

**WCCC 2025**  
**Brother Timothy Kwok**  
**Called by His Glory and Excellence (2)**

Peace to you, brothers and sisters. We thank the Lord for His grace that we can gather together. We deeply believe that the Lord will give us His heavenly blessing. The words of man is nothing. I pray to the Lord that He will speak to us personally.

Let us begin by reading the Word of the Lord. This is the theme verse of the conference.

*"Everyone who is called by My name,  
Whom I have created for My glory;  
I have formed him, yes, I have made him."*  
Isaiah 43:7 NKJV

And then the verse of my burden,

*"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and  
godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"*  
2 Peter 1:3 NKJV

Let us also look at

*"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have  
given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with  
the glory which I had with You before the world was."*  
John 17:4-5 NKJV

*"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one  
just as We are one:"*  
John 17:22 NKJV

Let us have a further word of prayer.

Lord, we have read Your Word. May Your Spirit breathe life into these words. That we are not just reading words, but these words become spirit and life in us. May You appear to us, that we may Your glorious self. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

We all know the theme: You are created for My own glory. Last night I shared some of my burden with you - that our Lord has called us by His glory and virtue. Our hearts ought to be so touched that our Lord has called us by His own glory

and His own virtue. In other words, we will have in the end the glory and virtue of our Lord. Everything that the Lord has done is for glory, to manifest Christ Himself.

This morning I would like to ask a simple question: are you glorious? You need not answer this question before me. Since I was young, I felt I had no glory whatsoever. No one ever told me that I was handsome. They always said I was very naughty. They always told me to be more obedient. Brothers and sisters, I never thought I was glorious. To use a local word, "Who cares?" I did not care if I was glorious. Neither did people around me.

You might not care if you are glorious, like it has nothing to do with you. So long as I have salvation, am not headed to hell, and have a heavenly hope, that is enough. What else matters? Whether I am glorious or not, it doesn't matter. We may not pay attention to this, whether we are glorious. In this vast humanity, no one will find me. I am the most ordinary. I am not handsome, neither am I the most brilliant. I do not do the most outstanding things. I am the most common person.

You may not care if you are glorious. It may not be something important to you. But brothers and sisters, this is not the desire of our Lord. What is His purpose? The Lord means for us to all partake in His glory. This is the eternal purpose of God. Isaiah tells us that we are created for a purpose - we are created for His glory.

Look at yourself. This is not an easy thing. No matter how people look at you, or how you look at yourself, there is a fact that can never be changed: God intends to give us His glory. We are created for the glory of God. If you truly see this, your life on this earth will be entirely transformed. You will have a different life because you are now connected to the glory of God.

We are familiar with the story of salvation. Let us just have a brief review this morning. Last night I shared how we are clothed with the glory of God to the purpose of God. We all manifest the glory of God. In Romans 3, there is something we read that brings much sadness: all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore God's glory cannot be manifested.

Dear brothers and sisters, what are we to do? By the purpose of God, we ought to have manifested the purpose of God. If it were up to me, I would have let it be. I would have just created a new race, and made a new people who are able to demonstrate the glory of God. God is absolutely able to do this, but He did not do such a thing. If our Lord had done this, we would be without hope. We have fallen short of the glory of God. But thank God, that He decided to undergo the work of redemption. In other words, this is the manifestation of the love of God. God loves us. By ourselves, we might have given up on ourselves, feeling that we are hopeless. We can only fall short of His glory. How could He manifest His glory

in us? But God so loves us and decided to redeem us. God has done something where we are now all partakers of His glory.

We read from the verse in John 17, that there is a glory before the foundation of the earth. This is the glory of the Son. In Hebrews, it says that He is the brightness of God's glory, the expressed image of His person. In Him there is no change nor shadow of turning. At the beginning of creation, God's Son enjoyed this glory. He is the who is, who was, and who is to come. This glory would last to eternity - this glory that is the Person of God. This is God who is the trinity, they all shine one glory. This glory filled the universe. Even the cherubim could not open their eyes. They needed to cover their eyes and bow down before God. This is such an honorable glory, and we have no part in it.

Let me give you an example. God said, "what shall I do? All these people have fallen short of my glory. I want to give them my glory, but they are not able to receive. This created people have fallen short. They have all turned into sinners. And I cannot do anything with sin. How will they get glory? How can they receive this glory into their lives?"

We thank the Lord that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He had this glory before the foundation of the world. He lay down this glory of His - the glory He shared with the Father. He laid it down and became the Son of Man.

The Bible speaks of 2 glories - the glory of the Son of God which we cannot attain. There is another glory, the glory of the Son of Man. Only when He became the Son of Man and accomplished salvation could we have hope. Only by His becoming the Son of Man could He redeem us on the cross, and open a new and living way.

Hebrews tells us that He tasted death for every man. The Son of God can never die because the everlasting life is within Him. But we thank the Lord that He became the Son of Man. And only by doing so could He taste death for everyone. Therefore He is able to deliver all of us who are afraid of death. He is the Son of Man who has overcome death.

Today, we no longer fear death. John writes of how He holds the keys of death and Hades. "I was once dead and now alive, and I live forever. No one takes my life. I was willing to lay it down." Brothers and sisters, it is the purpose of God that we be glorified. Regrettably, our existence has fallen short of His glory. Every human being walking manifests this one thing - that we have fallen short of the glory of God. Everyone was created to manifest the glory of God.

You may not mind. "What does it matter? Just let me be a good person. Let me enjoy my life. I want to care about what I eat, how I dress." Are you satisfied with this? The Lord is not satisfied. This is not enough. Everyone ought to manifest

the glory of God, and not fall short of it. Therefore the Son of God became the Son of Man, and fulfilled the purpose of God in our life.

This is the story of the gospel. I need not repeat the whole story. We all know this. Brothers and sisters, when our Lord finished walking His earthly journey, the letter to the Philippians tells us that God has raised Christ with His right hand, and He has received authority from heaven, on earth and under the earth. He has the glory of the Son of Man. This is different from the Son of God. He already had the glory of the Son of God. That He already had. Our Jesus Christ became the Son of Man and walked this earth for 33 years. He has obtained this glory. God lifted Him by His right hand. He has won this glory.

Let me raise an example that may not be totally fitting. A prince lived in a palace. He could obtain much glory. He had many slaves and officials who bowed down to him. This is the glory of the prince. One day the enemy came and attacked the kingdom. The prince said, "let me go out and fight the enemy." The prince went out and won the victory. He took the enemy captive and set all the slaves of the enemy free. When the victorious army returned, this prince of glory came back with victory. And following him was this group of people who once feared death but now are free. This is another glory. It is the glory of victory.

Brothers and sisters, this is the glory of the Son of Man. We thank the Lord that He has called us to partake of this glory of the Son of Man. When we read from John 17, Christ says, "the glory which You have given me, I have given them." We could not have the glory that Christ shared with the Father. Dear brothers and sisters, every one of us should be a partaker of the glory of the Son of Man. This is what the Lord has done.

When our Lord fulfilled this work, we thank the Lord that we now have a hope. Everything that the Lord does in our life is for glory, that we may have a portion with this glory of the Son of Man. In Ephesians 2, we are all God's masterpiece created in Christ Jesus. None of the works of God is without glory. Like the most famous artist, every painting he paints is a priceless piece of art. Everyone looks at his works and knows that this was done by the most famous artist. This is but earthly things. Our God only works towards one standard - the glory of God. Every work of God comes to this end, the glory of God. Therefore Paul's heart is so excited. He writes that we are His workmanship. This God of the universe, this God of glory, has come to create a masterpiece. This masterpiece is presented and displayed in the universe. This masterpiece is glory.

Brothers and sisters, today when we look at ourselves, we fall short. How could we think of displaying ourselves before the universe? How do we dare let all of creation look upon us? This is not possible. We see our flaws. Look at our own lives. All that we think, everything our eyes see, or words our mouths speak, things our hands handle, and paths our feet tread, none of these demonstrates

glory. None of these manifests the glory of God. They are all filthy and defiled, falling short of the glory of God.

We thank the Lord that we may fail, but our God never fails. We may give up on ourselves, but thank the Lord that He has never forsaken us. We may not care and give up on whether we are glorious, but our Lord says, "No, you shall become glorious." In John 17, the prayer of the High Priest, Christ stands before God and says, "the glory that You have given me, I have given to them."

This is the work of the Son of Man. He has won this glory and is sharing this glory with us. This is the glory only given to the Son of Man. We thank the Lord that through His salvation we are all partakers of His glory. In Romans, "Those whom He foreknew He called; those whom He called He justified. Those whom He justified He glorified." This is the work of God. We have fallen short of the glory of God. He has called us. He has justified us. And He has glorified us.

This glory belongs only to the Son of Man. The Son of Man says, "I give my life to them. If they do not have my life, they cannot partake of my glory." So in John 12 we read that there is glory in the eyes of man. The Greeks came to see Jesus, and people thought that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified. The philosophers have come to ask the Lord questions. But the Lord knows the heart of man. This is the glory of earth, it counts for nothing. The Lord prayed, "Father, glorify Your name." The voice of heaven says "I have already glorified, and I will glory again." What did the Lord say, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone." The Son of Man was that grain of wheat. If He did not fall into the ground and died, the glory of the Son of Man would only be preserved as the glory of the Son of Man. We would be without hope. We would see only this perfect man - that in human history there walked a perfect man. We beheld, but there is such a great chasm. We will never attain to Him. We will never be partakers of Him.

But brothers and sisters, the Lord said that when the grain of wheat falls unto the ground and dies, it bears forth much fruit. He is the first fruit. He is filled with glory. All of us, now as fruit, because of this grain that has fallen to the ground and died, are able to manifest glory. What is the glory of the Son of Man? It speaks to the reality of God with man.

Is this not so? When we read in Matthew that the name of Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. How is God with us? There is no vessel on this earth that can contain the glory of God. There is no vessel that enables man to be with God. We thank God that His Son came. He is the only vessel that God can be satisfied with. And so the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God is satisfied. The purpose of God is fulfilled, and the glory of God manifests in the Son of Man.

When we read the book of Revelation, there is a great voice from the throne, "Behold the tabernacle of God among man!" Brothers and sisters, how did this

come to be? That the work of the Son of God is fulfilled. In the holy city, the New Jerusalem, we have never seen gold that is transparent. We see gold that glitters today, but it is not transparent. Thank the Lord, that this is beyond what our eyes can see. We see this transparent gold that shines forth completely the glory within. On that day, we no longer need to light lamps. The glory of God filled the temple, and this transparent vessel, this holy city the New Jerusalem. The holy city is every saint, made into transparent gold manifesting the glory of God in the universe. When we see this from afar, this is the glory of God. When we draw near, we can see this wall made up of individual saints. This is the glory of God manifested through us. The heart of God is satisfied. Therefore from the throne there is a great voice, "behold, the tabernacle of God among man!".

Paul calls this the gospel of glory. To him this is too glorious. He sees the work of the Son of Man and all that He has done. He could only say this is the gospel of His glory. My dear brothers and sisters, today we have received this gospel of glory. What does this gospel intend to do or give us? This gospel of glory causes us to be partakers of the glory of the Son of Man. This gospel of glory enables us to manifest the glory of God.

My dear brothers and sisters, it is not whether you think you are glorious. It may not matter to you, but the heart of God is not satisfied. Why does God place you on this earth? Why does God spend so much effort to work in our life? We like Romans 8:28 very much.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28 NKJV

We often read only the first phrase and like that all things work together for our good. When we lose our job, it is ok. We will find a better job. When I suffer a bit, it is ok. I will receive something better. Brothers and sisters, this is not quite correct. How should we interpret this? Paul writes that this is for good to those who love God. Who are those who love God? There is a lot to unpack here, but those who love God have this attribute: they want God to be glorified. If you truly love God, you would care whether God is glorified. If you do not love God, you would only care what you can obtain. You would not mind at all whether God is glorified.

I do not have the raise too many earthly examples. We can all understand. Brothers and sisters know that I like children, particularly chubby children. A sister often sends me cute pictures of chubby kids she finds online. If you have a child, you will dress them up the best you can. You do up their hair. You dress them well. Why do you do this? Because when someone looks upon the child, they can see if the parents love the child. If the parents love the child, they will dress the child properly. And the child would be careful to take care of the clothing their parents have clothed them with. They would not want their parents

to worry. They would want to please their parents. They want their parents to receive glory from them. This is the story of love.

Brothers and sisters, how do we love God? We want God to see this glory in us. That we would be able to manifest His glory. How do we do this? What are our thoughts regarding this? Simply put, we need to remember this always: that God is with us. This is the most simple doctrine.

In the Ten Commandments, there are “Thou shalt not”s. What should we do? Let me explain simply. If you know that God is with you, your life will naturally manifest the glory of God. If you know that God is with you, all the requirements of life will naturally manifest. But we often forget that God is with us. We do not come before Him to know that He is with us. The story of the tabernacle, the story of the temple, wherever God is, there is glory.

How did Paul put it? “Did you not know”. So it is something we should know. We should know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you know that God is with you, when you know that the Son of Man has accomplished all the work, that the work is Emmanuel - God with us. That despite how rebellious we are, God is with us.

Last night I shared that in order for us to obtain God, it is only in Christ. In Christ we are able to enter into glory. We fear not, for Christ covers us. He is the Rock of Ages. In Christ we have received all His abundance. But how do we manifest this glory on earth? It is Christ in us.

Brothers and sisters, objectively speaking, we are in Christ. The subjective experience is Christ in us. If Christ is in us, is it not glorious? Think about this! There is not a vessel that can contain Christ in the whole universe. This is the glory of the Son of God. He is the glorious Son of God. This Christ in you, He is the manifestation of glory. If you truly know the reality of God with us, you will no longer worry about living a holy life. No one needs to tell you what glory is. Very naturally, you will live out the life of a saint.

In the past when I served, I sometimes lived in brothers' homes. I am thankful for their hospitality. Sometimes their homes would have children. They would tell their children, “this brother is here to preach. Do not make a mess in the house. After 10, make no noise. Brother Kwok needs to rest.” And the children obeyed. They made no noise after dark. They were orderly and quiet. When would the children be set free? When brother Kwok leaves. They would have freedom then!

What am I saying here? If the Lord is in you today, you will not leave as you please. It does not give you the right to do what you want. Many things may not be sin, or designated in the Bible as sin, but you do not do them because Christ

is in us. Why are there places you do not go? Because Christ would not go there. Do you tell the Lord, “Lord, you stay behind, let me go ahead.”

Some brothers pray this way when headed into business meetings. They pray, “Lord, I am going into a business meeting. It is best you stay behind. What I am about to say, don’t listen.” Do we do this?

Brothers and sisters, the Lord in us does not go away. How are we worthy? That this reality of God in man is made full in us. We glory because God is with us. When we walk on this earth, angels look upon the redeemed people of God, each one a vessel bearing the glory of the Son of God. This is our life. This is what the Lord is doing in our life. If you do not see this, you would not know the work of God. In order for us to manifest the glory of God, Romans tell us that “all things work together.” This is not for us to simply enjoy life.

Why is your child difficult? That you may know from this, God is glorified. Why do you face so many difficulties? It is from these that God is glorified. Why did God give you such a good job, and that you make more money than everyone around you? You are so happy. You buy a house and a car. You buy the best clothing. Why did God give you this? It is not that you may enjoy earthly things. He means to be glorified in your life. Whether in good circumstances or in difficult circumstances, our God does the same thing. That all things may work together for good. So that those of us who desire the manifestation of the glory of God may receive His goodness. What is His goodness? That we may become this vessel that manifests the glory of God.

Peter wrote, “today Christ has called us by His own glory and virtue.” Let us look a bit of His virtue. Brothers and sisters, I lack the capacity and eloquence to explain clearly the virtue of Christ. I am sure many elderly brothers have more understanding than I do. But I would like to share a bit tonight that we may be encouraged together and have this desire to see how the Lord calls us by His virtue.

When the glory of God is manifest? When the purpose of God is fulfilled and His heart is satisfied, the glory of God is manifested. Have you considered that our Lord’s time on this earth has only one conclusion? He only said one thing - everything He did was to manifest the purpose of God. His working and walking was for the fulfillment of the purpose of God. Christ’s life was not sectionalized. There is only the purpose of God. Other than the purpose of God, there is nothing else.

We are not the same, dear brothers and sisters. Many come to me asking if this or that is the purpose of God. We have cut our lives into many segments. We obey the purpose of God in some segments and our own will in other segments. Only when we feel a crisis in our lives do we run before the Lord to ask if this is His will. We then choose to walk that way if it is God’s will. Some do not even

bother asking. Have we not separated our lives into these segments? We ask whether it is the purpose of God to work in such and such a place, or study in such and such a school.

It is not wrong to want to know the will of God. But when our Lord was on this earth, He had only one purpose. He wanted to fulfill the purpose of God. In Hebrews 10 we read that when Christ was on this earth He said, "you have prepared a body for me. I have come so that your purpose may be fulfilled in me." According to our Lord, why did He have a body? He had a body for a singular purpose: that the will and purpose of God may be fulfilled.

May I ask why you are on this earth? Why do you spend these decades on earth? Why do you study in this school, or have this degree? Why are you married to this brother or sister? Why do you have these children? Why do all these things happen? If you say my life will just pass away, I am just like everyone else. I eat like they eat. I go on vacation like they do. I study as they do. I get married as they do. I get sick as they get sick. I die as they die.

What then is the difference, the meaning? What sets us apart? Every child of God has a significant difference. Your life exists for the purpose of God. For more than thirty years of our Lord's time on earth, He had no other purpose except the purpose of God. Outwardly, He ate and drank. He must have helped in His father's house as a carpenter. At 12, he too went to the temple to worship. It would seem He was like everyone else. Man could not see the difference. But our Heavenly Father knew that our Lord only had one goal - for the purpose of God to be fulfilled.

Today, Christ is in you. This Christ who is to fulfill the purpose of the Father. What would you do? You are to allow the purpose of God to be fulfilled in you. We thank the Lord that He reminds us over and over again the eternal purpose of God. This is not a slogan, or something spoken and not attainable. This is our life. Our Lord lived for the purpose of God. If we removed the purpose of God from the life of Christ, there would be no meaning for Him to come to the earth.

This is the first virtue of the Son of Man. This delighted God the Father.

Not that you do many virtuous things, or things that decorate you outwardly. I remember when I was young, I observed that elderly brothers walked slowly. So I learned to walk like them. Only later did I realize that they walked slowly because they were unable to walk fast because of their age. They spoke quietly and calmly, so I learned to do the same. I spoke so softly people could barely hear me. I thought that was being spiritual. I thought it was manifesting the Lord. I could not be more wrong.

How is God glorified? What is the virtue of Christ? He lives only for the purpose of God. He did not segment His life. His life and existence is the fulfillment of the purpose of God.

Concerning the virtue of Christ, we know that there is humility. What is humility? It is something a proud person would not understand. For a proud person like I am, how am I to speak of humility? We may speak a lot of it, but we know what humility is when we look upon the Lord Himself. Philippians 2 has the best description of humility.

“He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.” He already had the glory before the world began. Rather, He emptied Himself, as He stepped one step at a time from heaven. He humbled Himself, obedient to death, even death on a cross!

Our words stop here. We thought that humility ends at death. Indeed, to be humble is to put oneself to death. But if we read the whole portion of scripture in Philippians 2, we see how God exalted Christ, and gave Him a name above every name. Our Lord has done something. He rendered glory back to the Father.

What is humility? On one hand, we are willing to deny ourselves. But isn't it true that we can be proud even when carrying our cross? We look at brothers beside us and comment, “this brother has never carried his cross. Not like me. I carry my cross daily to follow the Lord.” Even as we carry our cross we are full of pride. We say that we lay our life down for the Lord, and still have this pride inside us.

When do we truly manifest humility? When you have obtained everything. When you have victory over everything, and you say that all this glory belongs to God. I have no glory in this. I have nothing. All glory belongs to God the Father. This is something easy to say, but is this true in our lives? When we come before the Lord, we sometimes pray, “thank You, Lord, for giving me this.” We enjoy the blessing of the Lord. We enjoy His grace, His power, His rest. While we are enjoying everything, do we say “thank You for all these things. Glory be unto You.”

In the earthly life of our Lord, He manifested the glory of God. We see all His virtues, but we thank the Lord that He rendered glory to the Father. He is truly humble. When do we see a man's humility? It is not when he has accomplished something great and utters “thank the Lord”. We say this often, but do we truly thank the Lord? Not only thanks, but we render glory unto God. This is the virtue of the Son of God. He calls us by this virtue. This is the life He wants us to live, that we should render glory to God.

Of course we see the holiness of the Lord. His holiness is His virtue. What is holiness? It does not mean cleanliness. The opposite of holiness is not sin. The most important meaning of holiness is to be used by God. If you can be used by

God, you are holy. What is the most honorable vessel in the universe? The alabaster jar of Mary is but a type. This expensive jar contains the ointment. What is the most honorable vessel? It is the vessel that the Lord can use.

In 2 Timothy, Paul writes, “in the great house there are vessels of gold, silver and wood. We need to be set free from the lowly things, becoming vessels for honor, fit for the Master’s use.” What is the manifestation of glory? That we become the vessels of honor for use by the Master. What is honorable? It is the matter of who uses it. Why is something valuable? It is not because someone great has used it? Something ordinary can become valuable because of who has used it.

May the virtue of Christ draw us. The life of Christ is that of the most honorable vessel. No one else but God could use this vessel. He did what He saw His Father did. He worked when His Father worked. He did everything God commanded Him to do. Earthly men had given Him many suggestions, some of which are good. Like Peter said, “Love yourself. You are the Son of God. You are the Christ. How can You die on the cross?” Peter advised the Lord to love Himself. Jesus did not agree. He was clear that His life on earth had only one purpose: to be used by God. He is the most honorable and the most holy vessel.

What is holiness? It is not something external. It is within. You say to the Lord, “Lord, may my hand be used by You. May my feet be used by You. May my mouth and ears be used by You. May You use them.” This is the virtue of our Lord. This virtuous Lord has called us, that we may be used by the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, have you thought of this? This is my version of accounts. In heaven we will be gathered in one group, fellowshiping and sharing. And one brother asks, “Brother Kwok, let us hear how the Lord had used you on the earth!” When we are asked, we may have nothing to say. We remember Matthew 7 and are afraid.

*"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

*Matthew 7:22-23 NKJV*

What is the Lord saying here? We are busy doing this and that, thinking that we are doing a lot for our Lord, thinking that in this great assembly we may find praise, never knowing that the Lord would say “I never knew you.” Why does the Lord not know us? Because God only delights to see Christ. If you are used by the Lord, you manifest only Christ Himself. If you are here doing the so-called ministry of God, manifesting only yourself, and in your life there is no semblance of Christ, brothers and sisters, all this service counts for nothing. It is not what God wants.

How can we be used by God? This is not the doing of external things: visiting brothers and sisters, preaching the gospel. These are areas of service, there is nothing wrong. But the deeper question must be asked: how much Christ has been manifested in your life? How much Christ has been revealed in your service?

What is the virtue of the Lord? He was that vessel used by the Lord. When people looked upon Him, they saw the glory of God.

There is one more in the virtue of Christ: Truth. The Chinese translation is “true doctrine”, but it is not entirely correct. It means truth. What is truth? In other words, everything on this earth is false. The Word of God is clear on this - all things are but shadows. In Hebrews it says even the law is but a shadow. The truth - the reality - is Christ. Christ is truth. Truth is truly manifesting the purpose and heart of God. I will not go into too much detail here.

God has placed many relationships in our lives. We are fathers. We are children. Is the relationship of father and son true? Yes indeed. But not as true as the relationship between our Heavenly Father and us. We may be husband and wife. Is the relationship true? Yes, but the true relationship is that of Christ and His church. We may have a boss. Is the relationship between master and servant true? Yes, but the true relationship is between our Lord and us. He is the true One which we serve.

John says it well. Do we not drink water every day? Is the water true? It is not true. Our Lord says, “I am the living water. The water you drink from this well, you will thirst again. Only I am true.” Later when we eat the food, is the food real? Yes they are, but they are not the truth. He is the bread of heaven. When we partake of Him we will never hunger. The earthly food we partake will not satisfy us forever. When we obtain the Lord, we will have true satisfaction. Only our Lord is true.

Simply put, our Lord has a different perspective. He sees things through the eyes of God. He sees how all these things will pass away, and He knows what is eternal. He tells His disciples, “Do you not see these vines? I am the true vine.”

This is the virtue of our Lord. He is true, not only that He is without guile. But He said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” This is who He is. We thank the Lord that He gave Himself to us. Today, Christ is in us, and we can experience these 3 aspects. We see what truth is, the reality and truth of life. We see the Way. This Way is not only a path, but the method.

Are we not looking for methods today? We choose different methods to solve problems. This is how man does work. We look at problems, we look for methods to solve. Recently I learned that there are more methods than problems. There is

always a way. But for us, the virtue of Christ is the Way. Only when He appears, only through Himself, can He solve all of man's difficulties.

Lastly, I must say, how is the glory manifested? It is on the cross. Brothers and sisters, it is on this most shameful mark of the cross. The cross was the most shameful way of death. Can we say that the most shameful hour on this earth is the most glorious hour? Why? Because the glory of God is manifest here. The Son of God hung on the cross, wearing the crown of thorns on His head. When He was lifted up, He was cursed, bearing all the curses of humanity. He poured down His blessing.

When is the glory of God manifested? It is not when people praise you. People may mock you. Some may say, "shame on you for doing this thing!" But our Lord does not see things this way. In our Lord's most glorious hour, man considered the most shameful hour. He was hung on the cross. Like the hymn by our sister Fanny Crosby. "Near the cross, near the cross, be my glory ever!"

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the virtue of our Lord. He has seen, and looks lightly on the glory of the world. He received the greatest shame that the glory of God may be manifested. On the cross is the glory of love. The light shining from this glory is love. It is filled with mercy; filled with compassion and filled with forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, how do we manifest this glory? Do you have love, compassion, is your heart filled with mercy?

On the cross we see the glory of His victory. Through death He destroyed him who had the power of death. He has overcome the enemy. He rose from the dead, giving us His risen life. He gave us the life of the Son. If He did not have the glory of victory, we would not receive the life of the Son of Man. We would not have the power to live a victorious life.

On the cross, not only do we see the glory of His love and the glory of His victory, but there is one more hope: the glory of His coming. I love the hymn we sang. When our Lord comes again, there is nothing else to be spoken except glory, glory, hallelujah.

There are too many blessings to be spoken. Paul writes, "one day this corrupt body will be made into the image of His glory. When the Lord of glory returns, our bodies will be redeemed. The kingdom of God is established and we can share with the Lord in His glory. We can sit with Him on His throne." This is the glory of His return. Does it not draw us?

How does the Lord call us? With His own glory and His own virtue. What is His virtue? He has promised us that He will come again. He is God who is faithful to keep His promises. He has said that He will come again. We are familiar with the words of John: "I go to prepare a place for you. When it is prepared, I will come again to receive you." If the Lord sent angels to fetch us, like Michael or Gabriel,

or a cherubim or seraphim, would we not already be content? We would lift our heads high and return home.

But no! Our Lord said that He Himself will come. Like a child waiting for his father after school, we want no one else but our daddy. Our Lord said that He Himself will come.

How do we respond to His calling? In the New Testament, the word “excellence” or “virtue” only occurs 3 times. In 2 Peter, we read that “by His great glory and virtue He has called us”. The other time is in 1 Peter 2, “that we would be able to proclaim the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Not only are we called, we are to proclaim, we are to express. I have spoken on these virtues, but the Lord has a requirement that we may proclaim the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

You need to proclaim and express. Have you done this? If you have never seen the glory of God, how do you proclaim? If you have never seen the virtue of Christ, how do you proclaim it? It is not a matter you can just read in books or listen from sermons. I pray the Lord open our eyes to see our Lord of glory. How beautiful He is! And He calls us to take up our cross daily and follow Him.

We have no other way. We need to know the virtue and excellence of our Lord. There is only one way: for us to take up our cross and follow our Lord. When we follow our Lord, you will see the virtue and excellence of our Lord. If you never carried the cross and followed the Lord, everything we speak of is but second-hand. When you truly carry the cross - this most shameful mark to man - people will belittle you, but God says this is glory. When we carry the cross and follow the Lord, what do you see? The beauty of the Lord appears before us. How did He follow the will of the Father? How humble and holy He is! How true He is, and how true the promise of His coming! We would praise the glory of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light!

Our God has said that we are created for His glory. Have you fulfilled this purpose?

Lord, may You speak. Those who hear the Son of God will live. May You speak Your words into the depths of our hearts. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.