

Glory

(δόξα = 'thoxa')

Glory, honour, praise, splendor, brightness, preeminence, majesty, absolute perfection, magnificence, excellence, dignity, grace.

2 Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." The Greek word 'thoxa' appears here, and it is used primarily of the nature and acts of God in self-manifestation. That is, what He essentially is and does, as exhibited in whatever way He chooses to reveal Himself. For instance, when His grace and mighty power were evidenced, this constituted His 'thoxa'. It also denotes a supernatural demonstration of the splendour, brightness and perfection of His character, and especially His righteousness. Therefore, 'thoxa' refers to the very essence of God - the divine power and substance that makes Him "God Almighty!" What God essentially is and does, in whatever and whichever may He chooses to reveal Himself, is His "glory." God's glory was particularly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, in whom essentially His "glory" has ever radiated and will ever shine forth. Also, anything that God does, which is worthy of praise, is 'thoxa'.

"But we all, with unveiled face..." Too many of believers are "veiled" when it comes to God's divine presence. Yet Christ took the veil away – it was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). People are only veiled because they choose not to see. As we become preoccupied with the "glory" of the risen, ascended, exalted Jesus Christ, we will be transformed into the very same image. Here, in a word, is the secret of Christian holiness - occupation with Christ. Not by occupation with self, because that brings about deception. Not by occupation with others, because that brings disappointment; but by 'occupation' with the "glory" of the Lord. Only this way can we be transformed into the same image - becoming more and more like Him - from glory to glory!

We are not talking about the glory of the Lord's human nature, which was outwardly beautiful and glorious, I'm sure. Rather, the "glory" of his divine nature which is essential the same as God the Father's. Such "glory" is incomprehensible; it appears in the perfections He possesses, and in the worship given to Him; it was manifested in the doctrines taught, and in the miracles performed by Him. The residue of this "glory" was seen in the mighty deeds of power displayed by the apostles in the early church. Yes, the "glory" of Christ (being full of grace and truth), was designed to be given to His people (John 17:22), and this is what makes Him so glorious, lovely and desirable in our eyes. The more we behold this delightful vision, the more like Him we become!

Notice, it's the ever-increasing glory (the presence of God) that makes us more like Christ. As the Lord reveals Himself in greater and greater measure, the 'brightness and splendour' of God in and through us must also increase. Are you ready and willing to live more and more in the presence of God? What an awesome place to dwell - in His **glory!**

Good / Honest

(ἀγαθός = 'agathos')

Of good constitution or nature, beneficial, useful, intrinsically good, pleasant, agreeable, excellent, distinguished, upright, honourable.

(καλή = 'kahli')

Good, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life, morally good, noble.

Matthew 19:16, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Verse 17, "... **Why do you call me good? No one is good, but One, that is God...**" When the rich young man calls Jesus "**good**" (*agathe*), the Lord quickly points out that "**no one is good**" (*agathos*) except God the Father. God is essentially, absolutely and consummately good!

The Greek word used implies 'that which is good in character or constitution, and beneficial in its effect'. However, what stands out with this word, as opposed to the other Greek words translated 'good', is the aspect of it being 'beneficial in its effect'. Let me explain - all of God's creation has an intrinsic value and therefore, it is 'good' (*kalos*), as with the animals we eat (**1 Timothy 4:4**). But not everything will have a beneficial effect on us.

Another way of explaining this is found in **Luke 8:15** where both "*kalos*" and "*agathos*" appear side by side in the same passage of scripture. **"But the ones that fell on the good (*kali*) ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble/honest (*kali*) and good (*agathi*) heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."** The first thing we notice is that the ground is good (*kali*), however, this does not necessarily mean it is beneficial in its effect. The fact that we have received the word in our hearts makes it good (*kali*) ground, but until we have produced fruit, there can not be any beneficial effect. Read on.... **"Having heard the word with an honest (*kali*) and good (*agathi*) heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."** Here is my literal and amplified translation.... *"But the word of God that fell on the right soil are those who, having heard the word with a correct attitude and an essentially good heart, take hold of the word and steadily bring forth fruit with patience (some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred)."*

2 Timothy 2:3,4 says, **"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. For no one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier [his commanding officer]."** Enduring hardship as a *good soldier* (militaristic commitment), is essential in spiritual warfare. God is looking for 'good soldiers', and the Greek word for "**good**" (*kalos*) implies 'one who is fit, excellent and capable'. Therefore, a good soldier must possess all the correct virtues - he must be *honest, committed, skilled, disciplined, fierce in battle, driven and hardworking*. Without these qualities he is unable to bring glory to his commanding officer.

Guard / Keep

(φρουρήσει = 'froorehsi')

To guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight, to keep by watching and guarding, to preserve one for the attainment of something.

Philippians 4:7, **"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."** God's peace will protect our hearts and minds. The Greek verb used for "**guard**" is borrowed from a military term and it creates a picture of God's peace as a detachment of soldiers "*standing guard over*" a city so as to protect it from attack. The Philippians, living in a garrison town, were familiar with the Roman guards who maintained watch, guarding the city from any outside attack. The peace of God is like soldiers surrounding believers' hearts and minds (that is, emotions and thoughts), protecting them against threatening and harmful outside forces. Peter used the same word when he wrote that, *"through faith (believers) are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1 Peter 1:5).

God's peace, like a garrison of soldiers, will guard over our thoughts and feelings so that they will be as safe as a fortress against the assaults of anxiety, worry and fear. Let's take heart, because our deep emotions and inner feelings, that part of us which is often so vulnerable to attack by the enemy, is the very place that God's peace is being established. And like a battle-ready battalion of soldiers, the **peace of God** will protect us! However, it is also important to grasp that, it's not only profound knowledge about peace that God will grant us, but experiential knowledge (sense experiences) of the calm serenity that characterizes His very nature. It's this kind of knowledge that impacts on us more deeply than mere understanding. God wants us to "know" with both mind and heart, otherwise His peace cannot surpass our negative thought processes.

So how do we find this peace? God's peace is attained only by practice. When we trust Jesus daily in the small worries of life, we are ready to trust Him when big problems strike. We need to tell Him our needs and anxieties; and roll all our cares on to Him.

Remembering always that, when attained, the **peace of God** will guard and protect us from further attacks of anxiety. It is God's will for us to abide in His wonderful peace.