



# Growth – Part II

## *Man's Purpose?*

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# Growth: Outline

- ▶ Part I – Introduction
  - ▶ What is spiritual growth?
  - ▶ What is a biblical model for growth?
- ▶ Part II – Purpose
  - ▶ Why is spiritual growth important?
  - ▶ What is the biblical paradigm?
- ▶ Possible future topics:
  - ▶ God provisions for growth
  - ▶ Disciplines for growth
  - ▶ Practical steps for promoting growth
  - ▶ Hinderances to growth
  - ▶ Work of Holy Spirit

# Part I - Summary



- Personal growth is expected and healthy, but spiritual growth is often neglected
- Growth check! (1 Cor 11:28)
- Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. (Rom 8:29, Col 3:10)
- Biblical Growth Model: Trees (Jer 17:5-8)
  - Ungodly: desert bushes
  - Righteous: mighty trees planted by the river
  - Righteous will flourish and produce fruit (Psalm 92:12-15, Psalm 1:3)
- Through Jesus, fruit will grow on our branches!

**2 Pet 3:18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# Part I – Summary Cont.

**Psalm 1:1-4** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.



- ▶ Tree is alive, strong, growing, rooted
- ▶ Planted in next to water, the life giving stream of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38)

# What is the Purpose for Spiritual Growth?

- ▶ Remember, spiritual growth is the process of becoming more like Jesus. But why?
- ▶ Why does God want Christians to grow?
- ▶ What is man's purpose for existence?
- ▶ What is the biblical paradigm for life purpose?
- ▶ **Answer: God's Glory!**

**1 Cor 6:20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

# God's Intrinsic Glory

**Intrinsic** def. - *belonging to something by its very nature*

**Isa 6:1-5** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

- God's intrinsic glory is part of His being; not given to him.
- If men and angels did not exist, God would still possess this glory

# God's Intrinsic Glory Cont.

- Glory is God's nature.
- In Acts 7:2, Stephen refers to Him as "The God of glory..."

**Psalm 29:3** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.

**Psalm 24:7-8** Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

- God does not share His glory

**Isa 48:11**...And I will not give My glory to another.

**Act 12:23** Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him[Herod], because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

# God's Glory – Hebrew

## Glory in OT

- ▶ H3519 Kabod: From H3513; properly *weight*; but only figuratively in a good sense, *splendor* or *copiousness*: - glory, honor
- ▶ H3513 Kabad: to *be heavy*. In a bad sense (*burdensome, severe, dull*) or in a good sense (*numerous, rich, honorable*);

**Exodus 16:10** Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

- ▶ Shekinah (Heb) – Not in the bible, but coined later by Jewish rabbis; literally means “he caused to dwell,” signifying a divine visitation of the presence or dwelling of the Lord God on this earth



# A Survey of God's Glory through the Ages

- ▶ Creation
  - ▶ Garden of Eden
  - ▶ Moses and the Exodus
  - ▶ Tabernacle
  - ▶ Temple
  - ▶ Jesus
  - ▶ Future Coming of Glory
  - ▶ God's Glory in the Present Age
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# Creation

- Creation witnesses to the glory of the creator

**Psa 19:1-3** The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.

**Isa 6:3**...The whole earth is full of His glory!"

**Col 1:16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Creation bears witness to God's glory, fulfilling it's purpose

# Garden of Eden

**Gen 2:8-10** The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

- This was God's first work on the newly created earth (God made man vs. 7); it was very beautiful place
- Eden – H5731 (H5730) – Pleasure, delight
- God walked in the midst of the Garden (3:8)
- Adam and Eve were familiar with God's presence (3:8)
- They even heard his voice (3:10)
- Some form of God's glory was manifest during this sin-free period.

# Exodus & Moses

- ▶ Moses chosen by God to user in an era of God's revealed glory
- ▶ Burning bush & holy ground (Ex 3:2-5)
- ▶ Ten plagues → Exodus from Egypt

**Rom 9:17** For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I HAVE RAISED YOU UP, THAT I MAY SHOW MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MAY BE DECLARED IN ALL THE EARTH."

- ▶ Pillars of glory

**Exo 13:21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

# Exodus & Moses cont.

## ► Arrive at Mt. Sinai

**Exo 19:16** Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

## ► Moses meets with God

**Exo 24:16-18** Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

# Exodus & Moses cont.

- ▶ Moses told to leave Mt. Sinai and go to Canaan (33:1)
- ▶ Moses wanted assurance that God would go with them (33:16)

**Exo 33:18-23** And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

# Exodus & Moses cont.

- ▶ Moses doesn't describe his encounter with God, but...

**Exo 34:29-30** Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. 30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

- ▶ God showed Moses His Glory and Goodness so that his face radiated light.
- ▶ Moses had to wear a veil (34:33) due to the intensity (2 Cor 3:7)

# Tabernacle Dwelling

- Moses erected a portable tabernacle (Ex 35-40) and God's shekinah glory filled it.

**Exo 40:34-38** Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

- God's glory was visible from each man's tent, who were encamped around the tabernacle (Ex 33:10)

# Solomon's Temple and beyond

- ▶ God's glory was manifested for ~500 years in the tabernacle until Solomon built the temple ~965 BC

**1 Kings 8:10-11** And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

- ▶ Solomon's temple destroyed in 586 BC.
- ▶ God's glory departs the temple Ezek 9:3, 10:18-19, 11:23.
- ▶ Not clear if God's glory filled the rebuilt temple of Ezra
- ▶ Hag 2 likely a prophecy of Christ's coming
- ▶ 400 years of silence after Malachi until Jesus

# Jesus Christ – God's glory returns!

**John 1:14-18** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

- John reminds us that no one has seen God. But now God has come in the flesh to be seen by all!

**Matt 1:23**...THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us."

- Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) – “Shekinah” glory seen by Peter, James, John

# Future Coming of Glory

- Christ will return in great glory

**Matt 24:30** Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- God's glory illuminates the New Jerusalem

**Rev 21:22-24** But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

# Where's God's Glory Now?

- In this age, God's glory is manifested in His people, Christ's church.

**Eph 2:19-22** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**1 Cor 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

- God's church (people) is His temple!

# Light in Darkness

**2 Cor 4:6-7** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- ▶ Vs 7 “treasure” refers to the glory (light) of God
- ▶ It is our privilege, our purpose, our duty to manifest God’s glory to a dark world.

# “Bringing” God Glory

- ▶ If God’s intrinsic glory can not be added to or take away, how can we “bring” God glory? What does it mean?
- ▶ We magnify and reflect God’s intrinsic glory to other people who do not see it.
- ▶ We have not intrinsic glory of our own
- ▶ Example: Love one another

**John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.“

- ▶ Jesus wants everyone to know “Christian Love” by observation.
- ▶ A painting reveals the ability of the artist, not the canvas

# Examples

- ▶ Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- ▶ John 21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God.
- ▶ Rom 15:6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Rom 15:7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.
- ▶ Rom 15:9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy

# Examples

- ▶ 2 Cor 9:12-13 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,
- ▶ Phil 1:20...but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.
- ▶ 1 Pet 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- ▶ 1 Pet 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

# Purpose for Growth

If ours is the privilege, purpose and duty to reflect God's Glory, what are the implications on:

1. Our walk with God?
2. Our witness toward others?
3. Our paradigm and worldview?
  - The implication is that I have a lot to growing to do.
  - Spiritual Growth is important because putting God's glory on display for all to see is our greatest duty and joy.

**John 17:4** I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.