

The Ark
Wednesday - October 31, 2018

Stewardship:

Psalm 116:12 What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? NKJV

What are those benefits?

Psalm 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities

Who heals all your diseases

Who redeems your life from destruction

Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies

Who satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles. NKJV

We give back to God through obedience and that's where stewardship comes in...

God doesn't need our money

God desires our trust and confidence in Him

Our obedience in giving our finances is a reflection of our faith that God will always provide our needs.

So give your tithe and offerings as an expression of “Thanksgiving and Praise” for all the benefits God has given and continues to give to you.

Lesson:

THE WEIGHT OF GOD'S GLORY

Isaiah 60:1 Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness [all] peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you [O Jerusalem], and His glory shall be seen on you.

Verse 18. But you shall call your wall salvation, and your gates Praise.

Verse 20 (b) And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Paul wrote of this position of Glory:

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

(AMPC)¹⁶ Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying *and* wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.

¹⁷ For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an **everlasting weight of glory** [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!],

What is Glory?

Colossians 1:27 To them (The Saints or believers) God willed to make known what are the riches of the **glory** of this mystery among the Gentiles: Which is **CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY**.

Glory Defined-The Old Testament word for Glory is "Chabod" and means Weightiness; that which is substantial or heavy; glory, honor, splendor, power, wealth, authority, magnificence, fame, dignity, riches and excellency.

God's visible splendor, which filled Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:11; Numbers 14:21)

The manifested presence of God.

Manifest - to make understandable to your natural senses.

Why would we want to experience the Glory of God?

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty** (emancipation from bondage, freedom).

¹⁸ And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to **behold** [in the Word of God] as in a mirror **the glory** of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendor *and* from one degree of glory to another; **[for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.**

Experiencing God's Glory (His Presence - His Weightiness) changes us and it's a progressive work. Actually, the word "Transfigured" means changed from the inside out.

How Do We Experience God's Glory?

- 1. Through the Word of God.** As we read the Word and meditate on it, the Holy Spirit begins to show us a reflection of our potential and we begin to experience the quiet glory of transformation.
- 2. Through Thanksgiving and Worship (More than any other book, Revelation takes us into Heaven and reveals the activity there. At least 7 times the curtain is pulled back and**

heaven's activity is revealed in this great book and each time we experience worship and Glory. Is it possible to experience some of that glory here on earth? Absolutely!).

God is longing for his people to really worship Him and experience His glory. However, the scripture is clear: *John 4:24 God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. NKJV.*

So how do we get into the presence of God to Worship Him? I want you to realize that our musicians are not here to entertain you or to lead you in a 'SONG SERVICE". Our Worship team is here to take you into God Presence and lead you in Spirit Worship of God.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His Gates with thanksgiving And into His courts with Praise

This verse gives us the progression of worship and entering God's Presence and His Glory. David was talking about the Temple ... the Gates - The Courts, but not the Holy of Holies because he was not allowed to enter that portion of the temple. However, when Jesus died on the cross the veil that separated the People from God and the

Mercy Seat was torn from top to bottom. Now we have the awesome privilege of entering into the Holy of Holies as we worship.

Let's talk for a moment about music and worship. God has always used music to help people worship Him.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

- Psalms = Scripture set to music (Exodus 1&2 Marion; Luke 1:46-49 Mary)
- Hymns - Inspired songs (amazing Grace)
- Spiritual Songs - I believe this is singing in The Spirit or in tongues.

Since there is a progression into God's Presence and the place of experiencing His Glory... let's examine that progression in Psalm 100.

Thanksgiving will get us in the gates. Thanksgiving is a celebration of what God has done for you. In fact, it's all about you. That's because we are self-centered and in order to experience the Glory of God and true worship, we must turn attention away from ourselves toward God. Song that "testify" are songs of thanksgiving.

Praise takes you into the Courts of the Lord. While thanksgiving celebrates what God has done for you... Praise is a celebration of God's acts beyond you.

Sadly, many never get beyond the courts because they simply don't know how to transition from Praise into Worship. **Worship is love expressed toward God.**

Romans 12:1 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. NIV.

Finally, let me share what worship has the potential to do in your life:

- Worship is a call to come up higher and see more clearly.
- Worship opens the way for God's will to be manifested in your life
- Worship breaks all resistance to your promise
- Worship is a trumpet calling to transcend - to rise above all restrictions that may be holding us down....

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