

## Entering the Extreme Glory Zone

*"For as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with an awareness of the 'glory' (presence) of the Lord" - Habakkuk 2:14*

What is glory realm? It is the realm of eternity. It is the revelation of the presence of God. It is the manifestation of His presence. He is glory. He is everywhere; therefore, "glory" is the manifestation of that reality. The earth has an atmosphere made up of air, whereas the heavenly atmosphere is glory - **His presence**. When God's glory comes down, it's a bit of heaven's atmosphere coming down to us, a taste of His manifest Presence.

We don't see air, do we? But all of us would be dead if we are not breathing it. We are not conscious of the air unless we see the wind blowing the leaves on the trees. Yet the earth is covered by it. In the same way, not one inch of heaven lacks glory. Now God is giving us a taste of that **glory** - heaven manifested on earth. And this is His choosing - His good pleasure!

When heaven invades the earth, there is "God's Presence" realm and "God's Glory" realm. Yes, they are in fact one and the same, but for the benefit of this series I'd like to identify each realm through a different intensity. As we press in deeper in our worship, the spiritual intensity of God's presence increases. Right? But, when we enter the 'sphere' where we move from the "Presence Realm" to the "Glory Realm" - that's when we cross over into the dynamic threshold of the *Divine Presence*. In other words, whenever God performs miracles during worship, we are experiencing a tangible manifestation of the **Glory Zone**. But be careful, this is not for the faint hearted!

You've probably heard of or experienced tangible manifestations of the Glory of God. Yet there is also a higher level (the **Extreme Glory Zone**), where signs wonders and miracles are a regular occurrence. Whenever or wherever the 'glory' of God is manifest - God is glorified! Consequently, there is an increase in 'reverence' toward God (in the fear of God), our enemies are totally defeated, lives are transformed, and salvation is commonplace. That's a place I would like to dwell!

Below are some verses that reveal God's Extreme Glory:

### 1. Old Testament Examples

- a. Moses - The ten plagues, Crossing of the Red Sea, The providence of Manna & Quails (**Exodus**).
- b. Joshua - The fall of Jericho's wall (**Joshua 5:13 - Chapter 6**).
- c. Gideon - Defeating the Midianites with just 300 men (**Judges 7**).
- d. Samson - Defeating the Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (**Judges 15**).
- e. Elijah - Defeating the prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18:1-40**).
- f. Elisha - Feeding the poor widow (**2 Kings 4**).
- g. Ezekiel - Prophesying to the dry bones to come to life (**Ezekiel 37:4-6**).

### 2. New Testament Examples

a. Jesus' Miracles (most of these affirmed Jesus is the Son of God and His Lordship - Signs, Wonders and Miracles in all four Gospels)

- Turning water into wine (**John 2:1-11**)
- Miracle of the feeding of the five thousand (**Matthew 14:13-21**)
- Stilling the storm (**Matthew 8:18, 23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25**)
- Walking on water (**Matthew 14:22-23, Mark 6:45-51, John 6:16-21**)
- Cursing the fig tree (**Matthew 21:19-22, Mark 11:20-24**)

b. The Book of Acts

- Peter & John healing the lame man at the temple gate (**Acts 3:1-10**)
- Peter's shadow healing people (**Acts 5:12-16**)
- Philip was transported to another town to preach (**Acts 8:39-40**)
- Peter's escape from prison by visitation of an angel (**Acts 12**)
- Paul & Silas in prison delivered by a sudden earthquake (**Acts 16:16-34**)
- Paul's other extraordinary miracles (**Acts 19:11**)

When God invades earth with His glory, it is to visit His beloved church with His manifest Presence. This is what happened on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-4**), when a sound of a mighty rushing wind filled the room and the tongues of fire came to rest on the church. This was God's 'reality' invading the human sphere, appearing to entire groups of people and transforming entire cities. I really believe that these kinds of **Extreme Glory** manifestations are now on the increase. So remember, when God parts the skies and comes down, it's not always for a corporate gathering; sometimes God tears the heavens to visit an individual. It could be your life or my life that He wishes to invade!

Moses was a man who chased after the Extreme Glory of God. He passionately prayed, "***Please show me your Glory***" (**Exodus 33:18**). Charles Spurgeon calls this the greatest request a man ever made of God. And I think he is right. How could Moses have asked for anything larger? To see God's glory is to see God Himself. It was as if Moses is saying, "*Let me see you as you really are.*" Usually when men pray, they want some special favour from the Lord. "Lord, help me find a job" or "Heal my body" or "Reveal your will to me" or "Increase my faith." Those prayers are noble in themselves because they ask of God what only God can give. When we ask that a mountain be cast into the sea, we are asking for something we ourselves cannot do.

So even our "ordinary" prayers honour the Lord because they teach us that God is God - and we are not 'able' without His divine power.

However, this prayer of Moses stands entirely alone. It is a category unto itself. No other request can be compared to it. God's **glory** is the sum-total of who He is. It is God's power, plus His wisdom, plus His justice, plus His mercy, plus His holiness, plus His love, plus every other attribute of His divine character. God's **glory** is the shining forth of who God really is - in His supreme essence.

Therefore, if you dare to ask God to show you His **glory**, be prepared for a supreme and supernatural experience that's brought about only by His Divine Presence. Be prepared to step into the **Extreme Glory Zone** - the realm of the miraculous! Everything that we have learnt over the past two weeks has brought us to this place. God Almighty has already prepared a supernatural environment that is full of His glory! He wants us to experience His **glory** in the extreme. Why? Simply because He wants us to have a taste of heaven here on earth.

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the **Extreme Glory Zone**. Let's enter the realm of the **Abiding Presence** of the Almighty God! Let's behold His glory! Let's feel the weight of His "Shekinah Glory!" Let's be filled with the awareness of God's Glory...

*"For as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with an awareness of the 'glory' of the Lord" -*

**Habakkuk 2:14**