

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

The final phase of salvation is glorification. It is the fourth part of the process, following on from justification, sanctification and redemption. The Lord Jesus Christ said that He is the way, the truth and the life. The understanding of this statement, and what is involved, lays out the path to salvation.

John 14:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. There is no other way that leads to God the Father except the path that the Lord has set before us. This implies that all other religious practices are vain - if they do not follow the path the Lord has set. What is that path?

- Justification: repent in order to become blameless before God.
- Sanctification: be set apart by the truth.
- Redemption: the process where our Kingsman redeems us from our debt that we are unable to repay.
- Glorification: the subject of this study.

In all these processes, it is God who is doing all the work in us through the power of His Spirit. The more we yield to the Spirit of God - the faster our growth in wisdom, knowledge, understanding and might will be. Our part is to set aside the time to study His words so that we can come to some understanding of the truth and to apply what knowledge we have acquired.

When the Lord Jesus Christ walked the Earth, just before He died for our sins, He prayed to God the Father - asking for something very specific. It is imperative that we analyse His prayer to gain vital understanding and knowledge of what He was asking God the Father.

John 17:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ²as You have given Him authority over

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

This prayer provides some very deep information on the plans of God and the authority and duties He has given the Lord Jesus Christ. We must understand that the same Spirit that works in the Lord Jesus Christ is also in God the Father. They are two separate individuals, yet through this Spirit they are one.

This prayer was also for our benefit, so that we can know the will of God. As it is stated in this passage of Scripture, God the Father has given the Lord Jesus Christ authority over all flesh, not just on Earth but also in heaven. The Lord will give eternal life to as many as God gave Him. The Lord said that He had finished the work that He was sent to do and has glorified God the Father on Earth. He then asked God the Father to glorify Him with the glory He had before the foundation of the Earth. Our interest here is to find out about the glory the Lord had before the world came to existence. In the gospel of John chapter one, the Apostle John was inspired to tell us:

John 1:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

As you can clearly see here, the Lord Jesus Christ was asking God the Father to restore His Glory as He was before the creation of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ was with God and was God. In other words: Jesus was like God, but He gave up all His glory and power to become a man, in order to redeem mankind back to God. The prophet Ezekiel saw the Lord in His Glory, when the Lord made him the watchman of the house of Israel:

Ezekiel 1:26-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

high above it. ²⁷ Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the colour of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

In the book of Revelation we are given a similar description of the Lord after he had been resurrected and had returned to heaven:

Revelation 1:14-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

Going back to the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ, He said:

John 17:20-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The Lord prayed for His disciples, and for those who will believe in the Lord through their word, to be one with the Lord and God the Father. Secondly, He prayed for those who believe in Him to be where He is. And finally, He prayed that they too should be exactly as He was before the foundation of the world.

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

To be one with the Lord Jesus Christ, we must first acquire the Spirit of God, as the Lord said to the Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:13-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The fountain of water which will spring up into everlasting life is the Spirit of God, which the Lord freely gives to all those who are just in His eyes. The Lord gave an explanation of this when He spoke to the Pharisee Nicodemus, who came to see Him at night:

John 3:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

For anyone to be able to enter the kingdom of God they have to be born again. There are two conditions necessary for anyone to be born again. Firstly, you have to be baptised by total immersion under water. This is symbolic of being born of water. Secondly, you have to be born of the Spirit. There are those who have qualified for resurrection who God has given the power to become the Sons of God. The power capable of raising them up is through the Spirit of God which dwells in them:

John 1:12-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

As stated earlier, it is the Spirit of God that creates eternal life. What is born of flesh is flesh (what is born of man is of man), but what is born of the Spirit is of Spirit. It is the Spirit that will hear the voice of the Lord on that day and give eternal life to all those who had worshipped God in Spirit and truth. The Lord Jesus said there is an hour coming in which all the dead will hear the voice of the Son and wake up:

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

John 5:28-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

All the dead will be resurrected. Those who have done good will be given eternal life and those who have done evil will be condemned. In the Book of Revelation it is made clear that these resurrections will take place in two parts:

Revelation 20:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

As the above passage of Scripture states, there are two planned resurrections of the dead. The first will be at the end of the age and the second will come after the thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. The first resurrection will not only involve the dead who lived by the Lord and His commandments, but also those who are alive and have the Spirit of God. The apostle Paul explained how it will happen:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

At no point does this passage of Scripture say anything about when this event will take place. Those who believed in the Lord and are dead will rise up first and then those who believe and are alive will be brought up to the clouds when the Lord calls. To discover more details on the timing of this event - consider this passage of Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.

The resurrection of the dead is at the last trumpet - which is the seventh trumpet. There are six other trumpets before the seventh. At this point the dead, and all those who are alive who have qualified, will be born again as stated in the Holy Scriptures. All those who worship God the Father in Spirit and truth will be glorified. It is also at this point in time that, if we qualified, we will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven. This will be the moment in time when we will become born again to the Glory of God the Father.

There is an awesome potential locked in each and every one of us that can only be revealed at the appointed time. Our pilgrimage on Earth should be about taking the necessary steps in our lives in order to unlock this awesome opportunity that God has given us. However, the majority of us are ignorant to this fact and will therefore miss out. We have the word of truth and access to it has increased hundreds of folds since the time the Holy Scriptures were written due to the technology we have at our disposal, but are we going to heed the truth?

The Apostle Paul was inspired to record that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him:

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

Hebrews 11:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

When we live by faith we please God. It is impossible to please God if He has not justified us, because all the necessary components of living by faith come from being blameless before God. As we diligently seek God we are rewarded in this age and in the age to come. The Apostle Peter asked the Lord Jesus Christ what the reward of following Him was and He gave this answer:

Luke 18:28-30 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You."

²⁹So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

The reward in this age is to receive many times more than what we had, but how much more?

Mark 10:30 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION?

Glorification is a time in which all those who have diligently sought the Lord our God will be rewarded. The first reward is eternal life. Those who will be rewarded believe in the truth and have obeyed the voice of the Lord our God. They will live forever and the Lord will not be ashamed to call them His Brethren. This is the moment when all those who have the power to become the Sons of God will instantly change into the Sons of God and will be able to see and enter heaven.

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

Revelation 7:9-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honour and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

These are those who have been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb which is in heaven.

Revelation 19:6-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION

Another reward for the Saints of the Lord is that they will rule the Earth as kings and priests with the Lord Jesus Christ to establish the kingdom of God on Earth.

Psalm 149:5-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. ⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, ⁷ To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; ⁸ To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹ To execute on them the written judgment— This honour have all His saints. Praise the LORD!

We have been given a preview of when the Lord will return with His Saints to judge and rule the Earth for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

From this passage we can see that all those who are resurrected in the first stage will not be affected by the Great White Throne Judgement because they will be the judges.

For all of us alive today we still have a chance to amend our ways, to attain this ultimate glory. For man there is nothing greater. There is the awesome potential locked in each one of us, but it is up to us to unlock that potential. The good news is that we have the keys to unlock this potential. The keys are faith and obedience to the truth. The truth is the word of God, the Holy Bible.

The information is clear and the requirements have been made simple for you. You can clearly see the glory that is waiting for you. What are you going to do with this knowledge?