



GLORY IN THIS

It Really IS All in Who You Know

by Matt German

People find many different things in this world in which to glory. Some glory in their wealth, others in their power, prestige, or fame, still others in success, their strength or abilities, the works of their hands, wisdom, intellect, or technology, or even their favorite sports team. It's been that way down through the ages. Some today – particularly those in the media – even seem to glory in tragedy or another person's plight or scandal.

But what should we glory in? Should we glory in anything?

Jer. 9:23-24 "In this manner says Yahweh, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he has understanding, and knows Me, that I am Yahweh, who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says Yahweh."

Interestingly, the Hebrew word here that is translated as glory is *halál* and literally means "to shine (with Yahweh's favor); to flash forth light; to praise, boast, or be boastful; to be praised, be made praiseworthy, be commended, be worthy of praise."

This passage in Jeremiah highlights 3 primary things in which people tend to glory: wisdom, might, and riches. But it goes on to state that if we're going to glory in anything, we ought to glory in the fact that we know Yahweh and have a true spiritual understanding of Him. This isn't a casual knowing about Him, but truly knowing Him for who He is. It's knowing Him not only as our Creator, not just as 'Adonai' or 'Elohim', but as 'Abba' – Father.

While wisdom, might, and riches are fleshly concerns, there is also a spiritual dimension that we ought to consider.

First, many believers reach a certain place in their walk where it becomes easy to begin to glory in their wisdom or intellectual understanding of the Word – they can quote chapter & verse at the drop of a hat and have a substantial depth of knowledge of spiritual things. While it's good to have these things, we need

to be careful never to lose sight of what's most important – knowing Yahweh Himself. And we must remain humble, regardless of how far we think we've come in our walk. We don't want to glory in our wisdom or "put it on display."

Second, for those who recognize the spiritual authority they've been given – the fact that as believers they have been called to be mighty men in the earth, manifesting His Kingdom in a tangible way – there is a temptation to begin to glory in that power and might. Yahshua had to address this tendency in His followers. When He sent out the 70 disciples, He gave them authority to act in His Name and on His behalf, healing the sick, casting out demons, etc. (Luke 10:1-2, 8-9). When these disciples returned, they were glorying in this new-found power:

Luke 10:17-20 "The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Master, even the demons are subject to us in your Name.' He said to them, 'I saw Satan having fallen like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' "

Notice, His exhortation to them was to rejoice (or glory), not in the power with which they had been endowed, but in the fact that their names were written in heaven; in other words, in their relationship with the Father. "But he who glories, let him glory in Yahweh." (2 Corinthians 10:17)

Third, as we mature in our walk and begin to flow in our spiritual gifts, there is an inclination in some to begin to glory in these spiritual "riches" – whether teaching, in their ability to teach, or prophecy, in their ability to prophesy, or healing, in their ability to minister healing, or tongues, to be able to speak in tongues, or even serving, in their service. Certainly we must be diligent to walk in our gifts, and we ought to be joyful in those spiritual endowments, but we shouldn't glory in them; rather, we ought to glory in the One who gave us these riches.

It all comes down to perspective: why should we glory in those things the Father has freely imparted to us? Instead let us glorify Him who gave us these things; if we're going to glory, let's glory in this – that we truly know Him. Knowing Yahweh is intrinsically related to Him exercising lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth (Jer. 9:24) – for it is through us that He exercises or demonstrates these things to the world! And that's something worth glorying in!

"Glory in His holy Name; let the heart of those who seek Yahweh rejoice." (Psalm 105:3)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us" – Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

In a lot of ways, this is an apt description of the Body of Messiah today. There's been a lot of bad – scandal, splits and divisions, etc. – and also quite a bit of good – the restoration of many "lost" truths, healings, deliverance, and relationships restored. And there is a sense in the spirit that we're on the verge of something awesome – if we can hear it. The question we must ask ourselves is, "do I have **great expectations**, or will I settle for same-ol'-same-ol', the manifestation of mediocrity?"

Psa 62:5-8 "My soul, wait in silence for Elohim ('God') alone, For my expectation is from Him. ⁽⁶⁾ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken. ⁽⁷⁾ With Elohim is my salvation and my honor. The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in Elohim. ⁽⁸⁾ Trust in Him at all times, you people. Pour out your heart before Him. Elohim is a refuge for us. Selah."

In this psalm David declared that his expectation was from Yahweh. It wasn't just "about" Him – it originated with Him – He was the source of expectation. We must have this same heart attitude – our expectation is from Him. When we have a true expectation from Him, then it isn't a "pipe dream" or mere wishful thinking. It's something solid. David went on to say, "**My soul, wait in silence**". When we have an expectation from Yahweh, we must quiet our soul – our carnal nature, our intellect – for often times those are the very things that will war against the expectation that we've been given by Him. Our expectation might not make any sense in the natural, and then our flesh and/or our intellect will tend to get in the way of it.

"**I will not be shaken...**" When our expectation is from Yahweh, we won't be shaken by external circumstances, or what others say or do – or don't say or do. Yahweh spoke to my heart this way: "*When you walk by the Spirit, you aren't affected by the things of the flesh, including the fleshly displays of others.*" And that's the key – walking by the Spirit.

"**Trust in Him at all times...**" We must condition our hearts to trust Him at all times, not just the good times, when things are going well; nor even the bad times, when it seems like our world is caving in and we know we've got to trust Him in order to get through another day. No, we need to trust Him even in those quiet, relatively uneventful times where we wonder

exactly what's happening because we can't perceive a whole lot in the natural, either good or bad.

Finally, a big part of keeping your expectation alive is "pouring out your heart before Him" (worship!). When we truly worship Him, it increases our faith and allows us to believe that "what He has promised, that He will do."

Heb 11:1 of the King James Version of the Bible states "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is also translated as "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen." The Greek word translated 'hoped for' is *elpidzo*, which means 'to expect or confide, trust'.

It doesn't take faith to believe something that you can already see, touch, or perceive in the natural. Biblical faith is the substance or assurance of things expected, the evidence of things not seen. Notice that this isn't some flimsy, fanciful 'hope' that everything will be alright or that we 'might' receive the answer to our prayers. This is a rock-solid expectation. The writer of Hebrews goes on to catalog how all of the great Biblical patriarchs acted in faith, and that's a key – they acted on their faith. "Faith without works is dead." Abraham "obeyed to go out to the place which he was to receive for an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went." (Hebr. 11:8). Sarah received the power to conceive a child, when in the natural she was well past child-bearing age, because "she counted Him faithful who had promised" (v11).

The Amplified Bible states verse 1 this way: "NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

Faith is the assurance, the confirmation or title deed, of the things we hope for (expect). In other words, when we have real faith from Yahweh, we literally hold the title deed to our expectation in our own hands! When someone has the title deed to a piece of land, no one can tell him it doesn't belong to him. Likewise, when you have the title deed to a spiritual promise from the Father, no one can take it from you.

Obviously, spiritual expectation comes from Yahweh. But how does it come? It comes by the proceeding Word! In order to have expectation, we have to receive the seed of the proceeding Word by faith! Abraham received the word of promise by faith – he had the title deed to the Promised Land written on his heart, deposited in his spirit! He obeyed to go to the place assigned based on that revelation.

When receiving the proceeding word, it's key that we recognize that there's a germination period; that seed needs

time to begin to grow. In fact, it's actually better for a seed if it doesn't spring up immediately after it's been sown, because it won't have developed a good enough root system to sustain it. Recall Yahshua's parable about the sower and the seed – the seed sown on rocky ground immediately sprang up, but because it had no root in itself and didn't have the depth of soil, it was scorched (see Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21).

We also need to recognize that there's a big difference between fleshly (human) expectation and true expectation from Yahweh. We don't want to allow something to be conceived in our spirits that is not of Yahweh, something conjured up out of emotion or intellect. But neither do we want to harden our hearts against the engrafted (implanted) word. How do we know the difference? We must pray and seek His face earnestly and diligently, and we must also seek counsel from those in spiritual authority in our lives. Ultimately we must judge all things spiritually. When we view spiritual things from a carnal perspective, those things will very rarely line up with our "expectation", even though they proceeded directly out of the heart of the Father. We must constantly remind ourselves that spiritual things are spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14).

In English the words 'hope' and 'expect' carry very different connotations. A woman who is pregnant isn't 'hoping', she's expecting! What is she expecting? A car? A watermelon? A puppy? No, she's expecting a baby! Her expectation is well-defined. At first she might not even be sure she's pregnant, but then comes the morning sickness, and eventually she starts to "show". She begins to picture what the baby will look like and be like (hair, eyes, smile, personality). She also starts to make preparations – preparing the baby's new room, buying baby clothes, etc. She's preparing to receive, for the vision (that which is unseen) to become a reality! Why? Because it IS reality!

When we are expecting something of Yahweh, it leads to action. True (Biblical) faith will always cause us to take action. We aren't just "hopin' and prayin' " for something to happen – we're earnestly expecting it, and that causes us to act in faith and begin to make preparations.

The angel Gabriel told Miriam, the mother of Yahshua the Messiah, "No word (*rhema*) from Elohim shall be void of power". What was Miriam's response? "Behold, the handmaiden of Yahweh; may it be done to me according to your word (*rhema*)" (Lk. 1:37-38).

No word from Yahweh is void of power; it will always accomplish the purpose for which it has been sent forth (Isa. 55:11). But when we receive the proceeding word, we need to have the attitude that Miriam had, and say, "may it be done to me according to Your word."

Romans 8:19 speaks of the "earnest expectation of the creation waiting for the manifestation of the sons of Yahweh" The Greek word translated as 'earnest expectation' is *apokaradokia*, which means anxious and persistent expectation, in the sense of watching with outstretched neck. That's the kind of expectation we need to have toward Yahweh and His proceeding word – watching for it to come to pass with outstretched neck. But what do we do in the meantime? Paul went on to tell the believers at Rome the "if we hope for that which we don't see, we wait for it with patience. In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses: for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which can't be uttered" (v25-26).

What do we do while we're waiting patiently, expectantly, for the manifestation? We pray in the Spirit!!!

Eph. 6:17-18 "... take up the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word [*rhema*] of Yahweh, praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching for it in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

It's not enough just to pray, we must pray in the Spirit, watching for the manifestation with great perseverance. Praying in the Spirit builds us up on our "most holy faith" (Jude 20).

It's also critical that we don't 'abort' the purpose of Yahweh by speaking words of fear, doubt, and unbelief.

Psa 31:24 "Be strong, let your heart take courage, All you who hope (*yachal* – to wait patiently on) in Yahweh."

If we hope in (trust in) Yahweh, then we can be strong and our hearts can take courage in His faithfulness. We can have Great Expectation that He is moving on our behalf.

The past is passed. No one can change what has already happened. But we can change the future by living in the present with great expectation for that which is yet to come. Don't fall into the trap of basing your expectation on what didn't happen in the past. As they say in financial circles, "Past performance is no guarantee of future results." Just because something didn't turn out the way you expected it to in the past doesn't mean it can't happen today.

Allow Yahweh to do a new thing in you and through you. Learn to guard your expectation, and diligently and consistently pursue it. Make a quality decision now – today – that you will live with great expectation from Yahweh from this point forward. Write this date down. One day you will be able to look back and say about today, 'That was a memorable day to me, for it made great changes in me'.

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