



Daily Devotionals: God Is Glorious | October 3, 2021

Day 1 – Devotional

In 2006, Walt Disney Pictures gave us the movie *Glory Road*, a movie about Texas Western College (now known as University of Texas at El Paso or UTEP). In the movie, not only were racial barriers crossed when head coach Don Haskins put a starting lineup together that consisted of all-black players for the first time in NCAA history, but history was also made when this team won the NCAA championship in the 1965-66 season against the infamous Kentucky Wildcats.

The movie is called *Glory Road* for a number of reasons, but perhaps none more important than the fact that not only was athletic glory achieved by Texas Western winning the NCAA championship game, but perhaps because humanitarian glory was realized in that the game was won with a diverse team that consisted of seven black athletes and five white athletes. Not only did Texas Western have to beat the arguably best team in the nation (the University of Kentucky), but they had to do so when the tide of racial tension and racial discrimination was at one of its highest in our nation's short history.

Glory. That's not a word that's used too frequently in modern vernacular.

It is, however, one of the most frequently used words in the Bible to describe God and to describe how God's people are to relate to Him. In the Scriptures, we read that God is said to be glorious (**Psalm 24:7-10; Acts 7:2; 1 Cor 2:8**) and that God's people are to give him glory (**Psalm 29:1-2**).

So, what does that mean?

In antiquity, heroes like Achilles sought glory. They sought greatness. They sought fame. Glory, status, greatness was found in achieving courageous ends. Texas Western College and head coach Don Haskins achieved that kind of glory when they beat the University of Kentucky despite all odds.



But when we talk about God being glorious and about giving God glory, we don't mean that God has done anything to earn glory (like an Achilles or a Don Haskins). God is glorious precisely because of who He is. Of course, many of God's actions that he has accomplished throughout history are great too, but God is glorious simply because He is God. It's precisely because God is God—and we are not—that makes Him so glorious and so worthy of esteem. God's glory is his holiness made manifest.

Pastor John Piper once remarked that, "The glory of God is the manifest beauty of his holiness. It is the going-public of his holiness. It is the way he puts his holiness on display for people to apprehend. So, the glory of God is the holiness of God made manifest."

We see this, Piper says, in **Isaiah 6** when we read about one angel crying to another saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts..." and then the next thing he says is, "The whole earth is full of his _____!" What's the word there? Glory. Piper says that we might have expected to hear the word "holiness" uttered there, but it's not. Isaiah says that the whole earth is full of God's *glory*.

The glory of God is the holiness of God made manifest.

There is something that moves within us, much like when we encounter something beautiful, whenever we encounter something glorious. Being in the presence of something beautiful moves us to awe and wonder. Being in the presence of something or Someone glorious moves us to want to make room for it. In fact, we can't help but make room for it.

When we meet someone with prestige, someone we think has a lot of worldly glory, because of their being so different from us (i.e. their being "holy") we tend to move aside for them.

- We make way.
- We disavow ourselves.
- We inconvenience ourselves for their sake.
- Our own wants, desires, and longings are displaced for theirs.
- Their glory dislodges any selfishness in us in the moment. We stand and stare at them. All attention is on that person. Glory leads to worship.



For Christians, our purpose is to glorify God who is glorious in and of himself. This means that...

- We make way.
- We disavow ourselves.
- We inconvenience ourselves for His sake.
- Our own wants, desires, and longings are displaced for His.
- God's glory dislodges any selfishness in us in the moment. We stand and stare at Him. All attention is on God. Glory leads to worship.

And if it doesn't? Well, perhaps we have not yet seen just how glorious and majestic God really is. So let's reflect a bit. Take some time to consider how you relate to the glory of God (we'll have time to dig into God's glory and some pertinent Scriptures in the days to come).

Questions for reflection:

1. Do you find God glorious? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever had an experience where God's glory displaced something or anything in you? What was that like? If not, what do you think would have to happen for God's glory to do such a thing?
3. How can you glorify God in thought, word, and deed in the rest of the hours that you have left today?



Day 2 – Look at the book

For today's work, let's look at a text that doesn't so much give us a definition of glory, but rather one that puts God's glory and an appropriate response on display. Take a few moments to prayerfully read through **Revelation 4-5**. Don't get caught up in the weeds about what certain things mean right now. In this moment, we are trying to get a grasp of the forest instead of focusing on the trees.

As you read, do three things:

1. Underline what seems glorious to you.
2. Circle anytime you see a response to God's glory.
3. Star any personally significant words or phrases.

Revelation 4:1-5:14

4 1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. 6 Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God



Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

5 1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God



persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.
Questions for reflection:

1. What has reading through these verses done to your sense of God being glorious?
2. Are there responses to God’s glory that you need to emulate from this text?
3. What invitations do you sense God giving to you after this reading?



Day 3 – Scripture Survey

As we look at God’s glory this week, we want to see what the whole story of Scripture has to say about this particular topic. Where else in Scripture can we go to read about God’s glory?

Take a few moments to slowly read through the passages below. As you read, take some time to ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this passage teach me about God’s glory?
2. What questions do I have about this?
3. God, what are you inviting me into as I read and look through these verses?

Exodus 33:18-23; Exodus 40:34-35

2 Chronicles 5:1, 11-14

Psalm 19:1

John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3



Day 4 – Story Work

We keep coming back to the quote from A.W. Tozer who said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” Today, we want to reflect on how the glorious nature of God intersects with us personally, to see how God’s glory has done or could do something to us.

To begin today, read both **Romans 1:18-2:11** and **Romans 3:21-26**. Then, use the questions below to interact with the theme of God’s glory.

1. Reflect on times in your life have you exchanged the glory of God for the glory of something man-made or worldly. In other words, what are 2-3 examples of when you have “fallen short of the glory of God”?
2. What was the result of that un-glorious exchange? How did that affect your internal state of mind, your relationships, etc.?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus never fell “short of the glory of God” but instead has invited you into communion with Him through his living up to and radiating the glory of God?
4. How glorious does God seem to you knowing that he, in Christ Jesus, was willing to make a glorious exchange to be able to be in a right relationship with you—His life for yours?



Day 5 – Response

For this last day, let's slow down and pay attention to what God has been inviting us into as a result of our work this week. Find a quiet space. Silence any technology around you. Spend some time reviewing your devotions this week. Jot down your thoughts to the following reflection questions:

As you look over this week, what words, phrases, scriptures, etc., have stood out to you? What was the most significant thing? Why?

How have you glorified God over the course of this past week? How have you dishonored Him this week?

What is God inviting you to DO as a response to this week's reflections?



Consider some of these suggestions as possible action steps as you step into living this week's truths:

- Write a prayer glorifying God and share it with your family. Make it a prayer you use together for the next week.
- Confess to a trusted Christian friend any areas you have “fallen short of God’s glory” this week.
- Lead your family by worshipping and glorifying God with all you’ve got during weekend services.