

The Glory of God is a Person Fully Alive

Psalm 19:1-6 – March 22, 2015

Our Sermon Menu

Date	Message Title
March 22	The Glory of God is a Person Fully Alive
March 29-April 1	Thirst Revival Conference here @ Grace Fellowship
April 4 (Sat)	Saturday Night Easter Service @ 5:00pm (identical)
April 5 (Sun)	Simple Grace Sunrise Service @ 7:00am (unique)
April 5 (Sun)	Sunday Easter Services @ 8:45 and 10:45am (identical)
April 4/5	"After God's Own Heart" (new series on Life of David)

One of My All Time Favorite Quotes

- Irenaeus: "The glory of God is a man fully alive."
- John Eldridge on Irenaeus' quote: "Hope unbidden arose at the thought that God's intentions towards me might be better than I'd thought. His happiness and my happiness are tied together? My coming fully alive is what He's committed to? *That's* the offer of Christianity? Wow! I mean, it would make no small difference if we knew – and I mean *really* knew – that down-deep-in-your-toes kind of knowing that no one and nothing can talk you out of – if we *knew* that our lives and God's glory were bound together. Things would start looking up. It would feel promising...the offer is life. Make no mistake about that. So then...where *is* that life? Why is it so rare?"

How to Live the "Fully Alive" Life

1. We glorify God when we are fully alive in Him

- **John 10:10** – *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
- **John 17:3** – *Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*
- **Psalm 63:1-3** – *O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.*
- **Psalm 42:1** – *As the deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.*
- **Psalm 27:4** – *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.*

- John Piper: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."
- **Application #1** – With God's help and power, I want to seek to be fully alive in Him by...
 - ☐ Inviting Jesus Christ into my life, receiving His forgiveness of my sins, receiving His free gift of eternal life, and following Him.
 - ☐ Cultivating my personal relationship with God by spending daily time with Him in His Word and talking to Him in prayer.
 - ☐ Frequently stopping to enjoy God's creation in nature and in other people.
 - ☐ Frequently stopping to enjoy God in the moment – to live in the present with God – enjoying God.
 - ☐ Soaking in God's Presence during the Thirst Revival Services March 29 thru April 1 at Grace Fellowship.
- Video: "I Want More" [3:14] found at sermonspice.com

2. We glorify God when we are living fully in the gifts and passions that He has given to us

- **1 Peter 4:10-11** – *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*
- Eric Liddell (Chariots of Fire): "God made me fast, and when I run I feel His pleasure."
- Video: "Get Up and Finish the Race" [2:10] found at YouTube.com
- Video: "He Who Honors God" [4:26] found at YouTube.com
- **Application #2a** – Fill in the blank for yourself: "When I (**personal response here**) I feel His pleasure."
- Jim's answer to Application 2a: I feel His pleasure when...
 - ☐ I'm preparing messages in my prayer closet
 - ☐ I'm teaching God's Word
 - ☐ I'm ministering to someone who is hurting
 - ☐ I'm mobilizing prayer
 - ☐ I'm leading in the midst of a crisis
 - ☐ I'm hiking in the mountains
 - ☐ I'm walking on the beach
 - ☐ I'm enjoying my wife and family
 - ☐ I'm reading and journaling
 - ☐ I'm pumping my legs at 25 mph on a bicycle in the countryside
- The 1 Peter 4:11 Scripture exhorts us to use our gifts "to serve others." One of the purposes of the local church is to give you a place to use your gifts to serve others in the body of Christ.

- Application #2b – I’m going to use my gifts, passions, and experiences to serve others here at Grace Fellowship by...
 - ☐ Singing in the worship team choir or serving on the worship band
 - ☐ Serving as an usher or greeter or in connection ministry
 - ☐ Serving in children’s ministry
 - ☐ Serving in youth ministry
 - ☐ Serving in prayer ministry
 - ☐ Serving in care ministry
 - ☐ Serving administratively
 - ☐ Serving as a small group leader or host
 (Sign up in our **Serve God** season during month of April)
- Emma’s story

3. We glorify God when we believe in Him even when we cannot see or feel Him

- *Psalm 19:1-6*
- God’s creation is continually speaking this message: “God is glorious! God is King! God created all of this!”
- The specific example of Verses 4-6 is the sun:
 - Like a bridegroom coming out of his wedding chamber, the sun is rejoicing, satisfied, and declaring “Wow!”
 - The sun is powerful! So powerful that you cannot look at it (in this life). The sun is a picture of God’s glory. It is powerful. Evident to all. Cannot be gazed upon (in this life). Helpful and essential to life (temperature, plant growth, Vitamin D).
 - The sun cannot be ignored. God’s glory cannot be ignored.
 - There are some days that we cannot see the sun, but it is still there – even when obscured by the clouds. And (even when hidden by the clouds) it is still performing its life-giving functions of temperature, etc.
 - Sometimes it seems like God is not there – obscured by pain and problems and evil and the world and me and depression. But God is still there... sustaining our very lives.
- Anonymous inscription on prison wall at Auschwitz concentration camp for Jews during World War II:

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
 I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
 I believe in God even when He is silent.

- I have had times in my life when God has been so real...
- I have had times in my life when God has been obscured...
- Irenaeus: “The glory of God is a man fully alive.”

- The glory of God is a man or woman who believes in God even when God seems obscured by the clouds of life.
- Application #3 – Today, I make my faith declarations, and I choose to glorify God with my life in good times and in bad times:
 - ☐ I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
 - ☐ I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
 - ☐ I believe in God even when He is silent.