

THE PEOPLES
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HIS
GLORY
REVEALED

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

9TH JANUARY - 29TH JANUARY 2023

PCF MISSION

The People's Christian Fellowship exists to **SPREAD**
the gospel through **SERVING** our community and
STRENGTHENING the body of Christ

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40:5.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for agreeing to partner with your brothers and sisters again as we open the Year 2023 with a period of corporate prayer and fasting. I don't believe this is just another event on the calendar to get through; it genuinely allows us the opportunity to set ourselves up for what God will do through the ministry this year.

Our spiritual objective this year is entitled 'The Revelation of God's Glory.' And this will be based on Isaiah 40:5:

*The glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

Listen, God is making His move. Biblical prophecies are about to be unfolded before our very eyes. The end-time intention of God will not be denied; it makes good sense for us to align ourselves with God's agenda right now. The Glory of God is both an interesting and essential topic for the church, and the daily devotional you are holding has excellent teachings which will inspire and encourage you each day.

Each devotional relates to the glory of God, and over the 21 days of fasting and prayer, you will find that the daily Provisionals weave their way from a focused look at God's Glory to how we should respond with respect to His glory. Ultimately, His glory will be revealed, our prayer is that 2023 will be a year where His glory is experienced in a tangible way through the ministry of this church fellowship and our individual lives.

I genuinely pray that we will have a prosperous year and experience the favour of the Lord each day. May the Lord truly be with us all in Jesus name. Amen.



TYPES OF FAST

Complete Fast:

Abstaining from food and liquids for a period of time (see Esther 4:15-16).

Normal fast:

Abstaining from food but drinking liquids. This fast can be exercised over the course of a full day or for a specific period of the day. The majority of people do this type of fast. Fasting from for example, from sunrise to sunset, or from 6am to 6pm. Or from 8pm in the evening and breaking the fast at 3pm the next day.

Partial Fast or Daniel Fast:

Some people see the daily periodic breaking of the normal fast as a type of partial fast. But a partial fast could allow the eating of certain foods. The Daniel type fast is based on Daniel 1:8 and 10:2- 3 which includes a restriction on the consumption of all meats, sweets, alcohol, and pleasurable foods.

Electronic Entertainment Fast:

Abstaining from social media and all forms of electronic entertainment (movies, TV, video games, etc.) This is a wonderful fast for everyone! Still, it is important that when you embark on any spiritual food fast, that you include this form of abstinence also. When you break the fast, try not to rush back into social entertainment. Continue to think about whatever it is the Lord had shown you during this period of fasting.

Ezra 8:23

*So we fasted and petitioned our God about this,
and he answered our prayer*

WHY FAST?

- ⇒ to know God's will and direction for your life
- ⇒ for a miracle or breakthrough
- ⇒ for a word inside you that only God can make possible
- ⇒ a fresh touch from God in your life
- ⇒ a deeper, more intimate, and powerful relationship with the Lord
- ⇒ to have greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's voice
- ⇒ to break free from bondages that have been holding you captive
- ⇒ for the salvation of friends and/or loved ones
- ⇒ to bring your flesh into subjection, to be more influenced by the Holy Spirit

MEDICAL ADVICE

For medical reasons, some people may not be able to fast from food altogether. They may choose to abstain only from certain foods, like sugar or chocolate, or from something other than food. Doing without something temporarily, such as television, as a way of redirecting our focus toward God. Consult your doctor before going on the fast.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How many meals do I eat per day on the Daniel Fast? Can I have snacks?

A: The number of times you eat throughout the day is a personal decision. Some people choose to eat three meals. Some might add a snack or two in between. Others may skip a meal to pray. There isn't a particular formula for the frequency of meals. Let God guide you as to what your fast should look like.

Q: Pastor, what is one thing a first time 'faster' like me should remember?

A: This is a spiritual fast. What you do during this period of consecration is more important than the food restrictions you have chosen. Fasting is about denying the physical body and soul of things it may both need and desire, to focus on providing for one's spiritual necessities. So, we may like to be entertained by many things, but in this period of fasting, we choose to develop our spirits and relationships with Christ.

NOTE:

Always keep paper and pen nearby so that you can write down the things the Lord lays on your heart.

During the evening it might be good to fill out a journal which recaps your thoughts and feelings throughout the day .

Put on Christian radio and TV channels, ask the Lord to direct you to a book that you should read or a Christian magazine. Do not let non-spiritual things cloud your mind or cause you to lose focus.

Call a Christian friend and entertain them with godly words of comfort and encouragement.

Q: Are salt and pepper allowed? What about herbs and spices?

A: Yes, you can use salt and pepper to flavour your food. Also, herbs and spices are allowed. However, you need to make sure any store-bought seasonings are Daniel Fast friendly. Read the ingredients list on the label to be sure. Watch out especially for added sugar.

Psalm 37:4

*Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

EAT BUT...

In a normal fast, we fast for a certain number of hours each day, then we are permitted to break our fast to eat. In the Daniel Fast, you are permitted to eat at any time, but you are restricted to only eating specific things (see Daniel 1: 11-16; 10: 3 for reference). It is not uncommon for believers to do a 'normal fast' but restrict their eating to the foods approved on the Daniel fast list.

10 OR 21 DAYS

Officially we are doing a 21 day fast and I hope everyone is aiming for this. But there may be some of our congregation who may have never fasted before. 21 days might seem too great a challenge. Well maybe you could aim at doing 10 days and see how you feel on the 10th day. You could then either continue, or if not, still restrict yourself from other things like TV etc. until day 21.

FOOD IS ONE THING

Restrict yourself from all forms of fleshly entertainment for the duration and increase your spiritual intake. Seek the Lord regarding which external things to abstain from. Read and study the Word, increase your prayer times connect with other believers. Be confident that through this spiritual sacrifice, God will take His rightful place within your heart.

Make extra time to pray, this is imperative. Prayer is talking with God; you will find that during a period of fasting, your spiritual senses become finely tuned. Do prayer walks with other believers, bike prayer rides, prayer journals, prayer conference call sessions, email encouraging words to each other (be creative). Remember to pray for others.

OPPORTUNITY

There are habits, attitudes, beliefs, practices, weakness, and other carnal powers that can only be broken through fasting. During this period of fasting, let us stop doing those things that we know are wrong (the Lord speaks to our conscience) and do the things we know that are right and pleasing to Him.

FOODS TO EAT ON THE DANIEL FAST

Daniel 10: 3

I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

Whole Grains

Amaranth, barley, brown rice, buckwheat, bulgur, freekeh, millet, oats, purple rice, quinoa, rye, sorghum, spelt, teff, whole grain pasta, whole wheat, and wild rice.

Beans and Legumes

Black beans, black-eyed peas, cannellini beans, garbanzo beans (chickpeas), great northern beans, kidney beans, lentils, peanuts, pinto beans, and split peas.

Nuts and Seeds

Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, nut butters, peanuts (actually legumes but people think of them as nuts), pecans, pepitas (pumpkin seeds), pine nuts, pistachios, poppy seeds, walnuts, sesame seeds, soy nuts, sunflower seeds.

Vegetables

All vegetables are allowed (fresh, frozen, dried, juiced, and canned).

Fruit

All fruit is allowed (fresh, frozen, dried, juiced, and canned). However, any dried fruit should not contain added sugar (check ingredients to be sure).

Oils

Oils (such as coconut, olive, and sesame, for example) are allowed but should be used minimally. For example, you can sauté foods in olive oil but avoid deep-frying them.

*Refresh your spirit, renew your mind, and revitalise
your body*

Other

Unleavened bread (whole grain bread made without yeast, sugars, or preservatives).

All herbs, spices, and seasonings are allowed, including salt and pepper. Soy products (such as edamame and soy nuts) and tofu are acceptable.

Beverages

Water should be the main beverage on your Daniel Fast. Distilled, filtered, sparkling, spring, and mineral water are allowed as well. However, you may have 100% fruit juice on occasion. You can also use 100% fruit juice in recipes

FOODS TO AVOID ON THE DANIEL FAST

1 Corinthians 10:31

*Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

Animal Products

- Meat (bacon, beef, bison, chicken, lamb, pork, and turkey).
- Dairy (butter, cheese, cream, milk, and yogurt)
- Fish
- Eggs

Added Sugar

Agave nectar, artificial sweeteners, brown rice syrup, brown sugar, cane juice, corn syrup, honey, malt syrup, molasses, and raw sugar.

Yeast

Yeast and, therefore, leavened bread is not part of the Daniel Fast.

Refined Grains

White flour and white rice. Only whole grains are allowed on the Daniel Fast. A whole grain product contains the entire grain kernel — the bran, germ, and endosperm.

Processed Food

Foods that contain artificial flavourings, chemicals, food additives, and preservatives.

Deep-Fried Food

Examples are corn chips, French fries, and potato chips. (Baked chips are acceptable if they do not contain restricted ingredients. Check the label for “baked” to be sure.)

Solid Fats

Butter, lard, margarine, and shortening.

Chocolate

Milk chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate, dark chocolate, chocolate syrup, and cacao.

Caffeinated and alcoholic beverages

Alcohol, coffee, caffeinated tea, and energy drinks.

WEEK 1

GLORY BELONGS TO HIM

01

Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

It was my first time traveling by airplane, and the destination was to a very hot tropical country. We landed; the doors opened, and two things happened simultaneously. Firstly, a big broad smile plastered itself on my face, and then I was struck by the glorious tropical atmosphere. The heat, the smell, the people, everything was so very different from what I was accustomed to. It would not have been possible for me to imagine, how such an atmosphere could feel like if it had previously been described to me, but it felt great, and I was super happy to be there.

Exodus 40:34 & 1 Kings 8:11, make mention of an unforgettable supernatural occurrence where God's presence is tangibly seen and experienced by everyone present. Whatever duties were on the agenda that day, whatever had been previously planned, everything had to be halted because the atmosphere around the sanctuary had become charged with the glory of God's presence. And our prayer today is simply this: *may there be a manifestation of your glory again.*

We desire to experience God's glory, for His presence displaces the depressive and gloomy atmosphere of fear, doubt, hopelessness, confusion, worry, hurt, lack and so much more. We desire that He warm our hearts with faith, with the hope of His continuing attention, love, and care. Today we pray that there may be a manifestation of His glory again.

Additional reading: 2 Corinthians 6:16

Prayer Points::

- That the church might experience new and unforgettable memories of His presence.
- That the Lord would expose obstacles to the flow of His glory
- Pray for one another

Psalm 19:1

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above
proclaims his handiwork.*

02

- **Glory** - the high honour won by notable achievements. Beautiful, impressive and worthy of praise.
- **Reveal** – to be made visible.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the Earth...

The backdrop to all we say and do, the stage on which we fitfully strut and live out our lives, the beauty of biodiversity, the physical laws that bind us and life sustaining fluids to this terrestrial ball were created by Jehovah GOD.

We can see GOD's notable achievements all around us every day, from the moment we wake drawing the first breath of a new day to the moment we go back to sleep and dream.

He is worthy of praise for giving us the opportunity of experiencing HIS notable work, the light and power of the sun, the serenity of a blue sky, the wispy softness of clouds. Awe inspiring storms, the freshness of a breeze to the might of a gale. GOD has allowed us to experience his handiwork. He is indeed worthy of praise.

Even in HIS version of darkness there is light and beauty. The stars, the colours of a sunset or moonrise and the phases of the moon itself. GOD has allowed us to experience HIS notable achievements. HE is worthy to be praised.

The smallest shrub to the mightiest oak, from ant to elephant GOD's notable achievements are manifest. HE is worthy of praise.

We are the pinnacle of all his work, the last thing he made, the only thing HE made in his likeness, but just like everything else we are evidence of HIS notable acts. HE is worthy of praise.

Action Points:

Genesis 1

John 1

Think of all the things around us that we take for granted that GOD has provided, and today give thanks in prayer and praise to GOD for all the good things he has provided for us.

03

Isaiah 6:3

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory"

What an amazing scene that is being set here in our key text. The heavenly beings communicating to one another about the very character of God.

By using the Hebrew word 'Qadosh', which we interpret as 'Holy', this word literally means 'to be set apart for a special purpose'. God is in every way good, perfect & only perfection can come from Him. His divine nature, characteristics, and being set Him apart. The heavenly beings proclaimed it three times before giving Him the title of Yahweh (LORD) over the hosts (heavenly army), which they were a part of. Making Him the Almighty one (see Rev 4:8) over every other being EVER!

No one is like, or even comes close to Him, as we (including the heavenly beings) have been created by Him for His glory.

When we recognise who God is, we realise just as the seraphim did, that He surpasses every limited, thought & expectation that we could ever have or set. And in this, we realise how small and flawed we are as humans and our necessity for God. We exist to bring Him glory through our everyday lives!

Action Points:

Today, let our focus be to meditate on how supremely and distinctively different (transcendent) God is from us as created beings. Think about His omniscience (knowing all things), His omnipresence (present everywhere at the same time), and His omnipotence (unmatched and unlimited power). Let us immerse ourselves in the realisation of our Almighty God!

Exodus 15:6

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

04

YAHWEH is the Hebrew word for the self-revealed name of the God of the Old Testament. It comes from the Hebrew verb "To be." The English Bible translates it as "LORD," which distinguishes it from "Lord" (which is translated as "master").

Our scripture today is a portion of Moses and Miriam's song to God after He rescued them from the hands of Pharaoh. It was an almighty deliverance as the Israelites were faced by the Red sea and the Egyptian army was closing in on them. There was nowhere for them to run. They were trapped. They could only imagine death at the hands of Pharaoh and his army. The Israelites cried to Moses and blamed him for leading them into the situation. God performed a miracle that day and it was so clear to everyone there that nobody else could have delivered them.

It was here they gave thanks to the LORD singing YAHWEH – the LORD who is the I AM, the LORD who is TO BE. None of them could have imagined or even hoped for the great miracle ahead of them. The LORD parted the Red sea so that the whole Israelite people could walk across to Jericho in safety. This was told to Moses when God revealed Himself through the burning bush and he (Moses) asked God who he should tell Israelites has sent him to tell Pharaoh that they (the Israelites) should be free to leave Egypt. Exodus 3: 14 "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Whenever God reveals Himself as YAHWEH His glory is revealed unmistakably. This is when the LORD, the I AM, YAHWEH, shows up in a way that leaves no misunderstanding that He is the LORD whom there is no boundary to His power. Our minds cannot contain the breadth of God's power. Why? God's glory must continue to be revealed.

Action Point:

Take yourself out of that situation. You have been trying to go ahead of the way God has prepared. Let YAHWEH who is the I AM fulfil what needs to be done. His glory must be seen through our lives.

Prayer Point:

Holy Spirit, please reveal to us the WORD today as our minds are limited in understanding and we pray for a fresh revelation of the LORD Almighty, YAHWEH.



05

Isaiah 48:11

I will rescue you for My own sake, yes, for My own sake! I will not let My reputation be tarnished and I will not share My glory

As we are aware, God is love, and God's love covers a multitude of sins. Peter affirms this when he instructs us to love one another. (1 Pet 4:8). In this way we glorify God if we love one another. (1 John 4:12)

The rescuing of His people Israel is what we call unmerited compassion. Israel continued to sin in the sight of their God and was deserving of destruction. They were double-minded, and at times we can find ourselves being double-minded too. However, God's reputation and love were not going to be sullied by the plan of Satan. God says, "For My sake, I will rescue you." But in the preceding verses, He says, "I will restrain Myself for your benefit."

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy, But God sent His Son into this world not to condemn us, but to save us (John 3:17) and He says His word would not return to Him void. (Isa 55:11), and that He has a plan for Israel and for us, that plan is that we inherit the kingdom of God and everlasting life. For He desires that none of us would perish. (John 3:16) cf. (2 Pet 3:9).

Action Point:

Today let our words be like those of Christ, "Father glorify Your child so that Your child may glorify You." This is our aim, 'to glorify the Lord alone' then we can share in the glory of Christ as co-heirs. (Rom 8:17)

So, we glorify God alone; by our faith, by our worship, and in all that we do. (1 Pet 4:10-11).

Psalm 108.4-5

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth

06

The first thing that strikes me as I read this scripture verse is that God's character and attributes are AWESOME and ENDLESS... His love, His faithfulness, His glory, are above and beyond our comprehension. The writer of this verse clearly wants the whole earth to experience God, and as believers in Christ, this should be our desire to, that God's character fills the whole earth.

In these challenging times, God's love, His faithfulness, and His glory are seen all around us, and for the believers, they should also be seen within us. Our lives should reflect His love, our testimonies should celebrate His faithfulness, and our praise and worship should exalt His glory.

Habakkuk 2:14, says - for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

As believers let's take the opportunity to share, live and declare God's truth, so that the earth is filled with His glory, and as we choose to live our lives unto our Heavenly Father, I believe the heavens, the clouds, the water, and the whole earth will truly bear witness of His Glory.

Action Point:

As you read this, decide to shine the light (Jesus), God has given you, so His Glory may fill the earth.

Further Encouragement:

For God's presence and glory to be alive and active in the heart and mind of His children. For God to reveal Himself to our unsaved friends and relatives, that they may receive salvation and come into relationship with Him.

Exodus 33:18
And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

The request made by Moses in this verse is a rather bold one. Moses had been leading the Israelites as God had directed him, but whilst the people were content with experiencing God from a distance, Moses craved a deeper relationship with God. One where he would see God in all his Glory. In verse 15, we see that Moses relied on God's presence to guide and protect them so much that he refused to proceed on the journey without the presence of God. Such was his desire for a deeper relationship with Yahweh that he asks, "show me your Glory." The word Glory in Hebrew is Kabod which literally means weight. I often wonder if Moses fully understood what he was asking, but God honours his request with a condition and that is to cover him with his hand until he passes by. In John 14:8 Philip, in speaking to Jesus asks, "show us the Father" and Jesus responds by saying, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father. What Moses was asking for in Exodus 33:18 was actually manifested in the new testament in the form of Jesus Christ.

Nothing moves the heart of God more than when his people desire him. It is far more comfortable to pitch our tent at a distance and watch from a distance, but this period of fasting is an opportunity to draw closer to God. One thing we can be certain of is that if we draw closer to God, he will indeed draw closer to us. James 4:8

Prayer Points:

- Ask the Lord to show you where you are in your walk and help you to draw closer
- Ask to Lord reveal any blind spots which may be affecting your relationship with him

WEEK 2

GLORY MANIFESTED



08

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of John casts an anchor in (v.20:31), whereby the writer outlines the purpose of the epistle (letter), pointing the hearer toward belief in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, and access to life in his name.

The utterance of John 1:1 carries us into the realm of eternity, before time and creatures were. Similar to Genesis, the 'beginning' is the starting point, but while Genesis lays out what follows the 'beginning,' the Gospel of John establishes what was before time and the created order. In both instances the 'aseity' of God has to be contended with, in that God is not dependent on any cause other than himself for his existence, realisation or ends. God, the creator (Is 40: 21-22) is the only one that is eternal, self-existent and divine (Is 40:18, 25).

It is at this Juncture the Gospel of John presents the Word (Logos) in both existence (1:1-2) and operation (1:3).

Existence:

- When the Word was: In the beginning was the Word;
- Where was the Word: and the Word was with God;
- What was/is the Word: and the Word was God;
- And just to be clear: He was in the beginning with God.

Operation:

What did the Word do: Through him all things were made...

Our prime text for today (v.14) presents the revelation of the Word, the same Word revealed as God in verses (1-2). As we focus on the glory of God let us enter this week aiming to lay aside our wants and needs, and spend time meditating upon the Word that has dwelt among humankind, Jesus the Christ.

Prayer Point:

Let us pray that God will reveal the glory of the One and Only, Jesus Christ, that we may believe and have life in his name.

John 2:11

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

09

At various points throughout the gospels Jesus is labelled by various factions as a 'Rabbi'. John tells us that this title means 'teacher' (1:38). At this time the title signified that a person had a reputation as a wise teacher. You didn't have to hold an official place in ministry to be called one. Our key text today tells us that Jesus turning the water to wine at a wedding in Cana was 'the first of His signs' (ESV). The Greek word for 'signs' can be used to describe a miraculous sign, or to sign post towards something, or mark a moment... and Jesus' signs/miracles had a specific purpose. They had three primary functions:

- Miracles validated who he was. Only someone with Gods authority could carry out these exploits. It was a sign/demarcation of His eternal identity and many where convinced that He was the Messiah.
- The miracles He performed differentiated Him from other teachers. Jesus' miracles meant He was unmatched in character and His presence, words and actions where transformative for everyone who came into contact with Him.
- Jesus' miracles gave His words authenticity. People believed in who He said He was, because the words had the power to change lives, change weather systems, create food and ultimately give life where there is death!

There are seven miracles in the book of John (excluding Jesus raising Himself from the grave), each of them were carried out to show us who Jesus is: Emmanuel, God with us! Fully God & fully man, able and willing to take on the sins of humanity and save us from them through a sacrificial death on the cross (Phil 2:6-8).

Today, challenge yourself to study several 'signs' of Jesus in the book of John and meditate on the 'glory' that they brought to His character, actions and words:

- Changing water into wine at Cana John 2:1-11.
- Healing of the official's son John 4: 46-54.
- Healing the paralytic at Bethesda in John 5:1-15.
- Feeding the 5000 in John 6:5-14.
- Jesus walking on water in John 6:16-24.
- Healing the man blind from birth in John 9:1-7.
- The raising of Lazarus in John 11:1-45

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17:1-4

Looking at our scripture for today we see the greatness and power of obedience in Jesus' desire to glorify God, His Father. Jesus gave some final words to his disciples in training and preparation for service as the time of His earthly ministry was about to end. Jesus knew all that He had was from His Father. All His achievements were from His Father. In recognition Jesus prayed "glorify the Son that the son will glorify You", with a heart of love and selflessness and everything for His Father.

Our worldly desires are based on self – me and mine. As we draw near to God, our desires move away from self and towards our Lord. In practical terms for us, even when things get tough, and they could not be as tough as what Jesus was experiencing, let our declaration be "yes Lord, yes Lord". Through this obedience we glorify God.

Everything Jesus did was to glorify the Father and He wanted the disciples to do the same.

Jesus loves us and wants us also to follow in love and in truth, bringing glory to Father. Jesus will be uplifted, and the Father glorified. Let us today glorify the Father in obedience in our service to the Lord.

Action Point:

Just as how Jesus gave himself to be obedience to the Father, may we be ready to join together in love. This love will bring glory unto the Father as we mirror Jesus in obedience.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for unity and love among the family of God
- Pray that we will be obedient to God's call

John 17:22

The glory You have given to me I have given to them, that we may be as one, even as we are one.

11

If I look at the text in isolation, it will cause me to ask, a) why did Christ want the disciples to 'be as one'? The answer would come in verses 21 and 23, "That the world may know that You sent me." and b) why give them the glory? The answer I glean from the text is, the glory is the light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (John 8:12). This glory has the power to change lives, it is binding and sheds light on the truth through our unity.

Just as atoms produce natural light, so unity brings power and is integral in our walk, and our glory (light) is not to be hidden, Christ tells us to let our glory shine before others so that God will be glorified. (Matt 5:14-16). The emphasis on us becoming one within a covenant is no new phenomenon, Christ came to fulfill that which was already spoken through Moses... to bring all together. (Deut 29:10-15). I have heard it said, 'Jesus was talking to the Jews only.' Read what Moses said in verse Deut 29:15... "and to those who are not here today." They will be coheirs to the promise. Which means us. Glory be to God. Amen

Therefore, let us walk in our purpose unto the glory of the LORD. Praise be to God in the highest. Amen (Eph 2:10)

Prayer Points:

Let's pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

- Father, we thank You for adopting us and making us coheirs with Christ. (Rom 8:17)
- Father, we thank You for that glory that brings unity and power.
- Father, we thank You that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Lk 10:20)



12

Luke 9:28-32

Jesus has been teaching and training His disciples for some time now, and He has taken them to the point where they are convinced that He is their long-awaited Messiah. No sooner do they have this reassuring conversation with their Lord, then Jesus tells them that He - their Messiah - will suffer and be rejected and killed. You can be sure that this news was received with an extremely heavy heart. Even though Jesus told them that He would be raised from the dead on the third day, they struggled to accept this part of the message because it was clouded by their nationalistic expectation of the Messiah's vocation.

Our bible reading today hones in on the Transfiguration of Jesus. This experience, you can imagine, must have been an immense help for Jesus, especially in light of what He was facing. The Bible says that Elijah and Moses appeared and spoke with Him about His '*departure*'. The Greek word for '*departure*' is a word we are familiar with. It was the word '*Exodus*', which means *a way out*. It was used to describe death when a person was deceased or departed from this life. Can you imagine, at that moment when Jesus was having to deal with the greatest of challenges, He called three of His disciples to stand with Him in prayer, but also to witness His glory as it was soon to become?

The disciples were overwhelmed by the awesome sight and wanted to remain, moreover, I'm sure that Jesus cherished the fellowship of those disciples also. This experience must have heartened the disciples and Christ, for it was a preview into our future Glorious hope.

Prayer Points:

- Pray that we might value the fellowship of each other especially as we go through challenges
- Pray that we might desire Christian fellowship

Psalm 63:2-4 . So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So, I will bless you as long as I live; in your name, I will lift up my hands.

A little background search indicates that David penned this psalm while he was in the wilderness of Judah. His praise comes from his wilderness experience, not from the prism of a good life. David affirms GOD to be his Elohim (Almighty GOD); he longs for Him with eagerness and immediacy. Charles Spurgeon notes, "He who longs for GOD longs for him now". How blessed we are as believers to know that our soul truly desires GOD. If you seek satisfaction in other things, take that as a warning sign, and come back to alignment with Elohim.

David was in the wilderness, broadly representative of a desert; the likelihood of a sanctuary being present would be minimal. Yet there was no desert in his heart. How beautiful that David could experience the glory of GOD through the knowledge of HIS love. David exemplifies the importance of constant communion with GOD in the sanctuary of his heart. Further, he witnessed the power and glory of GOD by connecting with HIM. David recognised that GOD's sanctuary was more than a physical place but a spiritual place that could be accessed by faith. In that place, David experienced and embraced the lovingkindness of GOD, which David states is "better than life". David enjoyed and valued GOD's, great love.

In today's society, we often see people in despair without a sense of life or hope; David despaired without feeling GOD'S great love.

Action Points:

- Today, please reflect upon how you bless Elohim and how you desire to do so intentionally throughout 2023.
- As you lift your hand as a sign of gratitude and anticipation, remember the importance of your surrender to our Heavenly Father.

Prayer Point:

Dear Father GOD, our Elohim, let us continue to experience your glory in the knowledge of your unfailing love in all seasons of our lives. Our desire is to hunger and thirst for you always.

1 Samuel 4:21

And she named the child Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

We see here in **1 Samuel 4:21** that *The glory from Israel had departed*

Context of passage

- We read Phinehas wife and daughter in law to Eli:
- Lost her father-in-law , and also lost her husband
- And *Ark of the Covenant* was captured

Hearing all this news Phinehas wife went into labour and gave birth to a son whom she named **Ichabod** - **Ichabod means ‘no glory’ or ‘where is glory’**

- She soon fainted and died after childbirth

Gods glory had departed from his people, Gods people would be without his presence, blessing and provision.

The definition of sin in Hebrew is ‘*Khata*’ which means ‘*Missing The Mark*’ the Greek word for sin is *hamartia*, from the root word *hamartano*, an archer’s term meaning to *Miss the Mark*. Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God (1 John 3:4) and rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7;). We know God hates sin.

To ponder

Read 1 Samuel 4

- Why did the people bring the *Ark of the Covenant to the Battlefield?*
- Why did Gods presence depart?

Think about your relationship/walk with God, think about where you are *missing the mark* with Gods commandments’, the areas that are not quite right. There maybe one or several areas where you feel you could/should and want to do better.

Write these areas down and bring them to God in prayer, repenting and asking God for his help. Remember, we cannot make changes to our life in our **own** strength, we need the Holy Spirit to help. Tell God the areas that you are struggling with, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these things /areas to you.

Action Points:

Spend some time today (or even during this fasting period) asking God to make sin acute to you, ask him for forgiveness and a renewal of your commitment to him, your thinking, your words, your beliefs, your deeds.

1 John 2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Going forwards

Keep short accounts with God and dialog with him regularly bringing him in to every area of your life to him, *ask him to show you the areas where you are Missing the mark.*

Luke 5v32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

WEEK 3

HIS GLORY AND US



Isaiah 43:7

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

God reveals Himself as the Creator and we should have no doubt of this through his Word (Colossians 1:16, Psalm 139:13). The Word tells us in Psalm 139, that we were fearfully and wonderfully made. This points to the attention, care and intricacy by which God made us individually. As we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), so we have the capacity and capability to reflect God's glory. When God is glorified, it means He has made His invisible characteristics visible to us. God did this through Jesus but he also does this through us. Why? Because we are co-heirs with Jesus.

Thought:

What are God's invisible characteristics?

There are many definitions of a duty i.e an assignment, a task or a responsibility. One definition says a duty is a conduct, service or obligation that arises from one's position. Are there times in life when you didn't feel like doing your duty, whether that be at home, school, work or even at church?

A duty can come with a lot of weight attached to it but as a Christ ones, the duty of glorifying God should never feel burdensome. Furthermore, God knows your heart and the intentions behind everything you do. Glorifying God in everything is a continual process in which we honour God with our thoughts and actions. It requires full commitment to Him.

Thought:

What are the things we do that give God glory?

Our key scripture for today (**Isaiah 43:7**) talks about those that are called by His name – it talks about us. Since we are called, our primary focus must be to give God glory, no matter the circumstance. But remember, giving God glory should be in everything we do – a lifestyle that pleases Him. When we strive to worship and live a life that pleases Him, our hearts and internal characteristics reflect that of the Father. Today, let us have confidence, that we are called by God, that He is our Creator and that he created us for His glory.

Action Point:

Throughout your day or meditation time, recall 3 songs that specifically talk about glorifying God. Take some time to think about why YOU glorify Him

Prayer Points:

Ask God to reveal what thoughts and actions aren't in line with His image
Say a prayer of thanks in the confidence of who God made you to be.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

16

Whether we recognise it or not, we have established guiding principles in our lives, which dictate how we make our decisions and guide our motivation to do things. Most people do things that make them happy and increase their well-being. People innately think about satisfying their desires, even on occasions, to the hurt or re-proach of others.

In 1 Corinthians 10:31 - we see the Apostle Paul changing the whole narrative of guiding principles. Paul said, "whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**" This principle is no longer about satisfying our desires but about glorifying God in all our actions.

It initiates God's attributes to be displayed through our lives and for Him to be exalted in our lives. In essence, it's ensuring that all our actions are done in a spirit of love and admiration for God, which not only brings honour, praise, and worship to Him, but will also bring about trust, worship, and obedience to God in others. Therefore, we are to present our activities before God daily, asking:

- Does this bring you glory?
- How can it bring you glory?
- If I participate in how will it give you glory?

Simultaneously, we should examine what we are doing to see if our action causes offence or cause others to stumble. Does it diminish God's glory in us? For example, does my relationship with my employer or colleagues bring God glory? Does the way I run my business give God glory? Does my relationship with my spouse or my children bring God glory? Does my relationship with fellow believers bring God glory?

It is all about making every effort to please God and see His glory revealed in our lives.

Action Points:

Today, consider the following:

- Will my action lead a fellow Christian to sin (1 Cor 8:13)
- Will my action provide strength and encouragement? (1Cor 6:12, 10:23)
- Will my action glorify God? (1 Cor 10:31)

Prayer:

Dear Lord, I want your glory to be revealed in my life. Teach me how to use my life well and how to steward it wisely, to do the things that brings glory to you, and for the good of others,. Amen.

17

Read John 15 and Romans 12

God calls us to Glorify him in all we do, our whole being, how we conduct ourselves, how we treat and love others and our attitude. Everything we do and, in every situation, we should glorify God. The Christian life is at the heart of Glorifying God.

Glorifying God should be a way of life, our decisions and interactions

1 Corinthian 10v31 teaches us to honour the Lord in all we do 'So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do it all for the glory of God.'

To ponder

How can you let your light shine today? (Matthew 5v16)

In what's ways can we bring Glory to God?

Discuss with a fellow sister/brother, what it means to bear fruit -why is it important?

Matthew 5v16 Glorifying God by doing His works- What 'works' has God called you to do?

If you are able to go for a walk, spend some time with God outdoors praising, worshipping, adoring, revering, and exalting God today.

Action Points:

Set some time aside (it can be as little as 10 minutes) -just to focus on God's glory. Find some scriptures pertaining to God's Glory and meditate on these scriptures.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

18

As we study the bible through this time of prayer and fasting, it is of great importance that we spend time contemplating the word of God. It is advised that we always bear-in-mind that the current 'chapter and verse' reference system found in the New Testament was added between the years 1227 and 1560 A.D. Even though it is a great help in locating specific passages in the bible, we must take time to observe what is surrounding the verses we are reading, so that the reference system does not interfere with what the scripture is saying as a whole.

2 Cor 3 is Paul's defence of the new covenant in the Christ and its ministry, possessing more glory than that characterised in the Mosaic covenant. In Exodus (34) the glory of the Lord is visible, reflected in the face of Moses, fading though it was. He was unveiled whilst in the presence of the glory of God but veiled before the people, as the glory faded.

2 Cor 3:17 has been quoted through the ages in relation to many aspects of the faith, but when read in the surrounding context, Paul, starting with the word 'Now', is expressing the liberty of being unveiled where the Spirit of the Lord resides. This unveiled state ports itself into (v.18) where we are, by the potency of the Spirit, transformed into the likeness of Christ, not with a glory that is fading, like that of Moses, but in the face of Christ who reflects the glory of the Father, we are travelling from glory to glory.

Action Points:

Today, let us pray that according to (3:18) we may be assimilated to Christ, the image of God (4:4) and produce a visible Christ-like character, so that the divine image will become increasingly visible in our manner of life. If we are facing challenges in life that seem to counter the reality of this increasing glory, declare the words of (4:16-18) aloud.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Jesus spoke to His Disciples and to us His followers in St John 16:33, that in Him we will have peace. In the world, we will have tribulation, but Jesus encourages us to be of good cheer for He has overcome the world.

In this world, we as Believers in Jesus Christ face all kinds of tests and trials. It could be persecution, various sicknesses, poverty, and all manner of things which could make us become discouraged and feel like giving up on believing and following God. Yes, we will suffer in this life, but thanks be to God, He has given us hope. God is with us and promises never to leave us or forsake us (Joshua 1:9)

All the sufferings we may go through in this life will become so small when we think of God's Glory and His presence in us and with us and the revelation of things to come. Jesus said in St John 14:1-3, do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid because in His Father's House are many mansions and He has gone to prepare a place for us that where He is, we can be there also.

Prayer Points:

- For God to give us strength, patience, and courage to run this race, never giving up on serving God.
- Have faith in God, always trusting Him, and allowing Him to lead us.
- Keep focused on THE GLORY WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO

Further Encouragement:

Bible Readings: - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and Revelation 21:10-27

Psalm 3:3

*But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.*

20

This Psalm was written during a challenging period in David's life. His enemies had risen up in great numbers. His own Son, Absalom was leading a rebellion against him. Many of his friends had deserted him and some felt he was beyond help even from God. David had every reason to be downcast but in verse 3 he remembers that God is a shield around him. He declares, "he bestows Glory and lifts my head." Looking at his circumstance there was nothing remotely glorious about it, but one's perspective determines how they navigate their way through.

When we're faced with challenges, one area that is often affected is our sleep. In verse 5 David declares that he "lies down and sleeps" and "will not fear the tens of thousands..." He had such confidence in God that it altered his state of mind and changed his perspective. In essence this is the definition of faith. It is complete confidence in the character or nature of God.

So, when life feels overwhelming, remember who God is. As we pray for God to intervene, we must do so with the assurance that he is our shield and defender. Does that mean we will never be anxious or fearful? Of course not! We are bound to experience these emotions. What we can learn from this psalm is to continually declare God's word, taking every thought and lining it up with the Word.

Prayer Points:

- Bring before God any anxious thoughts, fears, areas of concern.
- Conclude your prayer time by declaring God's word over these areas.

Ephesians 1:12

so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory

Our scripture verse today is taken from Ephesians 1:12, but I would like to encourage you all to read verses 3-14 also. I have underlined the words “*to the praise of His glory*” taken from verse 12. Three times between verses 3 to 14, we find the phrase (depending on which translation of the Greek biblical text you use), ‘*to the praise of His glory* (6, 12&14).’ The wonderful thing is this, each time that phrase is stated, it is expressed with respect to the working of one of the members of the Godhead, that is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

What we learn is that each member of the Trinity works exclusively towards the completion of a united objective. And that united goal is the accomplishment of our salvation. God is the only one who can save a person, and once saved, He provides absolutely everything we need to see His grace through to completion.

So, looking at the phrase again bearing in mind where and how it is situated in the text, we can say with great confidence, that when a person is saved, God is glorified. God saves each one of us for His own glory – thank you Lord.

Prayer and Practice:

- Let us live like saved people – to the praise of His glory
- Let us do all we can to reach others with the gospel – to the praise of His glory
- Let us thank Him for salvation – to the praise of His glory

DURING THE FAST, I AM PRAYING AND BELIEVING GOD FOR:

J I Packer Quote

“Our high and privileged calling is to do the will of God in the power of God for the glory of God”

The glory of God always comes at the sacrifice of self

What is the glory of God? It is who God is. It is the essence of His nature; the weight of His importance; the radiance of His splendour; the demonstration of His power; the atmosphere of His presence.

Quote—Rick Warren

Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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