

For His Glory and Our Well-Being

Part 1: All Glory Belongs to God (5/31/26)

Please turn to *Exodus 7*.

This new sermon series encourages us to **give God all the glory for 2 simple reasons**: 1) He deserves it and 2) it vastly improves our mental well-being.

It directly ***impacts our relationship with God***, our wives, our husbands, our kids, our family, our friends, and fellow Christians. It will improve our hearts by lowering stress, anxiety, fear, shame, guilt, and serves to regulate our emotions.

Before I continue, allow me to say this: **don't separate your faith life with regular life**. A topic like this one might seem to be a faith thing only, not impacting the fact that we need to pay bills, are having marriage problems, an ex dragging us to court, or on the outs with one of our kids.

Let our faith in Jesus and His Word be the foundation for every other aspect of life.

[1Co 10:31 ESV] 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

[Psa 115:1 ESV] 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but **to your name give glory**, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

[Rev 4:11 ESV] 11 "**Worthy are you, our Lord** and God, to ***receive glory and honor*** and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

I believe that most Christian know ***we're supposed to glorify God***, but today's message will help connect this to our hearts and show us what it means.

The words used in the Bible are "glory, glorious, glorify/ied" and here's what it means: **to give honor to, to magnify, to highlight (like a neon sign), to bring someone else's attention to in a positive way.**

When we glorify Christ, to ourselves or another, ***we're revealing the radiant nature of our Lord.*** We're not adding to it b/c its already there: we're showing ourselves or another person just how holy, powerful, loving, caring, just, and compassionate He truly is! We're opening our own eyes or those of another to Him.

I take you back to just before the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt toward the Promised Land. For over 400 years they lived in Egypt as slaves, and they finally cried out to God to live up to His promise that He would bring them to their own land. You know the story: Moses appears before Pharaoh and says: "*thus says the Lord: 'let My people go.'*" "

Now here's the part that might cause us ***to scratch our heads***: not only did Pharaoh say "no" but the Bible says it was GOD Who "hardened Pharaoh's heart":

[Exo 4:21 ESV] 21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. **But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.**"

Let's take stock in order:

- God says to Moses He will free Israel and bring them to their own land.
- God tells Moses to appear before Pharaoh and say "let My people go."
- GOD is the one Who will make Pharaoh become stubborn and say "no."
- God then sends a plague and Pharaoh starts to soften.
- This cycle happens 10x until God stops making him stubborn, and Pharaoh lets them go.
- After Pharaoh relents and they make it all the way to the Red Sea, God hardens Pharaoh's heart AGAIN.
- Pharaoh's army pursues, then gets drowned in the Red Sea.

[Exo 7:2-4 ESV] 2 "You [MOSES] shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. 3 **But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, 4 Pharaoh will not listen to you.** Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

Let's ask the 64,000 question: **why did GOD harden Pharaoh's heart, only to "punish" him for it?**

Let's read on to find out why:

[Exo 7:5 ESV] 5 **The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

Remember that **fallen angelic “gods” rule the nations, including Egypt.**

- Recall that the Lord’s plan is to eventually send His Son to take over and be the God of all the nations, breaking them like potter’s vessels with His rod of iron.
- Therefore the people of the world need to KNOW the name of the One, True God: Yawheh.
- They need to fear Him, realizing that He is above all the other “gods” including the ones they worship.
- It would be best if they repented and turned to the LORD!

He intends to glorify Himself and His Name among all people and nations of the world. They will see His power, His majesty, His justice, His holiness, and His dominion over them AND their gods.

He’s starting in Egypt because, at that time, Egypt wasn’t just a nation it was an empire: the most powerful one in the world. Many in the known world at that time would look upon Egypt and marvel, saying *“who is like Egypt and able to go to war with them?”*

Now imagine this: you belong to another nation outside the Egyptian empire and hear that they’re coming to invade you. What do you do? You pray to your gods to give you victory and mount a successful defense. The Egyptians pray to their gods to successfully beat you. The Egyptians win. As the defeated country, perhaps you ask *“why didn’t our gods help us? Why didn’t they repel the Egyptians? Maybe they weren’t strong enough? Perhaps the Egyptian gods are stronger?”*

What we have is a **war in the spirit realm that washes over into the physical one.** In the days of the Exodus, there were 10 main Egyptian gods who all had their own categories: one was a god of war, another of fertility, another of prosperity, etc. The 10 plagues Yahweh sent were a direct attack on the 10 most powerful Egyptian gods, easily overcoming them.

The LORD dismantled the spiritual infrastructure of the most powerful empire on the planet, causing everyone to fear His name.

Let’s read how our God chose to start *His smashing of Egypt like a potters vessel:*

[Exo 7:8-12 ESV] 8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 9 "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" 10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. 12 For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Pharaoh's gods RESPONDED with a miracle of their own...and got trounced. This famous event got the snowball rolling down the hill until Egypt was brought to its knees before the One, True God Yahweh! **He was GLORIFIED among them AND among the Hebrew people.**

And so it is with us. *Right here, right now.* Maybe we have days where we're feeling like the Hebrews when they were still enslaved and toiling for Egypt. They'd given up hope, were in despair, didn't see God living up to His promise, and weren't hearing His voice. Even when they cried out to Him and He responded through Moses, the Bible tells us the Elders of Israel were both scared and skeptical—still in unbelief.

When God glorified Himself, it directly impacted their daily everyday lives.

When they (later on) glorified God, it directly affected their mental well-being.

When you and I are drained of hope and joy, when anxiety and fear seem to be ruling over us like Pharaoh, **our eyes are closed to God's glory.** *We're not seeing Him being involved and helping us.*

Right after Pharaoh's army was **swallowed up by the Red Sea**, look what happens:

[Exo 14:30-31 ESV] 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

PLAY VIDEO

The Hebrews finally fear their own God AND believe in

Him! Chapter 15 reveals a major worship service broke out right there on the beach, with this crowd of over a half million singing praises to the Lord and giving Him glory. Talk about a mega-church.

Now that the people fear and believe in God, when they glorified Him, *they're full of hope and joy*. Hours before this it was stress and fear (seeing the army bearing down on them).

Did you know that, 40 years later, **when spies went into the PM to scout out the enemy**, they met a woman named Rahab who gave this testimony:

Joshua 2:9-11 (ESV) 9 And she said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 ***And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath.***"

Rahab was the only person in Jericho whose life was spared, and she ended up being an ancestor of Jesus Himself. Her everyday life was directly affected by giving the LORD glory.

Here's the Biblical pattern:

- First, God glorifies Himself/His name so that all can see.
- Second, those who believe respond by glorifying Him.

Now *let's fast forward to Jesus*. Right before His crucifixion, He speaks and this happens:

[Jhn 12:27-33 ESV] 27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 **Father, glorify your name.**" Then a voice came from heaven: "**I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.**" 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "**This voice has come for your sake, not mine.**" 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, ***when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.***" 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Verse 27 is Him knowing He's about to go to the Cross...***so what should He say?*** His final words, as it were? Instead of asking Father God to free Him from His mission to be crucified, what does He ask Yahweh Father to do? Jesus say "Father, glorify your name."

Is this glorification going to be an Exodus-style event? Not this time. On the previous go 'round, the lives of all the firstborn sons were taken as the last plague, defeating the last and most powerful Egyptian god. This time around, ***Father God takes the life of HIS firstborn Son Whose blood will cleanse the sins of any who come to Him.***

- The LORD defeated Satan in the days of Exodus by showing His might.
- The LORD defeated Satan through Jesus by showing His mercy.
- BOTH are the fulfillment of promises that He made. Both are righteous and just.

Jesus was glorified when He was lifted up on the Cross 2000 years ago.

- In 2026, there are 193 countries in the world and every one of them knows the name of Jesus.
- There are churches in every one of them, though some are "underground" and act in secret.

Psalm 19:1 — "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

Psalm 96:6-8 — "Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name..."

Habakkuk 2:14 — "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Ephesians 3:20-21 — "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:11 — "...whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

John 13:31-32 — "When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.'"