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Will you please turn to Matthew Chapter 6? We will read from verse 9 – 13.

Thus therefore pray ye: Our Father who art in the heavens, let Thy name be sanctified,¹⁰ let Thy kingdom come, let Thy will be done as in heaven so upon the earth;¹¹ give us to-day our needed bread,¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors,¹³ and lead us not into temptation, but save us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

Let us have a further word of prayer.

Dear Lord, we want to thank Thee for gathering us together this morning. We do gather in Thy name and as Thou has promised us, where two or three are gathered together unto My name, there am I in the midst of them. We praise and thank Thee for Thy presence here with us. We do realize that we stand on holy ground. We will remove our shoes, stand before Thee as Thy bond servants. Dear lord, we want to open our hearts to Thee. Let Thy word come from above and come into our hearts. May Thy word be living and operative in us. Grant us the spirit of wisdom and revelation to the full knowledge of God. Bring us into the reality of Thyself. May Thy will be done in us as it is in heaven. May Thy glory be manifested in our midst. May Thy glory attract us and lead us to Thyself. We praise and thank Thee for Thy faithfulness. And we trust ourselves totally unto Thee. May Thy name be glorified. We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

Thank God for gathering us together this morning. Every time we gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus, I always feel it is the special mercy and grace of God. Our Lord is coming soon. He may come at any time. But He is not coming yet. It is not because He does not want to return to receive His own to Himself; it is because He knows we are not ready for Him. So we do thank the Lord that He gave us another opportunity that we may be made ready for Him. As you all know, the theme of this conference is ‘For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.’ As our brother mentioned last night, the last sentence ‘For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.’ is not found in the earliest manuscripts. We read them in the latter manuscripts. So in the version that I am reading to you, Darby’s version, you do not find this last sentence. And yet as our brother mentioned last night, the spirit of the last verse can be found throughout the Bible. Especially, you find it in I Chronicles 29. It is the spirit of the man of God, the man who is of God’s heart, David. The spirit of David is such that he wanted to give God all the kingdom, power and glory. And it is befitting to each one of us, it is but right for us to offer to God our doxology as we pray the prayer that the Lord has taught us, and as the church prays that prayer. So it is the response, the result of the prayer of the church that we do want to see that kingdom and power and glory be all unto God. So in spite of the fact that this verse is

lacking in the earliest manuscripts of the Bible, we believe it is right that we should have the spirit of David unto God. That is the reason why this verse becomes the theme of this conference.

Three of us have different assignments. Our brother Christian is assigned to speak on 'Thine is the kingdom'. Brother Dana is assigned to speak on 'Thine is the power', and I am assigned to speak on 'Thine is the glory'. If God wills, we will approach this matter from three different areas.

Number one, we want to ask the question what is glory. Number two, we want to share on Thine is the glory and the third time we want to share on how we can glorify God.

What is glory

We find in the Bible many times it mentions the God of glory, the glory of God. I think brothers and sisters, we all remember when God called Abraham out of Ur of Chaldea into the Canaan land. In genesis chapter 11, you find how Abraham came out of Ur of Chaldea under his father. But if you want to know the real story, you need to go to Acts 7:2. There you find Stephen narrated the working of God among His people. And he said the God of glory appeared to Abraham and commanded him to leave Ur of Chaldea and his kindred and go to the place where God commanded him to go. So in other words, it all starts with the glory, the God of glory. We know from history that at that time the whole world were idolatrous. And even Tara, Abraham's father was an idol maker. And according to Jewish tradition, Abraham felt that there had to be a living true God. So when his father left home for a while, his son Abraham began to destroy the idols that his father made – took out some legs or some heads. So when his father came back and saw what had happened, he asked his son what had happened. 'Well,' he said 'when you left home, these gods began to fight against each other and that was what happened. And his father said, 'that was nonsense.' Well, if it was nonsense why did you worship them? Well, this is Jewish tradition. But the reality was that one day the God of glory appeared to him, and that was the beginning of the journey of Abraham.

Brothers and sisters, when the glory of God appears, it is a new beginning. And even in our spiritual life, how we need the appearing of the glory of God. Once the glory of God appears to us, we cannot be the same anymore. We have to leave the old behind and press on to the new before us. And in a sense this happens to every one of us. How do we come to believe in the Lord? Not because we have heard of the gospel. We may have heard the gospel for many years. We may be brought up in a Christian home. We may in our mind accept the existence of God. We may even know how to pray to Him. But there was no change. Not until the glory of God appears to us. Not until the God of glory reveals His son in us. And that changes our whole life. We have to leave the old behind and press on the new way. So thank God, 'the God of glory appears' is the beginning of everything that is of God.

The glory of God appeared to Moses

And then as you read on in the word of God, take Moses as an example. God delivered Moses out of the water when he was a little boy and somehow his mother had instilled in him a thought. When she nursed him, somehow she conveyed a thought to Moses; that God delivered him for a purpose. God delivered him in order he might deliver His people. After he was raised in the Egyptian palace and he learned all the learning of Egypt, and he became mighty in words and deeds – according to tradition he became a great general – yet when he was forty, his heart went towards his people. He wanted to deliver his people. He wanted to deliver his people by his might in words and in deeds. How he beaten to death an Egyptian and how he tried to use his eloquence to bring peace to two Hebrews who were fighting each other. But he totally failed. God allowed him to fail because he tried to do this work on his own. And he had to flee for his life. For forty years he was in the wilderness shepherding some sheep. And after forty years there, he lost all his eloquence and all his might. And it was at this time that God appeared to him. God appeared to him in a burning bush. In the wilderness there were many bushes and because of the heat in the wilderness, it was a common sight that the bush would catch fire and very quickly it would all be burned up. But one day Moses noticed that a thorn bush was burning, but it was not burned. Now that was a miracle. So he ran forward to look at it; why it was that this thorn bush was burned and yet not burned. And you remember the story how God called him out of the burning bush. Even though you do not have the words ‘glory of God’ there, yet we know the fire burning there was the glory of God. So then you find the glory of God appeared to him and there God commanded him to return to Egypt to deliver the people. No more by his own eloquence and his power, but exclusively, totally depended upon God Himself. How by the grace of God, by the power of God, he led the people of Israel out of Egypt. And he led them to Mount Sinai. And there you find God gave the children of Israel the Ten Commandments to make them His own people. And there you find in Exodus 24, God called Moses to Mount Sinai because He wanted to give them the two tablets of the law. And when Moses went up to the top of the mountain, in verse 16 it says the glory of God appeared on the top of the mountain, and in verse 17 it says the people under the mountain can see the fire, the glory of God on the top of the mountain. And again as you go on, you find the children of Israel, how they worshipped the golden calf and Moses had to plead for them before God, plead for God to forgive them, and for God being still willing to go with them to the Promised Land. And when you come to Exodus 33, you remember Moses made a request. Since he was so privileged by God, he asked for one thing and said God let me see thy face. And you remember what God replied to him. God said no one can see my face and live because the glory is so tremendous. So God said you could only see my back but not my face. So God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock, and when God passed by, He hid him with His hand. And after God passed by He let Moses see the back of God not the face of God. And there God declared who He is.

Brothers and sisters you find all these recorded in the Old Testament. The glory of God appeared to men. But in the Old Testament time, no one could see the face of God. In other words, His glory is so tremendous; no one can really see the full glory of God and not be smitten to death. But even so, because Moses was with God for forty days and forty nights, even though he only saw the back of God and not the face of God – he did not see the full glory of God – and because Moses was talking with God, that glory was so powerful that unconsciously his face shone. And the shining was such that when Moses came down from the mountain, even though he himself did not realize it, you find that Aaron and all the people could not look straight to his face because it was so brilliant, it was so glorious. But we all know, when you read II Corinthians 3 that glory will fade away. So that is what you find of glory in the Old Testament.

The glory of God in New Testament

But when you come to the New Testament, you find there is a great change because here; you find in the beginning how the word became flesh. In John 1:14, the word became flesh and dwelt among men, tabernacles among people, full of grace and truth. And in the parenthesis, you find ‘we have beheld His glory, contemplated His glory, a glory as of an only begotten with His Father’. So brothers and sisters you find in the New Testament there is a great change. When our Lord Jesus came into this world, when the word became flesh and He tabernacles among men, outwardly you find Him full of grace and truth. But if you really contemplate and think about it, if you really enter into the reality of it, you find it is the glory of an only begotten son with His Father. No one has seen God at any time, but the only begotten son, He has declared him. So when our Lord Jesus was on earth, the glory of God rested upon him. You remember at the time of our Lord Jesus, it was a time when the temple was rebuilt and you have the priesthood there and you find the people worshipping in the temple. But there was something missing in the temple because in the holiest of all, it was empty. There was no ark. The glory of God was not there. Outwardly everything was fine, but actually the most important element was missing because the presence of God was not there. So it was just a religion. There was no reality.

Jesus is the outshining of the glory of God

But when our Lord came into this world, He became the real temple of God and He tabernacles among men, full of grace and truth and you find the glory of God filled Him. So when you see the Lord Jesus, you see God. In Hebrews 1: 3, it describes our Lord Jesus, ‘who being [the] effulgence of His glory and [the] expression of His substance’. When our Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the outshining of the glory of God. It is just like you cannot look at the sun directly because if you do, your eyes will be blinded. But we see the sunlight, and when we see the sunlight we know there is the sun. And this is exactly what our Lord Jesus is. He is the outshining of the glory of God and He is the expression of His substance. Substance means the reality, the nature, the character of God. And the reality of God is being expressed

by our Lord Jesus. So the Lord Jesus said if you see Me, you see My father; if you know Me, you know My father because the son and the father are one. So you find when our Lord came into this world, the glory of God was fully manifested. And not only that, but you find that He will bring us into glory. So brothers and sisters, we who are indeed in the New Testament time, we have the privilege of seeing the very face of God, not just the back of God. And the glory will not only be something just external but this glory will even become a reality in our life. So you remember II Corinthians 3:18, it says we behold him with unveiled face; as we behold him we are changing from glory to glory, even as by the Lord the Spirit. And in Colossians 1:27, you find 'Christ in you the hope of glory'. When we believe in the Lord Jesus, we not only see what our Lord had done on Calvary cross, but we find that even as we believe him, Christ came into us; and when Christ came into us, it is the hope of glory, because this life of Christ in us will grow from glory to glory. So we must thank God for what He has done for us. We are no longer living in the Old Testament time. We are now living in the New Testament time and we have Christ in us the hope of glory and He as our leader will lead us into glory. So this is what you find roughly in the word of God.

What glory really is

Now we will like to ask the question what glory really is. Number 1, glory is the presence of God. Whenever God appears, you will find glory. When his glory appears, it is the manifestation of what He is. It is the manifestation of His nature, of His character. Now no one can fathom the fullness of God; how holy He is, how righteous He is, how gracious He is, how merciful He is and how mighty He is. No one can fathom that. And yet our Lord Jesus is the embodiment of the fullness of God. That is the reason why when the glory of God appears, it reveals to us something of His character that is beyond our understanding of what righteousness is. And it shows us what holiness really is. It tells us what love really is. So whenever you see the glory of God appears, it reveals to us something of the character of God. And thank God it is not just something objective, it is something subjective. In other words, when the glory of God appears, we learn something more of who God is and what God is. And not just outwardly, but it begins to be constituted in us; and this is from glory to glory and it is by the work of the Holy Spirit. So brothers and sisters, how we need to see the glory of God because by seeing the glory of God we will be transformed. And this is the reason why the Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us. Glory is not only the manifestation of the character of God; glory is also the act, the work of God. So you find in Psalm 19, the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. The glory of God appears in His work. When you see the creation, you see the handiwork of God and you see the glory of God. Now even though this present world is corrupted; it is corrupted by sins and transgressions, yet there is such beauty, such glory in this creation. It really draws within us worship.

I remember many, many years ago, there was a lady in China. She was highly educated and yet she was an atheist. She did not believe in God. When she was the matron of a Christian high school, she refused to accept Christianity. On the contrary, she confiscated the bibles her students had. People tried to reach her with the gospel. But she was so stubborn, so hard. But one time the school had to be disbanded because there was a plague in the city. That was in Nanking. She had to send the students home. And while she was in the boat from Nanking to Shanghai, she looked at the scenery around and somehow God spoke to her. There had to be a God; there had to be a creator. And from then on she was converted and she became greatly used by God. If you want to know her name, she was Ruth Lee, coworker of Watchman Nee. When I was young, she helped me a lot. So brothers and sisters, even by the old creation, even though it was corrupted, you can still see the glory of God. Now if this is true with the old creation, how much more true will be with the new creation?

The glory of His grace

So in Ephesians 1:6, you find the expression ‘the glory of His grace’. The glory of His grace is even more than the glory of His creation; because this is a new creation and it is from glory to glory as by the Lord’s spirit. So whenever you think of glory, you see the hand of God; what God can do with us. We who were dead in sins and transgressions, we who followed the fashion of this world, we who were under the influence of the wickedness of the power of darkness, we who were the enemies of God, but yet when the grace of God appears to us, what glory He has done in us. He not only raised us from the dead, but He has also lifted us up in heaven and sits us with Christ in the heavenly. We are saved by grace through faith. It is not of ourselves; it is the grace of God. So brothers and sisters, whenever you see the glory of God, you notice the hand and the handiwork of God.

Glory is the satisfaction of God

And what is glory? Glory is the satisfaction of God. Whenever God is satisfied, then glory will appear. You know the story of the tabernacle. When the children of Israel were traveling through the wilderness, God wanted to dwell with them. And He couldn’t dwell with them directly because He is the holy God. So He asked Moses to build a tabernacle according to the pattern on the mount. And Moses was faithful to God because when he made the tabernacle he made everything according to the direction of God. You know as a matter of fact, Egypt was famous for its architecture. Even today people go to Egypt to see the pyramids. And Moses, he learned all the learning of Egypt. For him to build the tent, it was nothing. And yet God showed him every item, every detail of the tabernacle. God did not allow him to do anything on his own. And God said build me a tabernacle. Moses said that was easy. I could build you a very glorious tabernacle. But God did not allow him to do that and that was the faithfulness of Moses because in every detail he followed the direction of God. So when the tabernacle was set up, you find the glory of God filled the tabernacle. God took possession of the tabernacle. And this happened also with

the temple. David had the desire to build the temple for God and God showed David the pattern of the temple. And Solomon was wise enough to follow the pattern. So this is what wisdom really is. Wisdom is to follow the direction of God. And because of this, you find when the temple was built; the glory of God filled the temple. And even the priest could not stand it. Everyone had to bow down and worship. Brothers and sisters, this you will find in the scripture; that tells us what glory really is.

Finally, if you read the book of Ezekiel, you find in chapter 1, the appearance of the glory of God, and then when it comes to chapters 8-11, you find how the glory of God reluctantly left the temple, because the children of Israel sinned against God. But thank God, when you come to chapter 43, you find in the new temple that was to be built, the glory of God came back to the temple because it was built according to the pattern of God.

The recovery of the glory of God

Now brothers and sisters, I believe that there is a lesson for us to learn. We find that when our Lord Jesus came down to this earth, how He was full of the glory of God and to see Him is to see the father. And then after He had completed the work of redemption on Calvary cross, He ascended up to high and He was anointed by God as Christ, as Lord. And on the day of Pentecost, the oil that anointed His head came down to the beard and flowed to the whole body because on that day the one hundred and twenty believers who had been praying and waiting for 10 days were baptized into one Spirit, into one body, and drank of the one Spirit when the Holy Spirit came down to them. That was the beginning of the church. And you find in the book of Acts how the spirit of God filled the house and what testimony they had in the work. Within thirty years, the gospel had been preached to the end of the world because at that time the end of the world was Rome. It was the center and the end of the world. But dear brothers and sisters, unfortunately, because of the unfaithfulness of God's people, you find towards the end of the first century, it is as if the glory of God was leaving. And when you come to the middle age, it was the Dark Age because all the truth had been lost. It became just a religion. But thank God, He did not leave his church. You find that God's glory was returning. This is what we usually say; the recovery of the glory of God began in the 16th century with reformers such as Martin Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and others. There you find the justification by faith was recovered. You find an open Bible, and from that time onward even unto our days, you find God's truth has been recovered again more and more. Even though when you look at the church in general, it is as if the glory has left. But thank God, you find His glory has returned onto those who are overcomers. You find there is a remnant of people, who are faithful to God, who know the preciousness of the blood of our Lord Jesus. They overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony. They not only have the testimony of Jesus but they declare it and they love not their life even unto death. You find the glory is returning to them until that day, a glorious

church, without spot or wrinkle of any such sort. So brothers and sisters, this is our blessed hope. May the Lord have mercy upon us.

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, as we review the story of Thy glory, on the one hand, we bow low and repent. On the other hand, we lift up our head knowing that our redemption draws nigh. May it please Thee, Lord that Thou will raise up among us people who are totally given up to Your glory. Let Thy glory change and transform us, O Lord. We want to see Thy glory. We give ourselves up to Your glory. May Thy glory come as we wait upon Thee. We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.