

SPIRIT-LED  BIBLE STUDY

THE GLORY OF GOD

GUILLERMO MALDONADO


WHITAKER
HOUSE

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THE GLORY OF GOD

(Spirit-Led Bible Study)

Guillermo Maldonado
13651 S.W. 143rd Ct., #101
Miami, FL 33186
<http://kingjesusministry.org/>
www.ERJPub.org

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About the Spirit-Led Bible Study Series

The Spirit-Led Bible Study series is a collection of diverse, stand-alone Bible studies designed for either individuals or groups. Each self-study course features either a scriptural theme or a particular book of the Bible. Readers can go beyond just reading the Bible to become engaged in its truths and principles, learning to apply them to everyday life in practical ways while growing in their understanding of God and deepening their relationship with Him. Jesus said, “*When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth*” (John 16:13). Readers are encouraged to recognize that it is only through the indwelling Holy Spirit that we may truly understand the Scriptures and exhibit the life of Christ in our lives, and that we must intentionally rely on the Spirit in all our reading and study of the Bible.

INTRODUCTION

I have met believers and leaders who constantly ask, “Is this all God has for me? Where is the God of power and miracles? Is Jesus just a historical figure or the living Christ? Can the Lord still do the same miracles the Bible talks about?”

God has not changed. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (See Hebrews 13:8.) I can testify from firsthand experience that God exists and continues to do miracles in our time, through His glory.

God’s glory is not just a theoretical concept; it is spiritual truth. It is a heavenly reality that every believer can experience now. Mere “religion” will never produce a supernatural experience with God because it is void of the glory and life of the Lord. You can move beyond practicing religion to having an encounter with your heavenly Father—the Father of glory.

Without a continuous revelation of the glory of God, we will, sooner or later, get stuck in our ways and become as “old wineskins” (Luke 5:37). In other words, we will not allow God to do something new in our lives that would bring purpose, power, and healing. We are often so busy trying to keep up appearances and fulfill norms that we end up trapped in traditions. God wants us to return to His glory. He also wants to take us to new realms of His glory we’ve never experienced before.

*Revealed knowledge introduces us to the dimension of glory,
but hunger and thirst for God are what maintain us in it.*

I always teach my congregation to follow the Miracle Maker, not the miracles. Our priority is to follow Jesus. When we do so, God will confirm His Word with signs. (See Mark 16:20.) I am passionate about seeing signs, miracles, and wonders, but my strongest passion is to know God and His glory in every respect and to become His instrument to impact the earth with the gospel in order to win souls.

I believe, preach, and practice theology that supports what the Bible teaches. I am a defender of the sound doctrine of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And, as I have functioned in the scriptural role of apostle, I have learned to lay down a solid biblical foundation in the lives of thousands of new believers in my local church and around the world. Furthermore, I encourage the members of my leadership team to study biblical doctrine and to become established in it. I make this clarification so that no one will mistakenly assume that I reject or belittle doctrine or theology while promoting fresh revelation.

My apostolic calling is to teach, train, and equip believers. My heart's desire is not to be one of a small number of vessels God uses to perform His miracles, signs, and wonders but to equip thousands of leaders to train and guide others on the same path and to win souls. I have invested myself in the new generation that God is raising up, and I am witnessing amazing results. I want you to have the same results by combining your scriptural knowledge with revelation and allowing God to manifest His glory through you! The gospel of Jesus Christ is simple, practical, and powerful. Each of the following studies will help you to progress from foundational biblical doctrine to an exciting, purposeful life in which you experience the God of the Bible—the God of glory—every day as you become a carrier of His transforming, healing presence to the world.

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.
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Introduction

Welcome to *The Glory of God*, part of the Spirit-Led Bible Study series. We are delighted that you have made the decision to dig deeper into God's Word. This course is designed as a stand-alone biblical study on the theme of God's glory. The study may be completed independently by individual students or may be used in a group setting, such as a Bible study, a Sunday school class, a course on the foundations of the Christian faith, or a prayer group. For those who have read the author's book *The Glory of God* (Whitaker House, 2012), this course reinforces its major themes while providing further scriptural study and application of the topic.

Elements of Each Study

Scripture Verse or Passage

Each study begins with a Scripture verse or passage that highlights the topic.

Introduction

The author provides background, context, and/or other relevant information to set the stage for the lesson that follows.

Study Questions

Each study includes approximately 20–35 questions, with some questions having multiple parts. The questions are organized under sections that emphasize particular aspects of the topic. Each question is followed by a corresponding Scripture reference in parentheses that enables the student to answer it. If a Scripture reference has *a* or *b* after it (e.g., "John 3:16a" or "John 3:16b"), this means the answer is found in the first part of the verse, "a," or the second part, "b." The student should read the Bible verse or passage and then either

write the answer on the line(s) provided or circle the correct answer. Since this course gives a broad overview of the topic of the glory of God in the Bible, the student will be looking up a variety of relevant passages from both the Old and New Testaments.

Reflections

Each lesson includes insights that the author has gleaned from his experiences with God's glory in ministry and his study of the theme of glory in God's Word. For example, the first study features "Reflections on the Biblical Meaning of Glory."

Key Definitions

Definitions and explanations of key concepts related to God's glory are provided at various points throughout the studies.

Thought-Provoking Statements

Periodically, statements for personal reflection are presented in bold italics.

Conclusion

At the end of each study, the author sums up the topic and/or offers a challenge to the student.

Prayer of Activation

A prayer is provided to activate the students to live out the principles in the lesson, being spiritually empowered to serve God and receive from His glory. Group leaders are encouraged to offer the prayer on behalf of the students, while the individual student is encouraged to pray the prayer for himself or herself. (Individual students should adapt the prayers to the first-person singular.)

Action Steps

Action steps are listed to enable the student to apply the lesson to his or her life in practical ways.

Experiences with God's Glory

Each study concludes with a testimony about someone who has experienced a life-changing encounter with the glory of God through the author's church, King Jesus Ministry, in Miami, Florida, and the author's ministry in other countries.

Study Helps

Bible Version

The main Bible translation used for this study is the *New King James Version*. Other Bible translations are used periodically, and they are designated as follows:

(KJV): King James Version

(NIV): *New International Version*

Answer Key

At the back of this book, answers to the study questions are listed under the titles of the studies in the Answer Key section. In addition, the various section titles for each study are included for easy reference. The student's answers should reflect the content of those provided in the Answer Key, although the wording may differ slightly.

Study 1

OUR GLORIOUS GOD

*“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty;
for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
and You are exalted as head over all.”*
—1 Chronicles 29:11

Introduction

The glory of God is not just a theological concept to be learned. It is a reality that can be experienced continually by His people. When we live in God’s glory, we dwell in His very presence, receive His love and grace, understand His heart, learn His will, and experience His divine power. That power transforms lives—saving, healing, and delivering—and enacts miracles and wonders that reveal God’s majesty.

Unfortunately, many theologians, teachers, preachers, and church members consider the glory of God to be a thing of the past: something that was known in biblical times, in events such as the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, but cannot be experienced today. Yet the glory of God is for our present generation. God desires to reveal His glory to His people and to the world, and He will do so through our lives as we seek Him. *“You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart”* (Jeremiah 29:13). In this first study, we will begin our search by discovering what the Word of God says about our heavenly Father as the unparalleled, glorious God.

Study Questions

Part I: God’s Glory Fills Heaven and Earth

1. What belongs to the Lord God? (1 Chronicles 29:11)

2. What does the “*great multitude in heaven*” declare about God? (Revelation 19:1)

REFLECTIONS ON THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF GLORY

A Hebrew word translated as “*glory*” in the Old Testament is *kabowd*. Its literal meaning is “weight,” but it is used figuratively in the sense of “splendor,” “abundance,” “honor,” or “glory”; it is something “glorious.” *Kabowd* is used variously to describe an individual’s wealth, power or majesty, influential position, or great honor. (See, for example, Genesis 31:1; 45:13.) *Kabowd* can also express fame, reputation, recognition, beauty, magnificence, strength, dignity, splendor, respect, excellence, holiness, and greatness. (See, for example, Exodus 28:2; Psalm 49:16–17.) From these connotations, we may conclude that the glory of God expresses all of His attributes.

A Greek word that best expresses the meaning of *kabowd* in the New Testament is *doxa*. It leads to the notion of reputation, honor, fame, praise, dignity, splendor, and brilliance. *Doxa* speaks of the real majesty belonging to God as the Supreme Governor—majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of His deity.

KEY DEFINITION: The glory of God is the total sum of His attributes, character, and intrinsic virtues, the brilliance of His presence, and the splendor of His majesty.

3. Where did the psalmist say God has “set” His glory? (Psalm 8:1b)

4. (a) What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1a)

- (b) What does the firmament show? (Verse 1b)

(c) What did the psalmist say about the ability of the heavens and earth to communicate God's glory to people throughout the world? (Psalm 19:3–4a)

5. What else do the heavens declare? (Psalm 97:6a)

6. The seraphim are special angels who dwell at God's throne. What do they say is full of God's glory? (Isaiah 6:3b)

7. Is there anywhere we can go that God is not present? (Psalm 139:7–12)

8. Like David, what should we make a point to meditate on? (Psalm 145:5)

Part II: To God Be the Glory

9. What do the seraphim declare about God that reveals an essential aspect of His glory? (Isaiah 6:3a)

*The glory (presence) of God is the spiritual atmosphere of heaven,
like air is the physical atmosphere of earth.*

10. What does God say concerning those who would try to usurp His glory, or attribute glory to something other than Him? (Isaiah 42:8b)

11. (a) What shouldn't the wise man glory in? (Jeremiah 9:23)

- (b) What shouldn't the mighty man glory in? (Verse 23)

- (c) What shouldn't the rich man glory in? (Verse 23)

12. What should a person glory in? (Jeremiah 9:24a; 1 Corinthians 1:31)

13. Which works does the Lord delight in exercising? (Jeremiah 9:24b)

Only God has intrinsic glory: "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Part III: God Shares His Glory

14. Considering God's greatness and glory, how do we know He is interested in what goes on in the world He created? (Psalm 113:5–6)

15. Although God will not allow anyone to usurp His glory, what does He desire to give to those who love Him and walk according to His ways? (Psalm 84:11b) Choose one of the following by circling the letter:

- (a) grace
- (b) glory
- (c) every good thing
- (d) all of the above

God desires to share His glory with His people.

16. What term for God did the apostle Paul use that combines the concepts of His love and His majesty? Complete the following:

Ephesians 1:17: "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, _____
_____, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the
knowledge of Him."

17. What is God's purpose for His "sons"—all those who have become His children through faith in Christ Jesus? Complete the following:

Hebrews 2:10: "For it was fitting for [God], for whom are all things and by whom are
all things, in _____
_____, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus] perfect through
sufferings."

18. In Jesus' prayer to God the Father shortly before His arrest and crucifixion, what did He affirm that He had given His followers? (John 17:22a)
-

19. What has God given us as a "guarantee," "deposit" (NIV), or down payment for the fullness of His glory? (2 Corinthians 5:5b)
-

The glory of God is the essence of all that He is.

Conclusion

There are numerous aspects to God's glory, and He desires to show these dimensions of His glory to those who love and serve Him. In the glory of God—in His manifest presence—everything "is"; therefore, every need of humanity can be met, so that we are complete. In the glory are healing, deliverance, and miracles (even creative miracles, such as new organs being formed), as you will read about in the "Experiences with God's Glory" sections at the end of each study.

Many people do not understand God's glory because they have never experienced it, either personally or through a church or ministry. I pray that you will have supernatural experiences even as you progress through this Bible study. I consider of utmost importance the sections at the end of each study entitled "Prayer of Activation" and "Action Steps." Don't allow this course to be only an intellectual exercise for you. Use it as a guide to bring you into the very presence of God.

Prayer of Activation

Father of glory, thank You for revealing Your magnificence to the world and for making known to Your people, in a personal way, Your glory, holiness, and grace. Grant us a deep desire to know You in Your fullness and to receive all You desire to give us through Your glory. Release the riches of Your glory into our lives, even now, and let us live in Your presence. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Action Steps

- ✦ Meditate on the following Scriptures and incorporate them into your prayers and your worship of God: Ephesians 1:17–21; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 9:24.
- ✦ Each day this week, choose an aspect of creation and consider how it “declares” the glory of God. Then, offer praise and worship to God for His surpassing glory.

EXPERIENCES WITH GOD’S GLORY

Transformations, Miracles, and Healings

Some time ago, Pastor Guillermo Maldonado was invited to minister in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where approximately 3,500 pastors and leaders gathered together. On the last day of the meetings, the Holy Spirit led him to teach and guide the people to have an encounter with His glory. After the teaching, the presence of God manifested, and everyone began to cry out. Each person there was touched by the presence of God. Some people were crying out for forgiveness of their sins and asking God how to move in the supernatural, while others simply expressed that they wanted to serve Him. Everyone cried out according to the desire of his or her heart.

In the midst of this movement, God transformed the hearts of every leader present. The proof is that they took everything they received and shared it with their own congregations. Furthermore, miracles and amazing healings took place. A woman diagnosed with terminal cancer had been carried in on a stretcher. When she was exposed to the glory of God, she got up, completely healed! Another indigenous woman, who did not speak Spanish, had a type of rash. She had terrible boils that covered her entire face. This woman had already consulted all the witches and sorcerers in the region. She had desperately searched for a solution, but no one was able to heal her. Then, the presence of God fell upon her—without anyone touching her or translating anything we were saying—and, suddenly, every boil disappeared, and she received her healing. On the platform, she was yelling in Quechua, which is the dialect of her region, “Thank You, Daddy! What the witches and sorcerers were unable to do in years, You have done!” The weight of glory was so strong that the entire ministry team began to cry. The musicians fell under the weight of the presence of God. No one could stand. The 3,500 leaders gathered in that building were deeply impacted by His glory.
