

# **God is glorified...**

## **Upper Room Discourse Principles found in the New Testament A study for the College and Career Class of Gulf Coast Baptist Church 8-21-22 by Steve Thomas**

### **Introduction**

The term “glory of God” is used often among believers. God’s glory is connected to His Desirous Will. When Jesus performed the will of the Father, the Godhead was glorified. The Persons of the Godhead share eternal glory, and that glory can be manifested by the creation performing that which is pleasing to the Father. Christ began His discourse with this subject after the departure of Judas, mentioning the term no less than five times in two verses. The work that was soon to be accomplished would bring glory to God. The work was monumental, being the focus of all of human history. After millenia of time, the moment where Christ would provide salvation for all of humankind was about to take place. In His high priestly prayer, Christ claims glory based on his work up to this point with the disciples. The stage was set for what was to come after the crosswork as well, what is happening even now. The Godhead can receive glory by a believer performing that which is pleasing to the Father. As the High Priest, that work is actually accomplished by Christ, through the conduit of the Spirit-filled believer. God’s opinion of Himself is recognized by created beings.

### **Now is the Son of Man Glorified...**

In John 13, Christ began his discourse with this statement. Christ recognizes that the work about to be done will be accomplished by the Godhead together, not just by Him. Where one person of the Godhead is, the other two persons are as well. They “corroborate glory” in their individual works. Christ was about to reveal some of God’s character by his actions over the next several hours. The Father and the Spirit would as well. Christ states that He Himself was glorified, and God (the Father) would be glorified in Him. This could be translated “because of.” Christ was about to perform flawlessly the plan that was prepared before time began.

Christ says in the next verse that God (the Father) would be glorified In Christ, and would also glorify Christ in Himself. And then a reference is made to a future glorification (could be the resurrection or the ascension). This was alluded to by Paul in Phil 2. The exaltation occurred after the humiliation.

### **I have finished the work...**

Christ specifies just how He displayed God’s opinion of Himself in His high priestly prayer (17:4-10). Christ followed the plan exactly, and finished the work that He was sent to do. He now requests that God display His opinion of Christ by returning the glory that was His before the world began. The Father did this by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand.

Christ manifested the character of the Father repeatedly on earth (17:6). Christ put on full display to the men in the upper room every aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit, multiple times over. The words that were given to Christ were passed on to His followers (17:8). It is these words that the Holy Spirit would bring to remembrance at a later time. It is these words that faith must be directed towards so that God’s character may be put on full display. We learned this in our study on love, joy, and peace.

Christ states that He is also glorified in the disciples (17:10). The change in these men over the next few weeks would be astounding. God's character would be formed in them by the Spirit. Paul uses this language in his letter to the Galatians (4:19).

### **That they all may be one...**

Christ prays (makes request) for the grace believer later in this prayer (17:20-22). The believer existing in His position is instrumental in displaying this glory. Displaying God's opinion of Himself to the world can cause belief that Christ was sent by the Father. The glory that was given to the Son by the Father is also given to the believer. This glory is the ability to perform the desirous will of the Father. When the believer pleases the Father by fulfilling the desires of the Father, God receives glory, or rather the glory of God is placed on full display. God is glorified; God possesses glory. This glory is revealed when the believer-priest performs spiritual sacrifices (Heb 13:15-16, 21, Phil 4:18, 20).

### **That God may be glorified in Jesus Christ**

When the believer exercises his spiritual gift, God the Father is glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:10-11). Again, the whole Godhead is present and involved in this process. Christ gave the gifts after His ascension (Eph 4:8). The gifts are only able to be performed when empowered and led by the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13, Eph 4:3). The speaking and ministering that takes place when the believer operates in his gift puts the Godhead on full display. These are actually two of the purposes of the spiritual gifts.

There are several actions that the believer can perform that will put the Godhead on full display. Receiving one another (Rom 15:5-7) with a likemindedness (the mind of Christ). Paul's dissertation on eating food offered to idols contains the admonition to eat and drink to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31).

### **Fill you up...**

Paul's communication with the Father on behalf of the Thessalonians was that they would be filled up with every good opinion of Goodness and work of faith by God's power (2 Thess 1:11). This was the way in which the character of Christ would be put on full display (1:12). Resurrection life as well as Eternal life are both referred to here, as well as the grace of God.

This is an apt description of the believer being used of God. He has nothing to donate to God's goodness. He simply directs faith and is empowered by God to put Christ's character on full display. Often times this is during times of crisis and tribulation. The believer should seek to please God by allowing God to be glorified both in and through us. ***God is glorified and pleased when the believer is energized by the Godhead to do the works marked out by God (Eph 2:10)*** - D. Spurbeck.

### **Conclusion**

Christ made it possible for the believer to possess and display the glory of God when he accomplished his crosswork. He alluded to this in his upper room discourse. The NT writers unpacked this concept in multiple scenarios, showing how it was to take place. The believer seeks out the desirous will of God, and empowered by God fulfills the works laid out for him to do by the father, empowered by the Son, led by the Spirit.