

The Attributes of God  
Glorious God

**What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.**

**WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD GLORY?**

It may be one of the most important things about you.

Georgia fight song?

A great Denzel Washington movie?

A starry night

Snow-capped peaks?

Atlanta United MLS Championship

A baby's birth

A child's bedtime

The appearance of the angels to announce the birth of Christ?

Glory is in the song of the Angels at birth of Jesus.

Luke 2

8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Glory isn't a "thing". It is a description of what God is like and it is an exclamation of praise.

It's not like the other attributes, but it is a term that is used often in the Bible to describe God, his presence or something that he has, i.e. The Glory of the Lord. We are called to give Him glory. It is also used as a verb – we are to glorify God.

Glory is a hard work to define or describe. It is more like a concept than a tangible item like a tree or a chair.

What does it mean??

kaḇôḏ kaḇôḏ

From [H3513](#); properly *weight*; but only figuratively in a good sense, *splendor* or *copiousness*: - glorious (-ly), glory, honor (-able).

NT - doxa – dignity, glory, honor, praise

The idea of glory is very rich ...

John Piper

*"The vindication of God's glory is the ground of our salvation, and the exaltation of God's glory is the goal of our salvation." In another place: "God's glory is the goal of all things." In another place: "God's glory is the unifying goal of history." In another place he said: "God's glory is the source and sum of all full and lasting joy."*

Piper's definition:

The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of his manifold perfections.

Glory is wrapped up in the beauty and greatness of all that God is – Loving, Incomprehensible, Merciful, Righteous, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Holy, Sovereign, Immutable and Faithful.

Those are the attributes we've looked at over the past 9 weeks.  
The glory of God is something that shines forth and is beheld and praised.

*Tripp (blog devotional)*

*So, when the Bible speaks of God's glory, what is it talking about? The doctrine of God's glory encompasses the greatness, beauty, and perfection of all that he is.*

*In everything that he is and in everything that he does, God is greater than human description. Every attribute and action of God is stunningly beautiful in every way. Each characteristic of God and every accomplishment from his hand is totally perfect. This is what we mean when we talk about God's glory.*

*Every part of God is glorious in every way possible; there's nothing more to be said. And because God is glorious in every possible way, he alone stands in this vast universe as the only One who is worthy of the worship, surrender and love of every human heart.*

The Bible is not shy about proclaiming the importance of the glory of God.  
Psalm 19:1 – The heavens are telling the glory of God.

Isa 6:3 Holy, Holy, Holy, the whole earth is filled with his glory.

2 Cor 4:1-6 is also instructive

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 **And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.** 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

We won't appreciate or even see the light of the glory of God unless our hearts are changed. By nature, we are blinded to the knowledge of the glory of God by the "God of this world".

### **THERE IS A GLORY STRUGGLE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

God has it and we want it.

Our enemy does not want us to see or know the glory of God.

Rom 3:23 shows us that at the heart of sin is our failure to live up to the standard of the glory of God. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

### **GLORY IS MULTIFACETED**

Most references in Psalms, Isaiah, Ezek, Exodus, Proverbs

- ❖ It is something that appears or passes by – Ex 16:7; 29:43; 33:18, 22
- ❖ It is something God has and will not share with another...Isa 40:5, 42:8, 43:11
- ❖ It is to be declared and rendered unto God – Ps 96 / 149:5 – a source of joy and strength for the believer.
- ❖ It describes the very name of God – Ps 8:9
- ❖ It describes Jesus the context of his birth, his life, and his coming again IN GLORY.
- ❖ Jesus is the exact representation of the glory of God – Heb 1:3; He is the Hope of glory Col 1:27
- ❖ It describes the parameters of how we are to live – "whether you eat or drink, do all to the glory of God" – 1 Cor 10:31

- ❖ It is the response we should all have to God's plan of salvation. Eph 1:6
- ❖ It is environment we'll experience when Jesus returns – Col 3:4
- ❖ It is the purpose for which God made us and the world and it is at the center of our reason for being Isa 43:7 1 Cor 6:20; 10:31

WCF SC #1 What is the chief end of Man... glorify God and enjoy him forever.  
 What is the chief end of God?? – To glorify Himself

The glory of God is interesting in that we both experience it, and in some way participate in it.  
 We are to see it and be awed by it – Psalm 19 and we are to live in a way that is shaped by our desire to glorify God – 1 Cor 10:31.

The reality of God's glory is seen all through scripture. It is often described through word pictures.  
 Isa 40: 12,15, 22

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,  
 And marked off the heavens by the span,  
 And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,  
 And weighed the mountains in a balance  
 And the hills in a pair of scales?

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,  
 And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;  
 Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,      (Voyager 2 has traveled 11 billion miles,  
 And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,      in 41 years and has 30K more years to clear  
 Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain      our solar system- Our God made this)  
 And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

#### IMPLICATIONS OF THE GLORY OF God:

1. **We are hard wired for glory** – we crave it, to have it or be near it so that it rubs off on us. – GLORY HUNGER; name dropping. REVIEW YOUR WORDS OR BEHAVIOR THIS PAST WEEK. How were they influenced by glory hunger?
2. **It points our worship toward God, as He is revealed in scripture – we worship what we find glorious and what we find glorious reveals what we worship.** “Come look at this”... Psalm 19 – the heavens declare the glory of God.
3. **The glory of God is like a cosmic SNICKERS bar – It satisfies.** And only it satisfies. Nothing in creation – man made or God made- truly satisfies the deep hunger and longings of our hearts. We were made to find our real sense of purpose and meaning in something that transcends the created world.  
 EX: France, while thought of as being a deep culture with great thinkers, authors, artists, etc turns out to be rather shallow because the focus is on man and what is temporal. You scratch the surface and you see that things aren't that deep. People live for good cheese, wine, vacations, and other momentary pleasures of life. They may talk about “La gloire de la France – the glory of France”, but it's a tarnished glory. When you eliminate the eternal transcendence of God you're only left with the created order as a random cosmic accident. ACCIDENT and PURPOSE are mutually exclusive.
4. **The result of the Fall is Glory Hunger- we try to beg, borrow or steal glory for ourselves** – Phil 2 (vain glory); 2 Cor 5.

14For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor 5

We are living for ourselves rather than living for the glory of God. Sin draws us away from living for the glory of God so that we would live for the glory of WE live with a distorted sense of glory- our “glory GPS” is off. It is always telling us to follow a road that will lead to glory for us. HOW’S THAT WORKING? Like Michael Scott, the GPS will lead us to drive into a lake.

5. **Christ came so that we might no longer live for ourselves, but for God** i.e. he restores our “glory GPS”. The total package of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone includes the gift of the Holy Spirit who is now our Divine GPS. He leads us on the paths of righteousness for the glory of God. The Holy Spirit also applies the benefits of Christ to our hearts so that we are filled with the fruit of righteousness to the glory of God.

The soul that is filled with the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT has no need to hunger for the tarnished glory of the flesh.

Since “glory” means “heavy or weight” I must end with some thoughts from C.S. Lewis and his essay – “The Weight of Glory” (a link will be in the notes online)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20131204041910/https://verber.com/mark/xian/weight-of-glory.pdf>

There is a lot in the essay that makes it worth reading but I want to focus two aspects that he describes as the “weight of glory”.

**The First relates to our being loved and delighted in by God when we know Christ.** As you will hear in the opening lines of this paragraph Lewis gives a different perspective on a concept I’ve repeated each week for the past 9 weeks. See if you hear it.

*I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not!*

*How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important. Indeed, how we think of Him is of no importance except in so far as it is related to how He thinks of us. It is written that we shall “stand before” Him, shall appear, shall be inspected. The promise of glory is the promise that some of us shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God. To please God...to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is.*

Being loved and delighted in by God is a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. Deepen your enjoyment of God by contemplating on these things this Christmas season.

WE DARE NOT TREAT THE LOVE OF God AS A SMALL THING by allowing our hearts to be pre-occupied and shaped by so many insignificant things.

Do our lives reflect the weight and stability that the love of God supplies? i.e. a STABILITY, hope, contentment and joy that surpasses our circumstances? (It’s what sustains Christians in persecution).

**A SECOND WEIGHT OF GLORY** come as we consider those sitting around us...

*It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbor. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor’s glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.*

*It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal*

*Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbor, he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ (vere latitat)—the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.*

Deepen your enjoyment of God this Christmas by honoring the hidden glory of God in the believers around you and the image of God in all people.

Christ came and was born in a manger so that the hope of glory would be born in all who trust in Him.

Colossians 1

25 Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching* of the word of God,

26 *that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,*

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

--	--