

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 20

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one. John 17:22

Key Thought: God gives us His glory.

Denise and I (Pastor Len) both love the ocean. We were blessed to take a three month sabbatical in 2010. The first week in June we were in Oregon, and were able to enjoy a beautiful sunset over the Pacific Ocean. Three weeks later we were in Maine, and enjoyed several sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean. We each felt closer to God as we experienced these reflections of His glory in His creation.

However nothing on this earth or in the heavens is beautiful or awesome enough to prepare us to see the glory of God Himself. That was the experience of Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-7, as he sees the glory of God in a vision. What a moment that will be when we enter the presence of God as His sons and daughters to spend eternity with Him!

The glory Jesus refers to in John 17:22 was His for eternity past, for He is the eternal second person of the God-head, God the Son. However, when Jesus took on humanity at the Incarnation, He laid His visible glory aside as He became a man. But He did reveal God the Father and His glory to us through the life He lived. He revealed that glory through His perfect and sinless life. He revealed it through the miracles He performed. It was revealed at the Transfiguration in Matthew 17. Ultimately the glory of God was revealed through the resurrection of Christ, as Satan, death and sin were defeated and God's glory stood triumphant! Reflecting back on all of this, the Apostle John wrote, "we have seen his glory, as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14b)

As Jesus prays here in John 17:22, He declares a wonderful truth—the glory that the Father had given to Him, He was now giving to us. What a marvelous gift! A 'deposit' of the glory we will receive and experience in eternity has been given to us for the life we live here now. We have experienced forgiveness of our sin that has brought us into a right relationship with God. The perfect righteousness of Christ has been given to us so we now stand in Him. We have been placed into the Body of Christ, the church. The Holy Spirit dwells within us now and for eternity. God is at work in our hearts to

transform us to be more and more like Christ. We have the promise that one day this body we now occupy will be exchanged for a glorified body that will be like the Lord's resurrection body. All of these things are a touch of God's grace and glory that we will fully realize when we come into His presence!

This touch of God's glory is the foundation of the unity we are to experience, which Jesus refers to as 'being one even as we are one.' First, because it is Christ and the Holy Spirit who bind us together into the Body of Christ. Then, as we live out this unity by loving one another as Christ loves us, the world sees the glory of God in us and will be drawn to Jesus.

Questions to Ponder

1. How does this request of Jesus reflect His words in John 13:34-35, where He states that the world will know we are His disciples by the way we love each other?
2. How often do you reflect on the moment you enter eternity and see the full glory of God? How would doing this affect the way you live this life?
3. How does knowing God's glory is seen in your transformed life and your relationship with other Believers impact you?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Ask God to give you glimpses of His glory in His creation and His Word.
2. Ask God to show you ways your life can reflect His glory and be seen by the people around you.
3. Ask God to show you the parts of your life that do not yet reflect Him and His glory, and by His grace change them to do so.

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?