

From Glory to Glory: Glorifying God Message

February 20, 2022

Cornerstone Church Kirksville, MO

It was about this time last year that Pastor Jeremy and Shonda visited Deb and me in Orlando on the pretext of a school visit for their son Cody. That seemed probable to me because Orlando just might be home to a pretty good videography school being so close to Universal and Disney Studios! But you will also remember that there was an incredible Arctic blast about then that reached deep into the Heart of Texas, freezing gold fish tanks in San Antonio! Coincidentally, the furnace at our home in Kirksville also stopped working that subzero day. Deb and I are still thanking Jack and Jacob Maize for coming to our rescue and making sure the repairman got to the house and restored the furnace to working order! My suspicions for his visit at that particular time were further confirmed when just after the First of the Year he asked me to fill the pulpit at the end of February for this year ostensibly to visit Cody (and what ... get away from the cold?). It is true that PJ gave me at least six weeks to prepare. It is also true that appearing on the platform twice in three months is also quite unusual, but not unprecedented. It happened early in the history of our congregation at the Elizabeth Street venue.

As some of you will recall during the last exciting episode of my appearing on the platform, I spoke about “our purpose” as children of the King and joint heirs with Jesus! And some of you will remember the lengthy list of bulleted points on the screen. This morning I want to further explore the depth and breadth of point number four which was “To Glorify God.”

Just after the first of the year, Grace to You, carried on Bott Radio Network at 6:30 AM, rebroadcast several sermons previously given by John MacArthur on this particular topic of how to glorify God. Most of my message will be based on 2 Corinthians 3:18 which MacArthur used as the focus of his two-message sequence “From Glory to glory”.

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2 Corinthians 3:18

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (KJV)

Slide 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. (ESV)

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

“We are being changed or transformed into the same image [of the Lord Jesus] from glory to glory or from one degree of glory to another.” Being changed or transformed refers to our spiritual conversion and growth. Transformed into the same image [of the Lord] refers to Jesus. True, the Father and the Spirit are incorporeal while the Word in flesh-appearing is Jesus.

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In Colossians 1:15 we read “He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,”. Hebrews 1:3 refers to Jesus as “being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,”.

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Second Corinthians 4:4 indicates that Christ is the light of the gospel and the image of God. “... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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What is the meaning of “from glory to glory” or “from one degree of glory to another?” The word “glory” calls to mind awe-inspiring beauty observed in the natural world: mountains, waterfalls, paintings, sculptures, sunsets, night skies, music, and much, much more! In Scripture “glory” refers to an attribute of the Trinity.

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Paul enlightens us on the meaning of the phrase “from one degree of glory to another” in 1 Corinthians 15

40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

[omit] Slide 8

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 52 "... and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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Notice that the Apostle John says that we shall be like Him. And the psalmist says to the Lord "I shall be satisfied with Your likeness."

1 John 3 NIV

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Psalm 17

15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Second Corinthians 3 compares the glory of the Old Covenant as seen reflected on the face of Moses to the far superior glory of the New Covenant based on grace and not works as revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. We see Christ in all His wonder, in all His beauty and all His glory, as revealed in chapter 4, verse 6: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," (Genesis 1:3) has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The new covenant, the gospel, the message of Jesus Christ is clear. The light has been turned on, and we can look with an unobstructed view right at the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. And as we look at the glory of God and focus on the glory of God revealed in Christ, we are moved from one level of glory to the next by the Holy Spirit, who is moving us into the image of the very glory we behold.

This is Christian growth. This is the process of becoming like Christ: moving from one level of glory to the next as we gaze at the glory of the Lord.

How do we do that? How do we really move from one level of glory to the next? What is specifically and practically involved in that? This morning we will consider only a few ways by which we glorify God. There are many more!

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Ways We Glorify God

- public confession of faith
- aiming our life at glorifying God
- trusting Him, having faith in Him
- fruitfulness

Righteous deeds, giving, praise, adoration, reverence, thanksgiving, praying, and leading someone to the Lord.

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Public Confession of Faith

Glorifying means to honor, to show respect, to lift up (elevate), to exalt, to worship, to give thanks.

Our public confession of faith may be the first occasion in our lives that we glorify God.

The writer of Hebrews points to “our confession” in several verses. In particular, Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

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Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

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Luke 12:8-9 KJV

8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

Here at Cornerstone Church whenever Pastor Jeremy conducts a baptism, he asks the believer to make a public confession of faith before being baptized. This can be a written testimony read by the pastor or a personal testimony given by the believer before the baptismal ceremony.

Aiming our life at glorifying God

First of all, why should we want to do this?

The first purpose of the creature is to glorify his Creator. God said, "I created for my glory" (Isa. 43:7). Creation did not come by compulsion; God was not forced to create us. The Scriptures say plainly, "For You created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created." (Rev. 4:11, NLT). Indeed, all things are done "according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ" (Eph. 1:9) who "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (v. 11 nkjv). If God did not have to create us, then our existence is not necessary. Indeed, we might not have been, and we exist only because He wants us to be. Therefore, we owe our very existence to Him. Our very nature as freely created beings demands our allegiance to our Creator. (Taken from "Systematic Theology, Norman L. Geisler, chapter 47, pp. 639-643.)

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Isaiah 64

8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

This reminds me of a hymn we have sung in the past: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay!
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

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Jesus also came to glorify God. According to John 8:50 He said, "I came not for My own glory, but the Father's." He didn't live for His own glory, He didn't live to fulfill His own agenda, but rather that which honored and exalted and pleased and lifted up the Father, even if lifting up the Father meant humbling Himself, even if exalting the Father meant abasing Himself, even if setting the Father in the place of

worship meant putting Himself in the place of cursing. He was willing to do that because He was always focused on the glory of God. The Father being glorified was His purpose. And so it is in our lives that we must live to glorify God.

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In 1 Corinthians 10:31 we read this: "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

In other words, it's a life focus. It isn't so much talking about eating and drinking, it's talking about all of life, even going down to that which is as mundane as eating and drinking.

Ask yourself, "Does this action glorify God? Will it bring honor to His name? Will it show respect, lift up, or exalt Him?" Will it cause worship and/or praise? Whatever it is, no matter how apparently or superficially mundane, will it have inherent in it a capacity for you to honor God?

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Paul writes in Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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Our Trust Glorifies God

In Exodus 20:12 we are instructed in the Fifth Commandment to

"Honor" encompasses obedience, respect, and trust. When we hold the words, integrity, wisdom, insights, and leadership of our parents in high regard, then we demonstrate trust and honor. Likewise, we honor and glorify God by believing and trusting in Him through His Word.

How do we demonstrate distrust in God? When we question His Word or the circumstances He allows in our lives that trouble us, when we have doubt, fear, dismay, sorrow, worry, or anxiety. These kinds of behaviors can open the door for temptation and sin to enter in and trip us up. But we know the remedy for that as expressed in

Slide 19
1 John 1:9,

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We also know the remedy for anxiety as Paul elucidates in Philippians 4:6-8.

Please understand, unbelief is an affront to God. For God to make a promise and you not to believe it is to question His character. If the Bible says, for example, as it does in Philippians 4:19, “

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And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Do you believe it, or do you worry about your need? As Jesus said in Matthew 6:25-32

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25 do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

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28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

When God promises to take care of you, don't you think He'll do it?

And if the Scripture says that there never will come a trial into your life that is more than you can bear, do you believe it? And the Scripture says that in the midst of the seemingly unbearable trial there will always be a way of escape, do you believe it?

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1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

If you question whether God can perform His Word, you have denied Him the glory that is due His name. He is worthy to be trusted. He can do what He says; He will do what He promises. How foolish to question the integrity, the ability, the power, and the honesty of God. We greatly

dishonor God when we claim to believe in Him, and we can't rest confidently and assuredly in His wisdom and His power. And, in fact, we're stealing His glory. Sure, life is full of troubles; but our God delivers us from our troubles (Psalm 34:17).

17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. There's no sense in fearing.

It is a tremendous honor to Him when you can stand on the edge of the fiery furnace of adversity and say, "I trust God," when you can face a tragedy in your family, whatever it might be, and say, "I trust God. God is too wise to make a mistake, too loving to be unnecessarily unkind, and too powerful to have anything beyond His control." Faith glorifies God.

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Fruitfulness Glorifies God

We glorify God by being fruitful. Jesus is very clear about this in John 15:8

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. (RSV)

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Paul prayed for the Philippians 1:11,

11 May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced

in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. (NLT)

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Can there be a "No fruit" Christian? Jesus asserted, "By their fruits you shall know them" (Matthew 7:16, NASB). May I say that it dishonors God to have no fruit.

God is glorified and praised when you are filled with the fruit of righteousness.

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Psalms 92:14-15

14 "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

15 proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

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Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may

see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

There are two kinds of fruits: attitude and action fruit. Attitude must precede action otherwise hypocrisy results. Without the right attitude you are just doing things out of self-satisfaction and not from a heart that desires to honor and glorify God.

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Matthew 7:16 You will recognize them by their fruits. ...

17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

...

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

[omit] Slide 31

I Never Knew You

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ESV

God wants us to walk in the Spirit; the Spirit produces attitude fruit (Galatians 5:22-23);

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22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Attitude fruit produces action fruit, including such things as righteous deeds, giving, praising and praying, leading someone to the Lord, and giving thanks.

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Righteous Deeds

Paul prayed for the Colossians “to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:10)

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Giving

Philippians 4:15-20 is one example.

Let’s look at verse 13 in particular.

2 Corinthians 9

11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

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Praise, Adoration, Reverence, thanksgiving

The writer of Hebrews declares, “let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name” (Hebrews 13:15, ESV).

Psalm 50:23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;

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Revelation 4:11 NLT 11 "You are worthy, O Lord our God,

to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."

Revelation 5:12 ESV

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Psalm 86:9, 12

12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Our attitudes and actions reflect that we believe the character and conduct of God to be worthy of praise and adoration. At times our worship is expressed through corporate singing, teaching, and giving. It is also expressed in our daily lives through prayer, Scripture reading, acts of kindness, gratitude, pure thoughts, and the like.

Our spirit is the core of who we are. Our worship focuses on that which is actually worthy of reverence (like God). It becomes the source and direction of our life whereby we alter our schedules and to which our resources flow. Worship is a life response to the worthiness of its object. When we worship God, we do so in response to who He is.

Leading Someone to the Lord

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Ps. 71:17-18

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

When we first started meeting at the Elizabeth Street site, most of the congregation were families with youth. Not many retired or near-retired folks were in evidence. (We were all ten years younger then!) I remember that Jeannette Gregory came that last Saturday in August along with about forty others to clean up the building for our occupancy the next day. Our small group has been meeting since the middle of April last year, and we pray for each others need and the list contains many of our family members not saved. Jeanette occasionally sits in the back row with her great granddaughter Payzlynn trying to pass along a Christian heritage to her. I also remember a baptism involving Jerry Gillium and his great

granddaughter, Piper Halstead. What a beautiful occasion! Everyone should have a list of unsaved people to pray for, and a desire to continue to witness to loved ones.

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Matthew 24-14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

[omit] Slide 40

Romans 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far), so that I may obtain some fruit among you also just as among the rest of the Gentiles.” (NASB)

Other Ways of Glorifying God

-- confessing sin and taking responsibility

-- unity, obedience, moral purity ...

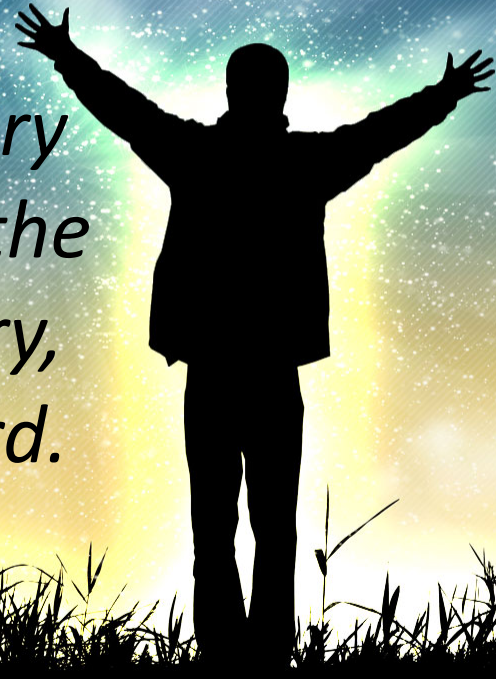
From Glory to Glory: Glorifying God

Elder Dave Wohlers

2 Corinthians 3:18

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“He is the image of the invisible God,”

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“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,”

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“... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

What is the meaning of “from glory to glory”

Corinthians 15:40-44



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1 Corinthians 15:40-44

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

1 Corinthians 15:40-44

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 John 3:3 NIV

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

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when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.*

Ways we glorify God

- public confession of faith
- aiming our life at glorifying God
- trusting Him, having faith in Him
- fruitfulness (righteous deeds, giving, praise, adoration, reverence, thanksgiving, praying, & leading someone to the Lord.)



Public confession of faith

Glorifying means to honor, show respect,
to lift up (elevate), to exalt, to worship,
to give thanks

Our public confession of faith is probably
the first occasion in our lives that we
glorify God.



Romans 10:9-10

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Luke 12:8-9

“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

⁹ But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.” KJV

Aiming our life at glorifying God

Isaiah 64:8

“But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”



Aiming our life at glorifying God

John 8:50

*"I came not for My own glory, but
the Father's."*



Aiming our life at glorifying God

1 Corinthians 10:31

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."



Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Our trust glorifies God

Exodus 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”



Our trust glorifies God

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” KJV



Philippians 4:6-7

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Our trust glorifies God

Philippians 4:19

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”



Matthew 6:25-32

“...do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value

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than they?...²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these...

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Fruitfulness

John 15:8

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.” RSV



Philippians 1:11

“May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” (NLT)

Fruitfulness

Matthew 7:16

“By their fruits you shall know them” NASB



Psalm 92:14-15

“They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, ¹⁵proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

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Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”



Matthew 7:16-23

“You will recognize them by their fruits... ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit...¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

Matthew 7:16-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven... ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things
there is no law.

Fruitfulness

Colossians 1:10

“to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”



You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

Fruitfulness

Hebrews 13:15

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name”



Praise, Adoration, Reverence, Thanksgiving

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Psalm 50:15

*“and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”*

Psalm 50:23

*“The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice
glorifies me;”*

Praise, Adoration, Reverence, Thanksgiving

Revelation 4:11

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created." NLT

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"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

*“O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.*

*¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
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“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

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