



December 11, 2020

Glimpses of Glory and Sufficiency

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. - (2 Peter 1:16–19)

It is important to realize that God's power is meant to be at the disposal of human beings. This is what we see in the life and ministry of Jesus, and a good deal of his training of the disciples was intended to show how this is done. Jesus had complete confidence in God's power, and he intended to establish that same confidence in his disciples. He did not mean for them to walk in blindness in this regard. One clear example of this took place when Jesus went up onto a mountain in Galilee with three of his most intimate disciples, Peter, James, and John, for a bit of advanced training in kingdom ministry (Read Luke 9:28–36).

This event fulfilled what Jesus had said a week or so before. He was alone with his disciples at the time, and he asked them what people were saying about him and who they believed he was. The disciples reported several differing opinions, including John the Baptizer, Elijah, or some other of the great Hebrew prophets. Jesus then turned the question on his disciples, asking, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter gave his great confession: "The Messiah of God," and Jesus told them not to proclaim that truth just yet (Luke 9:20–21). Then, after foretelling his suffering, death, and resurrection, and explaining what it takes to be his disciple, Jesus declared, "But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:27).

Notice carefully what Jesus predicted was going to happen to some of the disciples before they died: they would see the kingdom of God. Not all of it, but enough of it. That is precisely what took place on what we now call the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John were given a glorious glimpse of the reality of God and of his kingdom. It became visible to them. It was there all along, but now they saw it.

Practice: *What transpired that day was the revelation of the glory of the kingdom of God. The glory that Peter, James, and John saw on Jesus was also on Moses and Elijah, who, by the way, had obviously not been rotting in their graves, but enjoying the fellowship of God and the grandeur of his kingdom.*

While Peter had a few other lessons to learn, he never forgot this one. In his second letter, he grounded his teachings and exhortations directly in the reality of what he saw that day on the mountain.

(Q) How does Jesus' glorification help us trust in the tangible connection between heaven and earth that's found in Jesus. How is Jesus seeking to grow our confidence in God's power and its accessibility to us in all the circumstances of our fragmented lives?