
Glorifying God

We glorify God by fulfilling our purpose of creation. Once the whole creation and every human being reflects the image of God, He will be exalted totally. When the artist's picture is perfect and he is satisfied that he has depicted on canvas exactly what he wanted to portray, tears may stream down his face and shivers run up and down his body when he stands back to admire his work. A person who gazes upon it may ask with reverence who created such a glorious masterpiece.

Today, the name of Michelangelo is revered. A great many people praise his work; in fact a number of them feel he must have been so close to God that he received revelations of what to paint and sculpt. People consider that the great composers were also divinely enlightened and moved. Yet even today we celebrate the inspired work of God when we listen to the manifestation of their masterstrokes.

One aspect of God is definitely revealed through music, another through art, yet another through literature, dance, drama, and so on. Such creations are well renowned and reveal the eminence of our God. But they do not represent the ultimate glorification of God—perfected humanity. When someone reaches perfection, others will look at him and say, "That is God's creation! I know he is a child of God."

We can try to capture something of the nature and mood of God when He conceived the universe and humanity. But it is not until every entity fulfills its purpose that we will be able to really exalt God in totality. Once the purpose of each creation is totally fulfilled, all mankind and the creation will extol the Creator through their perfection.

Whenever we read or hear words that refer to God's goodness, we honor Him through our positive and optimistic feelings. But if we have negative thoughts or feelings, we unwittingly glorify Satan. Yet it is possible for us to acknowledge God and what He represents. And we can do so with our whole being—our heart and intellect, even through our pores. Perhaps it is a difficult concept to understand, but we are able to pay homage to either God or Satan, and even on a daily basis we decide who receives our loyalty.

Why tell yourself that you cannot do something, or that you don't have enough spiritual power. While it may be true that you alone do not have enough strength, don't ignore the one being who possesses more than enough—God. Whenever you have been successful in any venture, it was you who made the conditions, but it was God who blessed all your efforts.

That is the main point—we must always credit God for everything good that happens, for any profit that we gain. If we take it all upon our own shoulders, we will be crushed under the tremendous weight of falsely bearing the total honor, and will have already lost the blessing. But when we glorify God for what He has done, He grants us His grace.

God needs to be praised just like any other creator or artist. He didn't create the angelic world just to give Him a hand! He needed to hear their songs of praise. To me, classical music represents the harmony which exists in the angelic world. If you play it as background music during meals or during prayer, the melodious choirs of the angelic world help prepare you to meet God. Music can even create the mood for us to pray. The music relates the glory of God—how beautiful and splendid He is, what a magnificent creator He is.

Did you ever hear the angels sing during your prayer or meditations, in your visions or dreams? Their voices are truly enchanting—so clear and harmonious. The reverence they display toward God is greater than we can imagine, and we can learn a lesson from the way they glorify God; they will bring us closer to Him and stimulate us to connect with Him daily.

Why should we want to honor God? We only need to look at what He has created to uncover our answer. We can research the physical body of man, discovering what kind of delicate and functioning machine it is. The sciences reveal one miracle after another. God is a true miracle-worker! The more we understand about God as the Creator, the greater our homage will be. We also need to perceive what He created inside of us, the spectrum of emotions we are able to generate, and the intensity of heart we can share with others. Even the wonder of interrelationships between people—between man and woman, parents and children, among peers—can fill us with such awe that we naturally glorify Him more.

We can be so replete with all His blessings that our words of praise spill from our hearts. And we will be dumbfounded by what He offers us, sensing so much about His nature. We can then even exalt Him through our appearance and actions by striving to reflect Him and the True Parents.

Glorification of God is intertwined in every possible creative action. When a woman gives birth to a child, she pays homage to God. A husband may express his love for his wife by greeting her with flowers. It was God

who made those flowers, but that husband worships God by gathering a few of them and allowing them to serve as the mediator between his heart and his wife's. A little child may almost completely crush a single flower if he holds it too tightly, but with a big smile can present it with a giggle, "Here Mommy!" His gesture too is a glorification of the Creator.

If you live according to the will of God, your spiritual eyes will be opened. He will manifest Himself to you in little things—from budding flowers to the smiles of a child. You will not just see everything in the physical realm, but also in the realm of spirit. It is then that you will see God in His glory—perhaps even through your tears of awe and joy.

A church organ is played and in one voice a few hundred people sing to the glory of God. As you sit in your pew, you might feel from the depths of your heart that the words and melody speak and project your longing for God. But you even receive a response. The grace of God comes through your own voice, the strains of the organ, and through the harmony created. Whatever you invest in song can boomerang straight back to your heart.

When you kneel and pray to God with sincerity and reverence, you experience the grace that God returns to you through the echo of your own words. Because you acknowledge God and feel love and longing for Him, you come to the point that your voice vibrates all those feelings—the words come forth in a certain tone of voice which convey what you feel within your heart. It is a reciprocal relationship: when you glorify God, you are also exalted. Therefore when you pray, give thanks to God. He loves to hear it and will return it to you. Everyone likes to be praised and honored, acknowledged and respected. And our God is no different.

God pours out His love when we adore and celebrate Him. But the problem arises when we cannot behold what He reciprocates. We are often quite naive and child-like when we pray, expecting certain things, and even becoming depressed if they don't happen exactly as we ordered. But we must become more spiritually mature and allow God to speak to and direct us, not vice versa.

We stay within the perimeters of God's law when we fulfill the Principle and put God and True Parents into the center of our lives. For it is when we do that that we become the recipients of His grace. Perceiving it is a question of consciousness and takes the ability to control our thoughts, feelings, and words. It is so easy for us to revile God's honor. What we speak and how

we act has definite bearing. But why would we choose to live in perdition and alone? Rather, we should gravitate toward Heaven, for that is where we can live with God in grandeur. When we are positive rather than negative, we celebrate the very existence of our Eternal and surely experience living in harmony with Him.

Check whether you are glorifying God or yourself. When you receive any praise, at least inwardly express your gratitude to God. Transfer it to Him immediately; our position is that of mediator. All glory actually belongs to Him; He is the original motive of any good action. For as His love touches our heart, we are moved to do something good. If somebody is grateful for what we do, then we should return this glory to God. It must flow in a perennial circle.

One person we cannot cheat is God; He detects if we are holding something back or if our motivation is distorted. And He can feel when we seek glorification more for ourselves than Him.

You no doubt experienced many new things the first few months after you began your life of faith. You discovered how to revere God. You learned appreciation for even small things. But do you now feel like an oldtimer, quite "married" to God, no longer finding it necessary to praise Him? Never forget to express gratitude to God. Putting Him as your number one priority is the most important thing. Begin your prayers by glorifying and praising God—tell Him how great He is. That is the secret to creating a successful relationship with Him.

If I begin to praise someone, that person may blush and feel good, and even sit up straight. It is quite a predictable response. God's nature is similar. When God created the universe, the gigantic choir of the angelic world extolled Him for His monumental and glorious accomplishment. Then He did more, and the whole of heaven burst into songs of praise. But He, like us, never tires of acclaim.

As we come closer to God, we will naturally be able to see more the totality or wholeness of God and His creation. And we will perceive the interrelationships of all entities in the universe.

We have to do much more than just live a normal life. In the process of our spiritual development and our return to God, we must also clarify our position through our prayer, and intensify our relationship to the universe

through our action. We must use all of our faculties to proclaim the glory of God. As we understand more about Him, the more amazed He will be that we actually comprehend His totality, and the more He will respond to us. He does not just want us to touch His surface, but to excavate far enough that we unearth His heart of pure gold!

When you begin to revere and praise God, you will feel an immediate response. For that is when the angelic and spirit worlds start their task. They are so anxious for people to understand God and begin to cement their bond to Him. And our praise of God is evidence that we understand. That is the way we can activate spiritual beings. Realize that through our praise all of spirit world is jubilant, too. They will begin to manifest themselves in so many ways—even through spiritual fire, visions, or healing. They really want to cooperate and try to reveal themselves so that we will better perceive them. They will then cooperate by sharing spiritual phenomena and also by sending people to us. Tapping the spirit world is a way that we glorify God, and also a way of bringing heaven down to earth.