

UPWARD CALL

I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God IN KING JESUS. (Philippians 3:14)

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

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Glory—Ultimate Freedom & Union

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5 ESV)

Can you imagine what it was like for the one through whom all things were created to walk this earth while occupying a body of humiliation, as we do? It's a sure thing that none of us truly understand what that was like for the Son of God—whose very essence and existence was in God's infiniteness; unrestrained from anything or anyone; living in what we, with our limitations, would describe as absolute freedom and liberty. Paul makes it abundantly clear what Jesus did to be the Rescuer of the world.

Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Although from the beginning He had the nature of God He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, **He stripped** [emptied, neutralized, of no reputation] **Himself of His glory**, and took on Him the nature of a bondservant by becoming a man like other men. And **being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross.** (Philippians 2:5-8 Weymouth [bold added])

God's Son stripped Himself of the glory He had with His Father before coming to earth as a man. This translation was chosen for its use of the word *stripped* because it speaks of the sons of Zadok who wore linen when ministering to the Lord in the sanctuary but who stripped off the linen garments to put on wool garments to minister to the people in the outer court (Ezekiel 44:15-19). Simply stated, the Son of God put off His garment of glory (part of the very essence of God) to put on a wool garment (in the fashion of fallen man). Check out [Meeting Jesus in His Humanity](#). He is the one *in whom all things (the all) were created*—meaning the entirety of creation was not only in Him but He was in all things, having an unrestrained, unlimited presence throughout His creation. Can we even comprehend what it was like for Him to confine Himself to a woolen garment on a planet called *earth*? Although He restrained (emptied) Himself in this way for a short time while on earth, a day came when He shone brightly in the glory of His Father.

In a wonderful moment, three of His disciples were given the honor of seeing His glory as He stood on the mount: ***And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light*** (Matthew 17:2). Did His glory come from within, or did the Father's glory overwhelm His human body in that moment? We're not told. In my opinion, it was the Father's way of strengthening His Son for what He would soon face on the cross. It was a reminder and a foretaste of the [joy that was set before Him](#), beyond the cross, when He would be set free from His body of humiliation and enter, once again, into the ultimate freedom in the realm of His Father—best described as glory. He was given a taste (cup of refreshing water) of the glory that He had had with His Father. This was Jesus' longing: ***Glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*** A day was coming when He would no longer be held in low esteem by the ones He came to rescue, for He was destined to be exalted at the right hand of the throne of glory—highly esteemed with a name above every name in heaven and on earth.

Now, not to take away from this joy, let's pivot a bit and contrast this to our present state of affairs.

When you woke this day, you did not know what the day would bring. You had to make a multitude of decisions, leading to many thoughts on your mind—some good, some bad, and some perplexing. The list of issues that you had to face and that you will have to face the next day and all the days to follow seems countless. We could say that this list contains many points of darkness and shadows in the midst of many points of light. It would be the most unusual person that goes through a week without some pressure weighing them down, especially as we all face many perils. After all, we have entered the [final battle for humanity](#) and what we are about to face might seem overwhelmingly daunting to many of us.

This is where the [expectation of glory](#) comes into play. In this day, there is much talk about the loss of freedom and liberty as dark forces seek to corral all of us into a new world order (which, by the way, really is not new as it comes from the same old playbook of the dark forces and powers) aimed at controlling every aspect of human life, including the human body, even to destroying it altogether.

Don't give up hope. Keep your eyes and your heart set on our beloved Lord Jesus who is coming to rescue humanity from the pit of destruction. There's good news for all of us—there is a day coming when we will enter the purest and greatest level of freedom imaginable. What we face in this day (good or bad) is nothing compared to the glory that awaits us. Paul called it *the eonian weight of glory*.

Consider what it would be like to live free of all these countless weights, pressures, doubts, and fears, with no darkness clouding your days; to live free of the pressures and demands of the soul. What would it be like to live every day in the most marvelous light with no doubts, worries, cares, or uncertainties? What would it be like to live in the perfect light of God? What would it be like to live in perfect righteousness, joy, peace, and love of God? What would it be like to live every moment for God, bringing Him pleasure and delight? What would it be like to be in continual fellowship with our God and our Lord? What would it be like to be bathed continually in the love of God? What would it be like to express this love to every single human formed to image Elohim? Change *would* to *will* and reword it as *it will be*, and you have the answer!

Dear brethren, the positive answer to all these questions is **it will be glory**. It is being set free from all the weighty encumbrances of life. It is the consummation of: ***So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed*** (John 8:36). It is living in the full expression or complement of God's Son, the Son of glory, who is the [Pattern Son](#) (or: mold) of what humanity was always meant to be. **Ultimate freedom is attained in the glory of God.**

Jesus' longing was not just about His glory but about sharing this glory with His body of believers, revealed in His prayer: ***And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one*** (John 17:22). While on earth, Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He was one with the Father and the Father was one with Him. With the cross set before Him, He expressed His heart's desire for His body to be one as He and the Father are one. Jesus made it clear that glory manifests in oneness, just as it manifests in freedom. But it is more than this; living in the pure light of God is living in freedom and union with God's entire creation, both in heaven and on earth.

Thus, **the glory of God is infinite reality, expressed as ultimate freedom and union with the all in all of God the Father and His Son, along with all His people, our brethren**. There is no greater freedom and oneness (union) than in the glory of God. The day is fast approaching when, as the sons of God, we will have a foretaste of this glory to strengthen us for the days ahead that will consummate with our bodies of humiliation being transfigured into the glory of His body. Be encouraged, for behold, He comes!