



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Glory of God

Setting forth a precise definition of the word glory is no easy task. Like many other theological concepts, God's glory is a concept that we have an awareness of without necessarily being able to describe it in all its fullness.

What comes to you when we think of the glory of the Lord?

The image of brilliant light!

As Scripture often describes the glory of God in terms of a light that shines brighter than anything that we experience on earth.

**Isaiah 60:1-3**, *Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.*

The glory of our Creator and not the sun being the light that shines forth in this dark world, revealing itself through God's people that they might point the pagan nations unto the Lord of all.

**Revelation 21:22–25**, *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)*

In the new heaven and earth, creation will have no need for the sun by day or the moon by night because the glory of the Lord shall illumine all of creation.

God's glory with his holiness and weightiness:

**Leviticus 10:1–3**, *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup> So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.*

Nadab and Abihu, who offered strange fire before the Lord. Moses does not tell us precisely what "strange fire" means, but it is clear enough that Nadab and Abihu acted irreverently in their actions.

They did not approach God with proper reverence and awareness of His divine dignity. They did not glorify the Lord, and so they were consumed by fire from on high.

God takes the worship very seriously with which the Lord takes His worship. Coming together with God's people to praise His name is a distinct privilege and not something we should take lightly.

Worship is a matter of life and death, and not just under the old covenant.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11:29–30 that partaking of the Lord's Supper without giving due attention to its significance can kill us. We do not worship a God who can be regarded in a flippant or otherwise careless manner.

### **So “What is the glory of God?”**

The Bible uses the phrase “glory of God” in many different ways, which means we can create many different definitions in general. However, the Bible primarily uses the phrase “the glory of God” in a specific way, and therefore what follows is a specific definition.

**Definition:** The manifested presence of God which can be experienced in your senses.

OR

The glory of God is the invisible qualities, character, or attributes of God displayed in a visible (or knowable) way.

According to the Bible, the Glory of God Is His Invisible Character Made Visible

**Isaiah 6:3**, *And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*

We would think this verse would end by saying, "the whole earth is full of his holiness."

But it doesn't. It states that the whole earth is full of God's glory. When the character of God, like his holiness, goes public for the world to witness and know, the Bible refers to this as "God's glory."

What is the difference between the holiness of God and the glory of God?

The holiness of God is, His being in a class by Himself in His perfection and greatness and worth.

God has infinite perfections, infinite greatness, and infinite worth.

His holiness is what he is, as God. It is His quality of perfection that can't be improved upon, that can't be imitated, and that is incomparable.

In Isaiah6:3, by saying that the glory of God is the manifest beauty of his holiness. It is the going-public of His holiness. It is the way God puts His Holiness on display for people to apprehend.

So, the glory of God is the holiness of God made manifest.

When there was a visible display of God in the Old Testament (theophany) like a cloud or a fireball, often times it states that the glory of God appeared. (**Exodus 16:7-10, Exodus 40:34, 2 Chronicles 5:14**).

Obviously, the glory of God is not a cloud or fireball. But when the character or quality of God is displayed publicly, it is referred to as "the glory of God."

When Moses was on the top of Mount Sinai speaking with God. **Exodus 33:18-19**, *And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."*  
*<sup>19</sup> Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*

When God visibly showed Moses his goodness and allowed Moses to know and understand the proclamation of God's name "The LORD," this is the same thing as showing God's glory.

### **All Created things Glorify God.**

God created the universe, the stars, the world, and everything, and it all bears God's image to some degree.

The Bible states that it all declares his glory.

**Psalms 19:1-4**, *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.<sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.*

**Romans 1:20-23**, *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

Humans were made for the glory of God.

**Isaiah 43:7**, *Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” Therefore, God made humans in the image of God.*

**Genesis 1:27**, *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

### **The Glory of God Is Jesus Christ**

**“What is the glory of God?” = “Who is the glory of God?”**

Human beings are made in God’s image.

Jesus Christ “is” God’s image and Jesus Christ is God’s glory.

**Colossians 1:15**, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

**John 1:14**, *And the Word became 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.*

**Hebrews 1:3**, *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the*

*word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

**John 14:7-10**, *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”* <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, *“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”* <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”* <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**John 14:13**, *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

**1 John 4:9**, *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

- ✓ Jesus Christ, God himself (John 1:1),
- ✓ Word who became flesh (John 1:14),
- ✓ Jesus came and made the invisible God visible (Colossians 1:15),
- ✓ Jesus came to show us the exact imprint of God’s nature (Hebrews 1:3),

- ✓ Jesus came to show us the Father in himself (John 14:7-14),
- ✓ Jesus came that the love of God might be manifested (1 John 4:9)
- ✓ Jesus did all of this because he came to glorify the Father (John 17:4)

## **Jesus Christ is the glory of God.**

According to the Bible, the Glory of God Is Displayed Supremely in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

The gospel is central to the glory of God because the gospel reveals more about God than any other act in history.

God reveals himself through His actions, and through the actions of the cross and resurrection we can see the character of God more clearly than anywhere else.

**2 Corinthians 4:4-6**, *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. <sup>5</sup>For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

We can see that the gospel sheds more concentrated light on the invisible God than anything else (besides Jesus himself).

The gospel is the apex of Christ's love, and Christ is the apex image of the invisible God.

This means that what we know about God can be seen most clearly in Christ. What we know about Christ can be seen most clearly in the gospel.

Therefore, it's safe to say that while Jesus Christ is the glory of God, the gospel displays the glory of God above all else.

## **Conclusion**

What is the glory of God according to the Bible?

The glory of God is the invisible qualities of God made visible.

The glory of God is Jesus Christ.

The glory of God is most displayed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Everything God ever did, does, or will do is motivationally rooted in the His own glory.

*"It appears that all that is ever spoken of in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God's works is included in that one phrase, 'the glory of God.'"* **Jonathan Edwards**