

WCCC 2025

Brother Timothy Kwok

Called by His Glory and Excellence (1)

Peace to you, brothers and sisters. I thank the Lord for His grace that we can gather in such a way once again. I thank the Lord with all my heart, for gathering in a way may seem easy, but it is not. I believe in my heart that the Lord will do His glorious work.

I trust that we are familiar with the theme of this conference.

*"everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."*

Isaiah 43:7 ESV

"As his divine power has given to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us by glory and virtue,"

2 Peter 1:3 DARBY

The brothers have given the burden from this verse in 2 Peter, the latter part of 1:3. *"He who called us by glory and virtue"*.

I do not know how you understand this "glory and virtue". It is something we may understand, but not fully. As I wait before the Lord, I do not have enough words to express them. I pray that the Holy Spirit will speak in the hearts of brothers and sisters, for the words of man are limited in explaining the Word of God. Only when the Spirit speaks in our hearts can we understand.

When we read 2 Peter 1:3, we see that "Him who called us to His own glory and virtue". Brothers and sisters, what a picture we see! That our Lord called us, and what has He placed before us? That if follow Him and answer His calling, what would we have? I feel in my heart that many in this world draw others with a great many things, promising many rewards for following them. Our hearts are captured by these things.

As Peter wrote the 2nd letter in his latter years, "we are called", and the Lord has called us by these 2 things. As we answer His calling, we will have these 2 things - His glory and His virtue. I do not know if you are drawn to this.

My dear young brothers and sisters, many in this world will tell us what they think is good and pleasing, but we who belong to the Lord, called by the Lord not

by external things, but these 2 things: His glory and His virtue. Are you able to see His glory and virtue?

Do we have a sigh within us that our value systems are now brought so low? I apologize if I offend you, but what we have come to value is so low. In my youth, my father told me that he would give me a piece of chocolate if I scored 100 on the examination. All my effort and labor was for this piece of chocolate. There was once, thank the Lord, I got 100 and got my prize. My younger brother asked to share, but I declined because it was mine. Regretfully, the chocolate was consumed so quickly.

What do we value in this world? Brothers and sisters who are parents, how do you encourage your children to study? To be a good person? What value do you set before them? Do not think that Brother Timothy Kwok speaks lightly. Many children of God today, when we come to the house of God, we speak of God's glory and His excellence, but is this really the value of your life? Does your whole life value the glory and virtue of the Lord?

As we come to our life's end, what will you gain? You may have many thoughts, but Peter was different. He wrote, "our Lord has called us", and as we finish our life's journey and continue to follow the Lord, we will obtain God's glory and virtue.

Some on this earth have glory. They have done many marvelous things. The Chinese have many virtuous people who have high moral standards and deep philosophical thoughts. They seem to have their virtue. But brothers and sisters, none of these will last through eternity. They have no true value.

As our Lord calls us today, what does He present before us? He presents His own glory and virtue. Brothers and sisters, do you feel that when you encounter sorrow in your life, you do not know what to do? In your times of happiness, you still have a sigh, not knowing what you are doing. And in times of sorrow, you are troubled, wondering why you are here. Have you had this sigh? The joys feel far and few.

Brothers and sisters, if you know truly why you live, and the goal of your life, where you are headed, what the value of your existence is, you will find that everything you go through, all these sorrows will pass

What calls us? It is our Lord's own glory and virtue. May we all be drawn by this. May our hearts be encouraged by this. When we finish our life and we see our Lord, what do you hope to attain? What would you like the Lord to give you?

Thank the Lord. For these decades we live on this world, our Lord gives us different moments of joys and difficulties, in order that we may obtain His glory and virtue.

By the grace of the Lord, I would like to share something of His glory with you. Tomorrow I will speak on His virtue. Glory and virtue are two sides of the same coin. One who has true virtue expresses glory. One who is glorious is excellent and virtuous in all his ways. It is not external but within.

Glory is a very difficult topic to speak on. Having spent some time looking through scripture on this, I still do not have a very good definition of this. In the Hebrew language, glory speaks of something valuable and weighty. It appears 534 times. This includes nouns and verbs. The Chinese translation might be a bit different. In the New Testament, other than the meaning of honoring, glory also has the meaning of brightness or illumination.

Brothers and sisters, glory appears 237 times in the New Testament. What does this mean? It means that glory is a very important theme. What is God's glory? How does He manifest it? As we read the Bible, we discover the glory of God. It is when God is satisfied and pleased. It is then He manifests His glory. As the glory of God is manifested in the heavens, we see how the Psalms record that the heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament His power.

We can see God's glory in the universe. When do we see God's glory within us? The glory of God is shown when God is pleased. It is then His glory is manifested.

When the Bible speaks of the glory of God, it is clear in 2 places in the Old Testament: in Exodus 40 when the tabernacle was built. The glory filled the tabernacle and even Moses was unable to enter. The purpose of God was fulfilled. God had redeemed His people from Egypt, and with His mighty hand He led them through the Red Sea. As they came to the wilderness and built the tabernacle, it might not have seemed much in the eyes of man. The tabernacle was not comparable in glory to the pyramids of Egypt. The pyramids were built to be very grand. In the eyes of man, they were a glorious building. But not so in the eyes of God. When God's purpose was fulfilled, and He dwelt with man, the glory of God filled the tabernacle.

So when does the glory of God become manifest? It is when the purpose of God is fulfilled. In the time of Solomon, when Solomon dedicated the temple, fire descended from heaven and the glory of God filled the temple. Even the priests were unable to enter. What does this tell us? It shows us that the heart of God is satisfied and He is able to dwell with man. In other words, my dear brothers and sisters, when we truly live in the purpose of God and He is pleased with us, the glory of God is manifest. This is the glory the Bible shows us.

If we look from further away, why was man created, and to what purpose? We thank the Lord Isaiah tells us that we are people called by His name. It means that we are people who belong to Him. Many are not in the name of the Lord because they are not willing. Brother and sisters, as we sit here, we are called by

His name. We gather in His name. We proclaim that we are His. Isaiah continues on the Word of God, that we created because of God's glory. We are seated here for the glory of God. Why do we go through so many things? It is for the glory of God. Why do we receive so many blessings in the New Testament? It is for the glory of God. Why do we have a beautiful future presented in front of us? It is for the glory of God.

My dear brothers and sisters, we should be able to lift up our heads. We should not be morose and bow our heads. We should be filled with joy, for we are created for His glory. Our future is bright and glorious.

We know the history of man. At the beginning when Adam was created, the glory of God covered Adam. He did not need to be clothed. Unlike today, when we need to be concerned with dressing for different occasions. At that time Adam did not have this problem. God used His own glory to clothe Adam as His clothing.

My version of events is that when Adam walked in the Garden of Eden, he was light a bright lightbulb. He illuminated every place he went. The animals would fear his approach. As Adam was keeping and guarding the garden, he had power. He glowed everywhere in the Garden of Eden. Did Adam himself have this glory? No, he didn't He had this light because God covered Adam with His own glory. So Adam was something who manifested the glory of God. But we all know that Adam sinned and failed. He ate of the fruit that he ought not to. At that time, his glory suddenly disappeared. He saw His own shame. He tried to cover his shame with his own ways.

Forgive me, brothers and sisters, do we do the same today? We cover our shame with external things. We present our appearance and hide what is inside. People look only on the outside, but our God looks within. When Adam sinned, he lost the glory and saw his own shame. He saw that he was not able. Glory had departed him.

We thank the Lord, brothers and sisters, that while the first Adam lost the glory of God, we have the last Adam. When the Lord Jesus came, He came to win back everything that man had lost. He was able to manifest fully the glory of God. In Hebrews, it says that He is the brightness of God's glory, the expressed image of His person. This is the glory of the Son of God. Not only this, John tells us that we have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son of God. This is the glory of the Son of God. Only our Lord, on one hand He is the glory of the Son of God, on the other hand, He is the glory of Son of man. He is able to manifest completely the glory of God.

We know the prayer in John 12. The Lord knew the time of His departure was near. He prayed, "Father, glorify Your name." The Father responded, "I have already glorified and I will glorify again." In the eyes of man, this is just Jesus of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, there was nothing we should desire. He is like

a root out of dry ground. There is nothing in His appearance that we should envy Him. What the first Adam lost, this last Adam has won back completely.

So brothers and sisters, we have a hope. Had not our Lord been glorified and said, “I call you with my glory”, we would not be able to see. We need to see the glory of God. It is then we are drawn, and we know our value and our goal. Simply put, that the eternal purpose of God might be fulfilled in us.

Hebrews 2 puts it well. That He who is all things will bring many sons to glory. Brothers and sisters, today, He who is all things is doing a work. He is bringing the children of God into glory. Brothers and sisters, where are you going? You may say “I am going to the States, to China, or to Canada”, but we are not looking for a place on this earth. When the Lord calls us, He who is all things and the Son of God is bringing us into glory. This is our future the Lord is giving us.

Brothers and sisters, when the Lord has all this glory, how do we obtain the same glory? We thank the Lord that the scripture tells us this simple but important truth: in Christ. This is a simple phrase, but how much blessing and grace lie within it! This Lord of Glory who has obtained all the glory, and entered into glory - today we are in Christ. We have the same future and direction as Him! As written in Galatians, we are clothed with Christ. We are a new creation in Christ. We have obtained this beautiful glory.

Other than the Lord who is the manifestation of glory, there is another important fact: the glory of God is manifest in the church. In Romans 9:23, it speaks of a vessel. This vessel points to the church, regardless of Jew or Gentile. What is this vessel used for? It is used to contain the glory of God.

Brothers and sisters, have you considered this beautiful thing? That glory requires a vessel to contain it? The glory of God fills the universe. It is made perfectly manifest in the Son of God. We thank the Lord that He is making a vessel specifically to contain the glory of God.

So what is the content of the church? It is not just outward works, or a beautiful building. It is not about many people gathering together. These are not the element of the church. The Church, on one hand, is the manifestation of the presence of God. It is also the vessel for God’s glory. If God’s presence is here, God’s glory will also be here.

As in the Old Testament, so it is in the New Testament.

I remember a maid-servant in the Lord who told me that when she served in mainland China, she served in a famous organization. There were many brothers and sisters there. Because of circumstances, she went to Hong Kong. Many of the churches there knew she was coming and invited her to come. They asked

her to name her conditions, and they would meet them. The sister went around, but did not feel she should make her home at any of them.

Later on, she went to a little chapel. She heard the brother preaching and didn't think much of it because she had heard many preachers in the past. It felt like the church wasn't very well run. Kids were playing as the Word was being preached.

But she said to me, that when she sat there, there was the deep feeling that God was there. As long as the Lord is here, I will go nowhere else. I don't need to go to the places I was invited. I want to stay here to serve the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, what exactly is the church? I can speak on many aspects of the church. Paul wrote in Ephesians how the church is a glorious church. The Church is glorious because the Lord is here. The satisfaction and pleasure of the Lord is here.

If God is not pleased with your gathering, sadly, you have lost the glory of God. Romans 9 was a quote from Jeremiah 18. There is a potter making a vessel for a purpose. Even though he made a mistake, he continued to make the vessel until it was formed. Paul said that all of us, by His mercy, are vessels to contain His glory.

So dear brothers and sisters, whenever we gather together, what should we see? This is the vessel for God's glory. God's glory must be manifested here. Even though there isn't much outwardly, the vessel isn't important. What is important is what the vessel contains. We, as man, are not very valuable. What is our true value? We are valuable because we are created and formed for His glory. Do you agree with what I am saying? If you are to remove the glory of God from our life, you will discover there is not much left for the meaning of life. Of course, you can do many things that satisfy you, but as you come to an end to life, what is left behind? What have you given to others? What do they remember you by?

Brothers and sisters, we thank the Lord that all the children of God have a glorious hope that we are able to enter into the glory of the Son of God. Our Lord has called us by His glory. When Paul wrote Ephesians 1, there are 3 points here to the praise of His glory. I will not go into detail of these 3 points. As we read into it, we discover that the glory of God is manifest in us because of what the Son has done.

How do we have this glory? What is the first glory? That we have obtained sonship. We receive glory because we have the sonship. In simple words, today we are able to rule over everything the Father has given us. We can know the heart of God and His purpose.

A little child can be very close to his father. He loves his father and his father loves him. This is a very good relationship. But the child must grow up. If the child never grows up, it is truly pitiful and sad. A baby drinking a bottle of milk is satisfied. If I came up here with a bottle of milk and drank from it because I am hungry, you would think there is something wrong with me. But sadly, there are many still drinking from the bottle in the house of God. They are not able to eat solid food. We need to grow up. The scripture tells us that we need to obtain sonship. This means we are mature and able to know the heart of God. In other words, we can touch the requirements of the throne. We know what God wants.

When we first believe in the Lord, it seems that God does everything for us. A gospel friend whom I shared the gospel with almost believed, but at the end he chose not to. He said that he had prayed to God for a number of things, but God did not give them to him. In his heart, God is a servant to him and not his Lord. He did not exist for the purpose of God.

Brothers and sisters, if we have truly grown, we can understand the heart of the Father and share His burden. We can ask, "Father, what do You want?" This is called sonship. In Ephesians, Paul writes that this is glory. All the angels can only execute the commands of God. They would do all of God's bidding, but they are not able to understand the heart of God. God does not open to them His heart. But my dear brothers and sisters, Paul writes about how glorious this is, that we should all have sonship. All of us can understand the will of God and knows what He needs from His throne. And we co-work with Him, and the purpose of God is fulfilled in us. Then the glory of God is made manifest. God is praised.

We thank the Lord. The book of Ephesians tell us the second reason for the praise of His glory is that we have obtained the glory of inheritance. Every one of us comes in God's inheritance for us. What is our inheritance? It is not a house or money. If we really knew that our most glorious inheritance is Christ Himself, we realize that God has given us His Son. On one hand, we give ourselves to the Lord and become His inheritance. We obtain our Lord as our glorious inheritance. Brothers and sisters, what have you obtained? We obtain Christ Himself. This is the glorious inheritance, something every one of us can have.

Thirdly, for this glorious inheritance, our bodies need to be redeemed. What is the proof of the redemption of our bodies? Thank the Lord that He has placed the Holy Spirit within us. When we obtain this glorious Holy Spirit, it means that we have all obtained Christ as our inheritance. In other words, we now belong to our Lord. This is so glorious, to the praise of His glory.

Brothers and sisters, I have spoken much. As I waited before the Lord, I have this little burden. I pray that I am able to share it with you tonight. I can speak a lot of glory, and quote many Bible verses. But do you want to see the glory of

God? Do you have a yearning to see the glory of the Lord? You do not need to answer me, but have the answer for yourself.

Forgive me for saying this, but many times our eyes are fixed on the glory of this earth. We gaze upon the glory of man. It is easy to think that the glory is earthly abundance. A house that is grand must have people who are glorious within. We admire drivers of luxurious cars, thinking that they must be full of glory. Brothers and sisters, I may be able to describe glory, but do you have this hunger in your heart to see God's glory?

If you truly see the glory of God, you will live a different life. You will be different. There are many examples in the Bible, and I would like to mention a few. The most easy to understand is the example of Moses. In Exodus 3, we see the story of how Moses received grace before the Lord. It is so blessed for someone to have God say "I know who you are". Moses then prayed, "God, if it is possible, may You show me Your glory." It seems no one has made this request before Moses did. In his heart he wanted to see God's glory.

God said that Moses cannot see His face or He would die. So God told Moses He would hide him in the cleft of the rock, and cover him with His hand. And as God passed, Moses could see God's back. Ever since Moses saw this glory, he was never the same.

Isn't this interesting? For 40 years, Moses was in the palace of Egypt. At that time Egypt was the most civilized place on earth. The palace was incomparable. Everything around Moses then was the glory of the world. Some historians say that Moses was a general with armies following him. Can you imagine how glorious Moses was, leaning the armies into battle?

But Moses saw that this was all nothing. None of this attracted him. He asked for God to show him His glory. Brothers and sisters, we know that without saving grace, no one can see the glory of God. The rock that Moses hid in is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

We know that before the Great White Throne, when the glory of God shines brightly, none of us can withstand it. We will all fall before that glory. We thank the Lord that today we are hidden in Christ. We can see the glory of God in this salvation. This is the prayer of Moses. When He prayed and saw the glory of God, this became the power of Moses to serve the people of God. I do not know how Moses led the people in the wilderness. These people were so difficult. In the eyes of man, Moses would be so powerless to lead them. What sustained him? Moses could never forget how he beheld the glory of God on that mountain.

This glory encouraged him and carried him on. Dear brothers and sisters, as we serve the Lord, we may not be comparable to Moses, but we ought to have a prayer like that of Moses. That we may see God's glory. Within the salvation that God has fulfilled, may we have the privilege to see God's glory.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians that whenever our hearts are rendered to the Lord, the veil is removed and we see the glory of Christ. Now as a mirror, darkly, and we are transformed from glory to glory. The more you desire and gaze upon Him, we are changed from glory to glory, until we finish the earthly journey.

Then we see the story of Abraham. We may not have seen it in Genesis, but we see it in Acts 7 where Stephen tells us how the God of glory appeared to Abraham at 75 years old. Brothers and sisters, no matter how old you are today, pray that the God of glory appears to us.

I read from the references that the Ur of the Chaldeans was not a small town. It was a very busy city, much like New York today. Many lived there. The Jews said that Abram's father was a maker of idols. When they make idols, they decorate it with gold and silver. Abram had lived here for many years, would he be ready to leave?

Brothers and sisters, are you ready to leave? When can you leave? Only when the God of glory appeared to him. When Abram saw the God of glory appear to him, he left. He could no longer remain here. Today if I ask you to quit your job, would you leave it? You may tell me that the job I have is very good.

I live in the state of Washington, near the headquarters of Microsoft. Many brothers and sisters tell me that they work in Microsoft. I tell them to leave their jobs and to go to the place where I will show them. They tell me, "Brother Kwok, you may be mad. I have a good job with good pay. You want me to go to a place you don't tell me?"

When the God of glory appeared to Abram, he left everything behind. In Hebrews we see how Abraham considered himself a sojourner in this world. He discovered this earthly world could not compare to the heavenly city. So he looked up to the city whose ruler and maker is God. God is making and running towards this city. So Abraham considered himself a sojourner, living in tents, because he knew that this is not his home. His home was this heavenly city that God is preparing.

Brothers and sisters, we often say that we are sojourners of the heavenly way. We sing "this world is not my home", do we mean it? To speak only of it, or to hear me speak of it, is vain. What counts? When the God of glory appears to you.

From that moment, Abram started his journey of faith. When he left, he didn't know where he was going, only Who had called him. This God of glory has called him.

We see many servants of the Lord in church history who had such promising futures in the eyes of man. They could do grand things and stood to make a lot of money. They put all that aside, counting them as unimportant. Why? Because the God of glory has appeared to them.

Brothers and sisters, I am not telling you how to walk this journey of faith. It is not for me to tell you about the heavenly Jerusalem which is our goal. It is futile for me to do so. We need to pray for the God of glory to appear to us. When the God of glory appears to us, we discover how this world will pass away. We see this beautiful, holy city of the heavenly Jerusalem, whose ruler and maker is our God. We are entering into that city. This is our hope of glory.

In Isaiah 6, when king Uzziah died, there was no king. This kingdom fell into a crisis. How dangerous for a kingdom without a king! But Isaiah saw this vision. He saw the throne. He saw the glory of God, and how it filled the earth. When he saw the glory of God, he heard the call of God. God said, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Brothers and sisters, I don't have to explain to you how chaotic a time we are in. You know this better than I do. On this earth it seems there is no true king. However chaotic the world is, like Isaiah, you can see that our God sits forever on His throne, and His glory fills the earth. Here He calls, "whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Brothers and sisters, how can you answer the call? You have to see the glory of God? Yes the world is filled with chaos. In our services, we have met with much difficulty. Brothers and sisters bring us many difficulties. We do not know what to do or how to handle these things. We need to vision of Isaiah, to see that God sits forever on the throne and His glory fills the whole earth. Here He calls, "who shall I send?"

How do we serve the Lord? How do I follow the Lord? May I put it this way - it is not enough that you come every year to WCCC. But it is not enough to just come here. You need to have a prayer. You need to have this cry: Lord, show me Your glory. Show me that truly You sit on the throne and You rule over all.

Brothers and sisters, lastly I want to say this. We know the service of the High Priest. We know that his ministry is to prepare once a year, taking the blood and the incense, goes into the Most Holy Place to pray. As he enters, what does he see in there? With the physical eyes of man, he sees nothing. Bible scholars say that the presence of God illuminates the place with glory. The glory emanating from the ark of the covenant enables the priest to see.

The High Priest goes in every year to atone for the sins of the people, praying for them, has the very great privilege to see the glory of God. The other priests do

not have this privilege. They can only wait in the sanctuary. Only the High Priest is able to go into the Most Holy Place to behold the glory of God.

Brothers and sisters, today we can enter into the Most Holy Place. Hebrews tells us that we can enter in. In the past, only the High Priest enters in once a year. How do we go in? As I meditated, I thank the Lord that the High Priest enters once a year, unable to bring another person with him. But there is a true High Priest, merciful and faithful, who hides us in Him. We are in Christ. As He enters into the Most Holy Place, we enter too into that place. There we see the ark of the covenant, the mercy seat, the sin offering that speaks of the completeness of our salvation. This is the place we enjoy the presence of God. Just like Moses prayed in the Psalms, "Lord for generations You have become our dwelling place."

How do we abide in it? This light is so bright. How can you make your home in there? Have you considered that tonight you are going to bed, and I shine this brightest light in your face? And I ask you to lie there and sleep. How can you sleep? It would not be possible. But in the brightness of His glory, in this light, we could not have rest. But we thank the Lord that today we are in Christ, and the glory of God, through Christ Jesus, through the Son of God is made manifest. John describes Him as full of grace and truth.

In our lives it is grace and truth. The High Priest took blood and entered into the Most Holy Place once a year. He was able to see the glory of God. How do we behold the glory of God today? Where do we see it? We have to enter into the veil to come into the presence of God. It is not that we are able, but because we are in Christ, we can enter into the Most Holy Place to see the precious blood of Christ. We see Christ, the true law, the resurrected life, our true satisfaction that meets our every need. We will say, "let us remain here, and never go out, abiding in the Lord."

This is the way by which we obtain glory. May our hearts be truly drawn to Him, that we give thanks to the Lord. Peter writes, "that He called us by His glory and virtue". He did not draw us by other things. He calls us with His own glory and virtue. Since He has called us this way, are you going to answer His call? Do we say, "Lord I am willing to answer Your calling. I want to obtain Your glory and virtue. I want to see Your glory. I want to see our virtue."

Do you have this prayer and this cry? Do you pray, "Lord, open my eyes. I no longer want to see earthly glory, for it to attract my heart. I want to see Your glory. Like Moses said, 'If I am favored in Your presence, show me Your glory'. I would be like Abraham, that the God of glory appears to me. From now on I will live the sojourner's life, and walk this earthly journey by faith. My goal is the heavenly Jerusalem. I would be like Isaiah, to see the God who sits on the throne. To see His glory, and I will answer His call. I would enter into the Most Holy Place, never to depart. Because here is the glory of His presence."

May the Lord speak to us. Let us bow our heads in a word of prayer.

Lord, may You bless Your own word. You know how limited the word of man, This is our prayer, that You may give us the desire for our eyes to be focused upon You. That we may truly see Your glory and your virtue. Then we can answer Your calling to run after You. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.