

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



The Weight Of God's Glory

2 Corinthians 4:17

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Have you ever stood next to something so gigantic that it made you feel tiny? Imagine standing at the rim of the Grand Canyon or looking up at the Empire State Building. You feel a pull in your chest. The pure size of these structures forces you to stop and pay attention.

The glory of God works like that in a far greater way. The Hebrew concept of glory (*kavad*) is more than awe-inspiring; it speaks of pulling on you like gravity. It does not politely ask for your attention. It fills the room so completely that everything else feels thin and light by comparison.

THE HEAVINESS OF THE GLORY

We see this heavy presence throughout the history of Israel in its worship. When Moses finished setting up the Tabernacle in the desert, God's presence moved in. Exodus 40 tells us that the glory filled the tent so densely that Moses could not even step inside the door.

Hundreds of years later, King Solomon built the temple out of stone, gold, and cedar wood. At its dedication, the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies.

Read what happened next in **1 Kings 8:10–11**:

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

These were trained ministers. They had practiced their religious rituals for months. But when the glory of the Lord rolled into the building, the physical pressure of God's presence was so intense that they could not stand up to do their jobs. God's presence acted like a physical force. It pressed down until human pride and human strength had to yield.

ISAIAH'S ENCOUNTER WITH GLORY

What happens when a real human being encounters glory? In the year 740 BC, King Uzziah died. He had brought stability and wealth to Israel for 52 years. His death caused a national crisis. People were terrified about the future. In that moment, the prophet Isaiah was given a vision of the true King.

Listen to Isaiah's words in **Isaiah 6:1–3**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with

two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" ESV

Notice what the heavenly seraphim say: "*the whole earth IS full of His glory*". They do not say the earth might be full someday. They state a current fact. The world is already packed full of God's heavy reality.

When Isaiah saw this weight, he did not cheer. He was not overjoyed or excited; he collapsed.

Isaiah 6:5:

So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.' NKJV

The word "undone" means to be ruined or dissolved. Standing next to God's glory, Isaiah realized his own goodness was like a mist, a vapor. He thought he was doomed, but God did not crush him. An angel took a burning coal from the altar, touched his lips, and cleaned away his sin. God's heavy glory stripped away what was false in Isaiah so that he could be sent out on a mission.

GOD'S GLORY AND OUR TROUBLES

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul experienced beatings, shipwrecks, and prison cells. Yet he used this exact same concept of weight to explain how Christians can endure suffering.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Paul calls his severe beatings and imprisonment a "light affliction". Why? Because he placed his suffering on a scale next to the future that God is preparing.

Imagine holding a little pebble in one of your hands. If someone places a hundred-pound bar of solid gold in the other hand. You forget all about the pebble. The heavy gold makes the pebble feel like nothing. Paul says that the transformation God is working in you is so heavy, so real, and so permanent that today's tears will seem as light as air by comparison.

Conclusion

God's glory is not an old story locked in ancient buildings. Through the Holy Spirit, God's heavy presence lives inside of those of us who believe in Him. Every time you choose honesty over a quick lie, every time you choose to forgive instead of hold a grudge, you take on weight and substance. You become denser with God's character. God is making you solid, real, and ready for an eternity filled with His glory!