

Now To Him Who Is Able - Week 5

Pastor Matt Dean

November 5, 2023

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Eph 3:14–21)

This moment in the life of our church is an important opportunity for us to seek the Lord and live in this reality... This year we have been looking at John's gospel, and we will resume that study next week, but if you remember where we left off, Jesus was preparing his disciples for his death and promising them the Holy Spirit would lead and guide them, reminding them of the work and words of Jesus.

**As we think about our future together as a church, we want to make a wise, Spirit-led, God-glorifying decision as people who trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ and as people who want to make much of Jesus.**

We need to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit.

Do you want to be strengthened with power?

We need to understand that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

Do you desire for Christ to dwell in your heart through faith?

We need to be rooted and grounded in love.

Are you living as a son or daughter that is rooted and grounded in God's love?

We need to comprehend as a church, along with all the saints, the magnitude of God's love

Do you understand the magnitude of God's love?

We need to love this love of Christ surpasses knowledge

Is the love of Christ simply information – or has His love surpassed mere knowledge and transformed you?

We need to be filled with all the fullness of God.

What are you full of? What are you filled with?

We need to believe that God is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask of think  
Do you believe that God can do more than you think?

We want God to be glorified in the Church and in this local church  
Do you want God to be glorified in the Church and in this church?

We want to see the glory of God in Christ Jesus - now - and throughout all generations. Forever.

The visible gathering of Christ followers is meant to glorify God on earth. So last week we remembered that the purpose of the Great Commission, of committing to a local church, of preaching, of making disciples of Jesus, of praying together of keeping God's Word, of serving others together in Jesus name, of patient endurance in the face of suffering, of teaching the next generation the church – the purpose of this is God's glory in the Church.

The beauty of baptism – when people publicly proclaim their new life in Jesus, the purpose of communion, where we remember the Gospel together, remembering why we celebrate the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is God's glory in this church.

Remembering why we gather to sing songs of praise and why we pray together is God's glory in the church. The purpose of joyful generosity with a local church and the purpose of gathering for fellowship, pursuing gospel-centered friendships is God's glory in the church.

The reason we care for widows and orphans, loving those who are vulnerable or marginalized is God's glory in the church. The reason we pursue sexual purity and God-honoring relationships is God's glory in the church. The purpose of marriage and the purpose of singleness is God's glory in the church.

The purpose of loving one another and the purpose of forgiving one another is God's glory in the church. The reason we are to be kind to one another and encouraging one another, the motivation for striving for unity in Christ with one another is God's glory in the church. The reason why we establish multigenerational, multi-ethnic gospel communities is God's glory in the church. The purpose of reaching the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ — is his glory in the church among all peoples – He is worthy of the praise of the redeemed.

But Paul prays to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

What does “to him be glory in Christ Jesus” mean. How are we to think about this? How can we honor Jesus and bring him glory – now and forever?

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.<sup>3</sup> **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.** After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb 1:1–3).

To Him be glory in Christ Jesus — means we recognize Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God – the exact imprint of His nature – and He is POWERFUL.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.<sup>11</sup> More than that, we also **rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** through whom we have now received reconciliation.

(Ro 5:1–11)

On any given week, I have conversations with fellow Christ followers who love Jesus and have a growing hatred for the sin in their lives.. For those struggling with sin, I want to remind you that focusing on that sin is the least effective way to walk in obedience. Embracing shame and remaining in that posture does not glorify Jesus any more than you choosing to sin again does.

Embracing Christ – as He has embraced you – is the way to glorify Jesus. If your heart is rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God, you are not and will not give in to the lie that sin will satisfy.

To Him be glory in Christ Jesus – means we know this:

WE have peace with God.

We HAVE peace with God.

We have PEACE with God.

We have peace with GOD.

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By faith – we have a standing in grace – and therefore WE REJOICE in hope of the glory of God.

We come back around. We remember. We rediscover. We marvel and take comfort in the glory of God in what He has given us in Jesus.

To rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ – means we know – there is no other name, no other way, no other gospel, no other atoning sacrifice, no other means of peace with God except in what Jesus has done.

We live in a broken world, among broken people who do not see and cannot yet see God's glory in Jesus. Be careful that your life is not formed or fashioned by those who can't see God's glory in Jesus. Be mindful that spiritual blindness – an inability to see or understand the light of the gospel – is a powerful and influential reality for billions of people around the world. Who is shaping you? What is influencing you? What is dominating your heart's attention? If you aren't sure – consider the output of your life. What are you proclaiming? What are you celebrating? What or who gets the most glory from your life?

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.** <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> **For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

(2 Co 4:3–6)

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> **For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.** <sup>17</sup> **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.** <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything he might be preminent.** <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

(Col 1:15–20)

My prayer is...

That we would be people who glorify Jesus.

That in humility we would glorify Jesus.

That when we experience fear or anxiety - we would glorify Jesus.

That we would remember that Jesus cares for us and thus we would glorify Jesus.

That we would resist the evil one - and glorify Jesus.

That if we suffer - we would glorify Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Pe 5:6–11)

The God of all grace – has called YOU to HIS eternal glory in Christ.

The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will restore you.

The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will confirm you.

The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will strengthen you.

The God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will establish you.

Now to Him who is able...