

GOD STILL GIVES JOY

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“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5 KJV)

Right now, the world is dark. Indeed, it feels like nighttime all over the globe because of the palpable horror and darkness that has almost literally enveloped our planet. Surely, we are living in an unusual time in history. One could argue that every index that gives an indication of the state of our world is currently giving a negative reading. In medicine, when one's temperature is above a certain degree or when the pulse is out of rhythm, it becomes a cause for alarm and the result could be fatal. Such an analogy aptly describes where we find ourselves at this moment in time, and if nothing changes, we are going to crash land!

One can point out various expressions of the prevalent darkness that encompasses us; the most recent pandemic, for example, is an indication of how much influence the devil has over our universe. Within a short time, the whole world came into gridlock as movement was restricted and modes of human interactions changed forever. The saga claimed very many lives and left an indelible mark on people's mental health. I do not know of any other time in history when such a sudden surge in mental compromises was recorded; it is no wonder that mental health has taken the center stage in every discussion across the globe today. To be clear, I am not against mental health. My point of view, however, is that the prevalence of poor mental health and mental illness is one strategy that the devil is using to destroy many lives! Oh what a darkness! What a night season the world is going through!

Another expression of the prevalent darkness is the evil that's going on with the war in Ukraine. How thinkable is it that one man can wake up one day and decide that the right of the existence of another sovereign nation should be eroded, thereby unleashing fury that has claimed many innocent lives and an untold amount of property damages? What a night season! What a weeping season in the same world of whose beauty and goodness the Creator testified! My friend, what happened? There is political and religious unrest in many nations; there is so much instability in governments that the democracies of the world powers are under severe duress and might not be able to withstand the test of time if things continue in this trajectory. The currencies that drive the world economy are unstable and driving major economic indices to the brink of collapse, and still, my friend, the worst is yet to come! Oh, what a night season! What a darkened period in our existence!

Let's come to you: are you going through your night season as well? Are you weeping or crying yourself to sleep? Are you wondering for how long will this continue? You might be wondering about all these problems. The root of all these calamities is SIN! God is angry at the sin of humanity, not at His creation. And He has made a solution to this sin problem. Part of the answer is staring at us in Psalm 30:4,

“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Yes, God is angry, but it is for a moment—and His anger is not at you, it is at the situation. There are a group of people that are living their best lives even in this terrible climate. Who are those people? The people that seek the favor of God! See what the psalmist says again in that verse: **“IN HIS FAVOR IS LIFE . . .”** Your best life is in His favor! When God favors you, everything will begin to work for your good.

Who are those who are favored of God? Those who have given their lives to Jesus and are **BORN AGAIN**. Are you born again? Then your weeping has come to an end! All you need to do is to understand that you have God's favor and that's all you need to bring your best life out. A day of God's favor will wipe out a thousand years of labor. If you are not born again, however, the possibilities are against you! My friend, let's change that now. Say with me, **“Lord Jesus, come into my life. I accept You today and confess my sins. I ask for Your forgiveness, please forgive me. Be the Lord of my life from this moment on. I believe You died and rose for my justification; thank You for saving me, in Jesus' name. Amen!”** My friend if you are doing this for the first time or you are rededicating your life, let me be the first person to welcome you into the Kingdom of God.

GLORY AND HONOR

The case for our glory and honor as a Kingdom lifestyle has been settled from the beginning of the world! I love how John puts it in 1 John 5:4,

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Did you see that? If you are born of God, you have overcome the world! In other words, there is no more weeping and achy lifestyle for you! God has won the victory for you and I, but, as John adds, it can only be realized if activated by **FAITH**. Faith is the catalyst that will bring your life of glory and honor to the forefront. God doesn't need you to have faith for you to impress Him; your need for faith is for your own good! Your faith is the currency of exchange in the spirit world. Whatever you cannot settle in the spirit world cannot materialize in the physical world. This is the reason why many people had lived a life of no-impact and some are still living as such. You need faith to get to the finish line, as you continue your journey day by day. You must go from faith to faith and grow your faith.

If you are asking, *“How do I beef up my faith?”* 2 Corinthians 4:13 gives us a clue:

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;”

The first clue we see here is that faith is a spirit. The spirit of faith is developed by **believing** and **speaking**. Whatever you believe, you must give your voice to it. Think about your admission into the Kingdom of God, was it not also based on this principle? You **believed** in your heart and **confessed** with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord and personal Savior—that was how you became saved. Of course, this template of believing and speaking does not end at salvation; it is fundamental to all of Christianity. You must use your mouth to the fullest.

Going further, we should ask, *“What is faith?”* Let's look at the classic answer offered by the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews,

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrew 11:1).

Faith is what gives substance or value to whatever you are believing for, and that substance comes by speaking the word of God to that effect. As John reminds us, *“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God” (John 1:1)*. If God is the word, and the word is the substance, then it means that God becomes the substance of whatever you are believing for! you will only delay your answer if you don't have the Word of God stored up in you. When you get the substance settled in your mind, even though you have not seen what you are believing for, it becomes the evidence of things that cannot be seen yet.

If you are not living your best life of glory and honor as your default lifestyle, then you can change that right now! Let me show you how:

“For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrew 11:2-3)

Faith is what gave the people that came before us a GOOD REPORT, and it is the same faith that framed everything we see today! You, too, can obtain a good report from this day forward. You can change your destiny—not by your pastor's prophecy but by YOUR FAITH!

ANCHOR TEXT

God wants us to have everything He has given to us freely in Jesus. There's no reservation with God; He wants the best

for us. However, we can mess up His plans and provision for us if we are not careful. The greatest gift we have from God is our free will to do whatever we want. If this is not well managed, it can become a snare.

Another example in the scriptures is King Solomon. His birth, as we would recall, was a miracle. The first child from the union of his mum (Bathsheba) and his dad (King David) did not survive. Solomon was born and became the king by divine choice and a divine encounter he had at the start of his tenure. (Read up the story in 1 King 3:5-14.)

Verse 5 says,

“In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.”

God appeared and gave him a blank check! What an invitation to a life of glory and honor! God gave him more than he could have asked for, and his beautiful reign began. However, God also gave him a clause upon which the continuance of this lifestyle of glory and honour hangs.

Verse 14 says,

“And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.”

Unfortunately, King Solomon turned away from the Lord to follow strange gods.

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 heart will not stop panting after the water brooks of the word of God in Jesus' name. May you never tell stories of when you used to serve God in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHY ARE THE GLORY AND HONOR FADED?

So far, we have considered eleven reasons:

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
11. WHEN YOUR NAME IS LEFT OUT OF THE LIST

Let's continue from there today.

12. REFUSING TO PART WITH 'LOT'

“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou

seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.” (Genesis 13:14-17 KJV)

Your association could be what is limiting your visibility. When we associate with the wrong crowd, the radiance of our glory and honor can be hindered. God asked Abraham to leave his household, but he took Lot along! (See Genesis 12:1,4)

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee . . . So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.” (Genesis 12:1,4)

Lot went with him, and that was the beginning of Abraham's problem. He did not fully obey God! I pray for you now that if you have any 'Lot' traveling with you as you read this episode, may the Lord of heaven take them far away from you in Jesus' name. God blessed Abraham but not to the full extent of his destiny—until he separated from Lot. Let's look at what happened when Lot left Abraham:

“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward . . . Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.” (Genesis 13:14,17)

After Lot left, the Lord asked Abraham to lift up his eyes **NOW!** God will not show you what your inheritance can be if 'Lot' is still with you. You can only rise and walk through your inheritance when 'Lot' departs, and God will give your land to you.

CALL TO ACTION

- Is it a night season for you?
- Are you weeping through the night?
- Do you think God is angry with you?
- Do you have faith?
- Are you growing your faith?
- Do you have any good reports?
- Do you have any 'Lots' in your life?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “STRANGERS IN YOUR LIFE”
“The strangers shall fade away, And be afraid out of their close places.”
(Psalm 18:45 KJV)

It is time for every 'Lot' competing with you to go! I command every stranger to fade away and be gone from their hidden places, in Jesus' name! Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I declare that I overcome the world by my faith in the name of Jesus.
2. Lord, separate me from every 'Lot' that is hindering me from walking in the fullness of my inheritance 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.