

How's Your Complexion or Should I Say, 'Reflection'?

(Pastor Wendell Kapena "Skip" Wright, Kapena Wright Ministries, 3/27/2012)

The third portion of this verse we've been looking at for the past few weeks is, in my opinion, one of, if not the most stunning revelation we receive from the prophets of the Old Testament. It's a picture of God's reflection or at least His desire to reflect His own unseen image and character onto us so that others would come to see him in a very real, very visible way. ***"..and the Glory of the LORD is Risen Upon YOU.."* (Isaiah 60:1)**

We began this series by speaking of our image in Christ, how we are, in Jesus Christ, made the expressed image of the Father through the Son. We recalled how with the first Adam, God formed him out of the dust of the earth, and then breathed life into his creation. But with Jesus, the second Adam, God never let anything earthly have any part in his Son, except for the young virgin who was blessed with the challenge and privilege of carrying the spotless Seed of the Spirit of God's Own Word from conception to His birth. And then, she, along with her husband, Joseph, were given the task of raising that young child as their own.

As a side note, I can barely imagine, even with my most creative of juices flowing, the agony of Mary, having raised this miracle Child from birth, then being present throughout His trial, quite possibly His beatings, and ultimately His being nailed to the cross and then watching Him die on that awful tree. But, then I can also see the most joyful of expressions as Her son not only came back from the grave, but revealed Himself as the Promise God had spoken to her from the beginning, as Immanuel, God With Us! He was no longer the Son of Man, the young boy whom she'd raised, but was now totally, once again, for all to see, the Son of Man, His Word that was made flesh through her.

You know, that same joy should be ours shouldn't it?

Everything we say and everything we do is a reflection of who we are isn't it? It's a reflection of the thing that we're focused on or expose ourselves to the most. An obvious example of this is when we stand out in the sun for any length of time. Whatever part(s) of our body that we leave uncovered, takes in the light from the sun and we can see that exposure via the change in our skin color. When we have too much sun and too little protection, we are apt to end up with sunburn, and yet, when we do everything we know to protect our skin, we shield ourselves from the sun's rays and our skin remains unblemished and safe from overexposure. But, the fact remains, that even though we can cover up the outside, we still need to be aware of the dangers of exposure to the sun that can affect us internally as well, correct? We need to be sure we keep our fluid levels up and that's why we drink lots of water. Water not only protects us and provides necessary nutrients for our internal body, but also, that same drink of water goes towards keeping our outward appearance healthy as well.

I don't know that this is a good analogy, but I do know it makes sense to me even when we're dealing with God's glory, His anointing in us and upon us in Jesus Christ. My thought is that knowing that Jesus describes Himself as the bringer of Living Water (**Psalms 23:2; Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13; John 4:13, 7:37-39; Rev. 7:17**) So, that being the case, our Living Water from God, His Spirit, is what keeps us healthy inside and out, thus resulting in the Father's "Glorious Light" reflecting off of us and His Son, the True Light, shining out from within us. Okay, it's a bit of a stretch, but let me see if I can bring this into clarity.

Look at the following verses, if you will. Please keep in mind that we could find a lot more scriptures, but I'm using these to see if we can't stay on track to get to the point of our lesson right now, which is, "His Light has come (that's Jesus), and..***the Glory of the Lord is Risen Upon Us..***".

John 1:16-18 The Message

We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got **the** basics from Moses, and **then** this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding— all this came through Jesus, **the Messiah**. No one **has** ever **seen** God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, **who** exists at **the** very **heart** of **the Father**, **has** made him plain as day.

John 5:37 New Living Translation

And **the Father who** sent **me has** testified about **me** himself. You have never **heard** his voice or **seen** him face to face, (Jn. 36-38/Context)

Amplified Bible

And **the Father Who** sent **Me has** Himself testified concerning **Me**. Not one of you **has** ever given ear to His voice or **seen** His form (His face--what **He** is like). [You have always been deaf to His voice and blind to **the** vision of Him.]

New King James Version

And **the Father** Himself, **who** sent **Me**, **has** testified of **Me**. You have neither **heard** His voice at any time, nor **seen** His form.

John 14:9 New King James Version

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known **Me**, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you can, ‘Show us **the Father**’? (Jn. 14:8-10/Context)

Now what do you suppose Jesus was talking about here? It doesn’t sound like anything even close to what we’re talking about, does it? Or, does it?

Let’s reconsider a few definitions if we will, just for a moment, but, consider them none the less.

First, there’s the definition of “Glory”. In Hebrew, the word is *kawbowd (ka-vode)*. Though the word has many translations and connections to its’ root word, *kabad (ka-vad) (which is a “VERB”)*, let’s focus on the ones most applicable to what we’re addressing right here and now.

Glory, as in: Honor, Abundance, Riches, Splendor, Dignity, Reputation, Reverence. But, when they are put into action (used as a verb): To Be Heavy, Weighty, Honorable, Glorious, (to be) Made Abundant; To Be MADE Heavy, Honored, Enjoy honor, Be MADE Abundant, To Make Oneself Heavy, Dense, Numerous, To Honor Oneself.

Here are some verses to ponder (there are many more): **Ex. 16:7,10, 24:16-17, 40:34-35; Lev. 9:6, 23; Nrs. 14:10, 21; Ps. 8:1, 104:31, 138:5; Is. 35:2, 40:5, 58:8, 60:1-2; Ez. 1:28, 3:12-23; Hab. 2:14; Luke 2:9; 2 Cor. 3:18, 8:19**

My point is that God’s glory is an awesome, weighty, powerful and luminescent exhibition of our Father and Creator that cannot be put into mere words, but even though they’re indescribable verbally, they are manifested to those who believe as well as may not believe. The difference being that we who believe, recognize this awesomeness for what it is and we know from whom it comes.

So, when we look at the fact that God speaks through Isaiah says that that same ***“Glory is RISEN UPON US..”***, that should cause us to awaken to a revelation that far too many don’t come close to realizing.

My thought is that we could look at God’s glory in the same way we could look at the word “light” just a few words before “risen” and “glory”. And, that is, the same way we use the name of “Jesus” in place of “word”, when we read through **Isaiah 55:11** – ***“..so shall MY WORD (JESUS) BE that COMES FORTH FROM MY MOUTH, It shall not RETURN TO ME void, But it SHALL PROSPER IN THE THING FOR WHICH I SENT IT.”***

God sent His Word to be flesh for us, as the second Adam. He IS THE TRUE LIGHT of GOD and whoever has seen HIM has seen the Father and that LIGHT dwells in those who Receive Him as Lord and let that Light shine forth from them. So, if we can believe that, then read through the verse again and you determine for yourselves just how much this scripture from Isaiah means to us today.

“Arise, Shine, for JESUS has come (The LIGHT of GOD..The GLORY of GOD) and HE IS RISEN..upon and within each believer.”

I know, I’ve taken some liberties with the translation, but with all that God had shown Isaiah, and all that He passed on to us in his writings as far as what He’d been shown. I firmly believe that THE TIME FOR THAT SCRIPTURE TO COME TO PASS IS NOW!!

The definition for **RISEN** is from Hebrew: zarach (za-rakh’) and it simply means the following: TO RISE; COME FORTH, BREAK OUT, ARISE, RISE UP, SHINE, TO COME OUT, TO APPEAR! And, isn’t that what JESUS DID more than 2,000 years ago for us!

So, doesn’t it make sense that we are, if we **“Abide in Him and His Words Abide In Us..”** and **“..we are one as Jesus and the Father are One..with Jesus and the Father”**, and **“we are the children of God..adopted into HIS Family because of Jesus”**..and **“we, as believers and HIS CHILDREN ARE THE APPLE OF HIS EYE..”**..

Doesn’t it make sense that there is no more reason or excuse that we should remain downtrodden or feeling defeated, but instead, we should be the ones **STANDING UP AND STANDING STRONG IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER WHO LIVED FOR THE FATHER, DIED FOR US, THEN ROSE AGAIN HIMSELF SO THAT WE WOULD LIVE ETERNALLY FOR HIM AND IN HIM!**

So..GET UP, GET GOING..THIS IS OUR TIME FOR REALIZATION IN GOD, IN CHRIST, IN HIS SPIRIT. KULIA KA NUU!