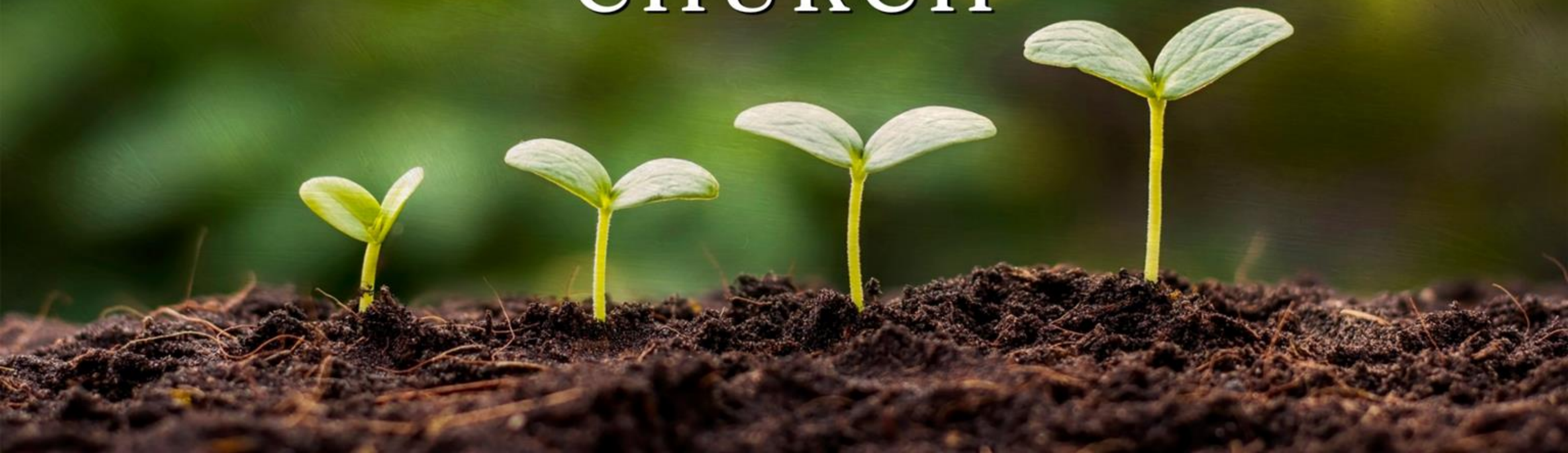


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church Loves

Belong - Behold - Become

1 John 4:7-12



Exodus 19:4 says, “I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasure possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”

We **BELONG**

Lord, show me your glory (Exodus 33:17-23)

- Moses is asking to see God for who he really is. To see God in person.
- For Moses, head knowledge isn't enough. He wants to experience God.

Maturing Church, is this your prayer?

“Please show me your glory”

Yahweh said, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and **abounding in lovingkindness** and truth; who **keeps lovingkindness** for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.” Exodus 34:6-7

Michael Card, in *Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness*, defines the Hebrew word **hesed** as: “When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.”

We Behold

Hesed love: **Ways hesed is translated into English**

love, lovingkindness, merciful love, loyal love, sure love, relentless love, enduring love, extravagant love, affectionate satisfaction, love in action, dependable love, steady love, true love, fundamental love, miracle love, generous love, deep love, wonderful love, great love, incredible love, marvelous love, gracious love, loyal in love, steadfast love, expression of love, election love, unfailing love, faithful love, tons of love, loving instruction, loving deeds, covenant love, covenant of love, covenantal faithfulness, covenantal deeds of love, covenant friendship, covenant commitment, gracious covenant, loyal, loyalty, covenant loyalty, loyal faithfulness, great loyalty, unswerving loyalty, loyal mercy, loyal service, kindness, kindly, divine kindness, loyal kindness, godly kindness, merciful kindness, great kindness, everlasting kindness, mercy, mercy work, mercy feeling, miracle mercy, generous mercy, benevolence, compassion, persistent faithfulness, faithfulness, faithful act, reliable solidarity, goodwill, ardent zeal, grace, graciousness, extravagant generosity, largesse, glory, honor, honoring, pity, clemency, rock, bedrock, god fearing, piety, charity, strength, devout, active goodness, favor, immense favor, loyal friendship, good heartedness, immense favor, working graciously, generous yes, endlessly patient, generous act of goodness, devotion, devoted work, commitment, goodness, good deeds, gracious dealings, beauty, disgrace, reproach, shameful thing, wicked thing, stick with me, sticking by, sticking with, big-heartedness, “unlimited, unconditional, unconditioned, and all-inclusive love for all creation”

Church, we are maturing because we understand that we don't deserve God's love, but He has given me everything.

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Glory to Glory

Ministry of Moses

- impermanent
- lacked transformative power
- veiled
- imprisonment

Ministry of the Spirit

- permanent
- transformative glory
- unveiled
- freedom

Profound Implications

Unlimited Access to the presence of God

Unashamed Boldness to enjoy our free and limitless access to God

Utter Transformation - to the image of God's glory
(Stephen T. Um)

Maturing church: Beholds this Love!

Profound Implications

We are being transformed into the same image of Jesus

Which takes us back to: 1 John 4:10-11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Maturing church: We reflect Jesus to others!

Meditation and Prayer

- Is it your prayer to ask God to show you his glory?
- Do you receive belonging to God?
- Do you behold Jesus?
- Who has become the Face of Jesus to you? Stone them!
(tell them)
- Do you love with sacrifice?