

## 1 Peter 1:3-5 – Part U

1Pe 1:6 (ESV) **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

We continue with our study of this passage and specifically what it means to allow our trials to bring praise, glory, and honor, and glory to God. That one aspect of our Christian life is the pinnacle reason to develop endurance in our life, so that in God's sovereign timing, Christ will be honored in our life. We cannot have a more significant reason for living than that of bringing praise, glory, and honor to Jesus Christ. Nothing can compare to that one attribute in our life. If our life can do this one thing, then we have been spiritually successful. These three terms actually form a trilogy and should be considered as interconnected to one another. In reality, it would be a very inaccurate statement to say that someone was bringing "**glory**" to Christ, but they never honored Him in their life, or if they never praised Him with their life. It would incredibly unscriptural to think that someone could honor or glorify Christ, while at the same time be very disobedient to Him. So, each of these terms are integrally related to one another. I would go so far as saying that we really cannot have one without the other.

Now, the first thing that we want to do is to simply define the words "**praise**", "**glory**", and "**honor**" as they specifically relate to God. The word "**praise**" is "*epainos*" and it refers specifically to commending and ascribing to God all of those things that are an exhibition of His person, His character, and His work. Just as an example, the church is viewed as a divinely ordained institution that was created by God to be an instrument that brings honor and glory to Him. So, God would be praised for that work. The "**fruits of righteousness**" in a person's life are divinely manifested to others through the power of Christ working in their life.<sup>1</sup> [Philippians 1:11](#), for instance, says,

Php 1:11 (NKJV) **being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**

So, when we see that work of Christ in a person's life, it is cause to give praise to God. When God has worked deeply in our life in any way, it is a time when we should praise God for that work. In [Acts 3:1-10](#), there is the story of the man who had been lame from the day of his birth, and every day they laid him down at one of the gates to the temple so that he could beg for alms. So, when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for money. We know the story well, for they said that they did not have any silver or gold, but that they would give him what they did have – which was healing in the name of Christ. The man was immediately healed, leaped up and began immediately to praise God. [Acts 3:8](#) said,

Ac 3:8 (NKJV) **So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.**

[Hebrews 13:5](#) says,

**Heb 13:15 (NKJV) Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.**

The reason that we are to praise God is simply because He is fully praiseworthy. Everything that God does in our lives is worthy of praise, even though we personally may not see or understand it as being good. The obvious key to appreciating what God is doing in our life is found in His Word, so the more of God's Word that we know, the greater will be our insight into what God is actually accomplishing through various trials in our life.

However, we are not to praise God just because He does something for us, but we are to praise God because He is worthy of praise. Praise is adoration. Listen to the passage in [Ephesians 1:3-14](#). I just have to read this because it is abounding in why God is worthy of all praise.

**Eph 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. <sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

When you read a passage like this, it just seems that Paul has such a deep understanding of what God has done for us that he simply cannot contain Himself. I made a list for us, so just follow along again as I go through all of the things that these verses say that God has accomplished for us in Christ. Every single one of these is an attribute of God's outworking in our life that is uniquely worthy of praise.

1. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. We lack absolutely nothing in Christ – nothing, not one single thing needed to fully and completely live out the Christian life.
2. He chose us in Christ before time began, before the foundation of the world. Your salvation, my salvation is no freak cosmic accident, but is fulfilling the very purpose of why God created us.
3. He determined that we should be holy and without blame when we stand at His throne, completely without any condemnation or guilt.
4. He has adopted us into His family and given to us all of the rights, privileges, and inheritance that come with adoption. We are now joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

5. He is the One who has made us acceptable. It is not us that has accomplished redemption and salvation, but salvation is something that God has done for us in Christ. We who deserved absolutely nothing but death and hell have received everything in Christ.
6. We have been redeemed through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The word there for “redeemed” means to be purchased, to be bought out of the slave market in which sin had placed us.
7. We have been given the complete and utter forgiveness of all of our sins. [Romans 8](#) declares that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Every sin that we have ever committed or will ever commit have been completely removed from our spiritual record and we will stand before God without any judgment awaiting us.
8. He has caused all of the riches of His grace to abound to us in all wisdom and insight. No matter what the trial may be and no matter how overwhelmed we may feel at times, the grace of God is always sufficient and abounding to us so that we will have the strength, the wisdom, and the courage to face whatever God allows in our lives.
9. He has made known to us the amazing mystery of His will that one day He will gather all of us unto Christ. I am so grateful that I know what awaits us in the end. There is no question and no wondering how all of this eventually works out. It seems like the very days in which we live are getting worse and worse and that the threats are becoming greater and greater. Yet in all of that, we know that God is in complete control of every aspect of what will occur in history.
10. We have been given an indescribable inheritance. Eye has not seen and ear has not heard of all of the amazing things that God has prepared for those who love Him.
11. We have been predestined to be a part of His kingdom and to enjoy all of the riches of what He has determined for us.
12. We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit in such a way that we can never lose all that God has determined for our life and for our future. The security of our salvation is one of the most amazing gifts that God has given to us, and the guaranteed of that eternal security is that God Himself lives within us and has sealed us until the day of our redemption.

Now, when I am able to come to just a simply, child-like understanding of the amazing riches and grace that is ours in Christ, it just supernaturally leads me into praise and adoration and worship of God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is without any question one of the most amazing passages in all of Scripture and somehow summarizes for us so much of what Christ has done for us. He is worthy of all of our praise. Nothing less will be sufficient.

The second word in this trilogy is the word “**glory**” – “*doxa*”. This has to be one of the most difficult words in Scripture to define simply because God is the only One in eternity that has “**glory**”. Unfortunately, we are all well too familiar with [Romans 3:23](#) which says,

**Ro 3:23 (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

We have all failed miserably to bring “**glory**” to Christ, and even with all that we know and understand about Him, our tendency is still to live for ourselves. However, in the case of our passage in [1 Peter 1](#),

the word is simply saying that we as believers are to ascribe “**glory**” to God because of how He is using the trials and afflictions in our life for His purposes, and how these trials one day will be revealed for what their real purpose was in our life as they demonstrate the greatness of God. The difficulty is that none of us are naturally inclined to like trials and to just rejoice when things are very difficult and painful for our life. [1 Peter 5:10](#) piggybacks on this idea when it says of us and the trials that we face,

**1Pe 5:10 (NKJV) But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

The reality of what we know is that God is great and worthy of our praise and worship – no matter what may happen in our life. In actuality, that is the point of what Peter is addressing. God’s attributes and His power have been revealed in so many ways to us and they should all cause us to glorify God in all things that may happen to us. For instance, we know that God has been revealed in creation. The Scriptures unapologetically declare that we are “**fearfully and wonderfully made**”. One day we will be glorified and we will be made to be like Christ Himself. [Philippians 3:21](#) declares,

**Php 3:21 (NKJV) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

We know that the glory of God has been manifested in Christ. [John 1:14](#) declares the following,

**Jn 1:14 (NKJV) 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.**

[Hebrews 1:3](#) says of Christ,

**Heb 1:3 (NKJV) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

It would be difficult to know where to begin or where to end in our discussion of giving glory to God, but simply suffice it to say that He is fully worthy of “**glory**” and it is something that we as believers should continually be ascribing to Him.

The third word in our trilogy is the word “**honor**” – “*time*”. It is a word that means to esteem someone, to value who they are and what they have done for you personally.<sup>2</sup> It refers to someone to whom great respect and reverence is to be given.

Throughout all of Scripture, we are commanded and exhorted to ascribe “**honor**” to God. For instance, [1 Timothy 1:17](#) says,

**1Ti 1:17 (NKJV) Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

[Revelation 4:11](#), speaking of Christ, says,

**Rev 4:11 (NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."**

[Revelation 5:13](#) declares,

**Rev 5:13 (NKJV) And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"**

**Hebrews 2:9** says,

**Heb 2:9 (NKJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**

We could go on and on with one Scripture after another, but suffice it to say that God is worthy of all “**praise, glory, and honor**” – and we are exhorted to reverence and honor Him with each of those particular attributes.

Now, what we want to do next week is to provide some very practical insight and understanding in how we actually go about this is our life. Obviously, verbal and audible praise is a given, but there are many other ways in which our life should be reflecting these attributes, and we want to see if we can identify what some of those ways actually are and will do so next week.

## **ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Strong, 1093.

<sup>2</sup> Vine, 560.