

Glorifying God

By: Keith Welch

When Moses took his rod and struck the rock, instead of talking to it, as God commanded, he failed to glorify God in the presence of the people! A reading of Numbers 20:7-12 reveals, “

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸“Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” ⁹So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him. ¹⁰And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. ¹²Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

The American Heritage Dictionary defines *glorify as* “To give glory, honor, or high praise to; exalt...To give glory to, especially through worship.” Strong’s defines *glorify* as “to render or esteem glorious.” This short article will examine ways in which we can glorify God.

By Being Light Bearers

Jesus taught, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16). Be an example of obedience! Show others the way of Jesus! Those of Hebrews 11 serve as an example of those “who by faith” obeyed God. Be a Philemon! One who has love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints (Philemon 5). One who is a source of great joy and comfort (Philemon 7). One who is a source of refreshing (Philemon 7). Paul exhorted the saints at Philippi, “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern” (Phil. 3:17). Be the kind of pattern that shows others how to truly, humbly and genuinely glorify God!

Jesus was busy about His “...Father’s business...” (Lk. 2:49). This business included glorifying His father! Jesus was concerned about fulfilling His Father’s will (Matt. 26:39; Lk. 22:42). Jesus is the perfect example, the perfect light bearer! Jesus left “...us an example...” that we should follow His steps (1 Pet. 2:21). The one who will strive to be an example “...in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12) will be one who exalts God in the presence of others!

By Being True Worshippers

Not all men have always worshipped in such a way that Glorifies God. Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, “...offered unauthorized fire before the Lord” (Lev. 10:1) and God consumed them with fire (Lev. 10:2). Regarding the worship engaged in by the Pharisees, Jesus said, “in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matt. 15:9).

Unauthorized worship or vain worship does not glorify God! True worship is the kind of worship that exalts God. What is true worship? Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (Jn. 4:24).

God glorifying worship has God as its object! Jesus told Satan, "'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Matt. 4:10). John "...bowed down to worship before the feet of the angel..." and the angel said, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (Rev. 22:8-9). Let us "...continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name." (Heb. 13:15).

By Being Doers Of Good

Help people, encourage people, do good unto others, and in so doing God will be glorified! Do it once, and then do it again, and be continually looking for, seeking and creating opportunities to do and good and glorify God! Paul encouraged first Century Christians, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:9-10). Paul instructed Titus, "in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you." (Titus 1:7-8).

By Serving

First and foremost, serving God. The person who is serving God is a person who is glorifying God! A reading of Acts 20:19 reveals Paul was "serving the Lord with all humility..." The Hebrew writer penned, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." (Heb. 12:28). As a God glorifying servant, we must learn to seek the well-being, physically and spiritually, of our fellow man, especially of our fellow saints! The early saints were exhorted "...through love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13). Jesus, the Son of God, God Himself, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mk. 10:45). If Jesus was willing to serve, so too His disciples!

We do as God has commanded that we through our humble obedience will glorify God in all things! Paul penned, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10). Make it your aim to please and glorify God!