

# Growing — Splendor & Glory

☰ Description/Big Idea	For the display of his splendor
Σ Recording Deadline	@Feb 19, 2021
Σ Rough Draft	@Feb 12, 2021
☰ Scripture	Isaiah 61:3-4
📅 Sermon Date	@Feb 28, 2021
▼ Speaker	Perry
Σ Status	Time to Write!
☰ 🚫 Blockout Dates	Brian B

## GROWING — Splendor & Glory

Last week, we looked at how God commanded Joshua to be prepared. The two big points were about how God told Joshua to be strong and courageous as he took the land, and to not go to the left or to the right from studying his law.

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This week, we're looking at the effort and value of growth. Spiritual growth, just like physical and emotional growth takes:

- Effort
- Energy
- Time
- Intentionality

Without putting effort to it, we'll stagnate and end up in the same place next year as we are now. And we can grow despondent looking back and realizing that "I am no different from how I was last year."

Is the pain of staying where you are too great? Where do we even start?



Today we want to find a new motive for your own growth.

For most of us, our motive for growth isn't strong enough. We need a higher motive for growth to propel us into a higher motive for growth.

### **Isaiah 61:3-4**

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

Strangers will shepherd your flocks;  
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards

The New International Version. (2011). (Is 61:3–5). Grand Rapids, MI:  
Zondervan.

Is my life lived serving my own purposes or serving a higher purpose? Isaiah 61 invites us to see that living for the display of God's glory is part of our original design.

In the beginning, God created them male and female as an exact representation of his nature and character.

### **Genesis 1:27**

So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

The New International Version. (2011). (Ge 1:27). Grand Rapids, MI:  
Zondervan.

Then he called us to take the image bearing and bring life, order, and cultivate the world to maximize the bearing of life. This is our privilege and honor to rule and reign and bear his image and splendor throughout all of creation.

## A Different Purpose

If we live according to this original design, our work and vocation becomes about bringing restoration and God's beauty to the world.



A higher motive isn't something new, but living according to how God created us long ago. In our broken world, Isaiah shows us that living according to how God created us looks like rebuilding and restoring that which was destroyed.

This higher motive is in direct competition to the message of the world: "you are a consumer, take all that you want to make you fulfilled."

Isaiah (and subsequently Jesus) shows us that our original design was meant to be contributors to creation. This will result in fulfillment of everyone.

Instead of looking at work, or church, or school through a lens of, "what can I get out of this," this new motive can allow us to see the world through a lens of,

"what can I contribute and how can I make everyone better?"

You become the oak of righteousness, a rebuildler, and repairer. Contributors bring life. Consumers destroy.

## Exchange

If we exchanged our self-serving motive that brings death for one that brings everyone life, what would your life look like?

| The chief end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. — The Westminster Catechism.

Our joy can be tied up in our relationship with God.

God has planted you in your work

God has planted you in your school

God has planted you in your church

He planted you wherever you are so that you can be an oak of righteousness and display his glory and restorative nature to everyone around you.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate a the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The New International Version. (2011). (2 Co 3:17–18). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

The change comes about through the Spirit who transforms us — if we allow him. A spirit of humility to do this can be developed by meditating on his glory and his word.



When we worship, when we look at, and when we contemplate on his glory, our motives will change. We will grow.

Why is this? Because his glory IS life and joy and restoration, and when we compare our glory to his glory, we will begin to understand that his glory is what needs to be on display for our work places, communities, and schools. It is far superior to our glory.



If you want to change your life, change your motive. Pause. Slow down. Meditate on his splendor and glory, and word.

Pray, ask God, "Father, change my motive for everything I do. Help me to enter every moment, relationship, and task, and display your splendor."