

## GLORY

(δόξα = 'thoxa')

*Glory, honour, praise, splendor, brightness, preeminence, majesty,  
absolute perfection, magnificence, excellence, dignity, grace.*

**2 Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”** The Greek word 'thoxa' appears here, and it is used primarily of the nature and acts of God in self-manifestation. That is, what He essentially is and does, as exhibited in whatever way He chooses to reveal Himself. For instance, when His grace and mighty power were evidenced, this constituted His 'thoxa'. It also denotes a supernatural demonstration of the splendour, brightness and perfection of His character, and especially His righteousness. Therefore, 'thoxa' refers to the very essence of God - the divine power and substance that makes Him “God Almighty!” What God essentially is and does, in whatever and whichever may He chooses to reveal Himself, is His “glory.” God’s glory was particularly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, in whom essentially His “glory” has ever radiated and will ever shine forth. Also, anything that God does, which is worthy of praise, is 'thoxa'.

**“But we all, with unveiled face...”** Too many of believers are “veiled” when it comes to God’s divine presence. Yet Christ took the veil away – it was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). People are only veiled because they choose not to see. As we become preoccupied with the “glory” of the risen, ascended, exalted Jesus Christ, we will be transformed into the very same image. Here, in a word, is the secret of Christian holiness - occupation with Christ. Not by occupation with self, because that brings about deception. Not by occupation with others, because that brings disappointment; but by ‘occupation’ with the “glory” of the Lord. Only this way can we be transformed into the same image - becoming more and more like Him - from glory to glory!

We are not talking about the glory of the Lord’s human nature, which was outwardly beautiful and glorious, I’m sure. Rather, the “glory” of his divine nature which is essential the same as God the Father’s. Such “glory” is incomprehensible; it appears in the perfections He possesses, and in the worship given to Him; it was manifested in the doctrines taught, and in the miracles performed by Him. The residue of this “glory” was seen in the mighty deeds of power displayed by the apostles in the early church. Yes, the “glory” of Christ (being full of grace and truth), was designed to be given to His people (John 17:22), and this is what makes Him so glorious, lovely and desirable in our eyes. The more we behold this delightful vision, the more like Him we become!

Notice, it’s the ever-increasing glory (the presence of God) that makes us more like Christ. As the Lord reveals Himself in greater and greater measure, the 'brightness and splendour' of God in and through us must also increase. Are you ready and willing to live more and more in the presence of God? What an awesome place to dwell - in His **glory!**