

From Issue 4/November 5, 2007

How would you Define Glory?

An eagle defines it by soaring on wingtip far above the landscape to the tallest tree top in caring for its young still in nest. Clouds glorify God by their sheer beauty when displayed against the sunset through a rainbow of reflected color. They share a glory by raining down on the parched earth. A single white puff drifting across the bright blue summer sky says, "Here I am, just the way you made me to be!" When something is seen for what it is truly meant to be God is glorified! It is at that moment without façade, viewed in a pureness of created quality: Glorious!

A fast runner is in his fullest glory as he crosses the finish line and steps up to receive the trophy. Of course he was the fastest runner before the race began, but he didn't enter into glory until he was seen to be what he actually was.

Women (and sometimes men) shed a tear at weddings, not because they are sad, (most of the time :-)), but because they know this is as good as it gets! This snapshot of life when a man and a woman promise in front of all who are gathered to love each other, submit to each other, be kind to each other, enjoy each other, party with each other, get sick with each other, get rich or poor with each other, and watch each other grow old together, is just too honest, just too real to hold back our emotion! We capture the moment with as many videos, stills, and digital pictures as possible. It's a glorious event no matter where it takes place.

When Jesus came to this earth as a man there was a glory in his birth, a glory in his dwelling among us, a glory in His death, and a glory in His resurrection. As John testifies, we have seen it, and this glory is one shared by the Father (John 1:14.)

Before Adam sinned, he was naked -in all his glory - and unashamed before God. We lose glory when sin causes us to be seen as less than who we are really meant to be in Christ. (Rom. 3:23) When we are blind to our purpose for being we cannot live it out. Men and women were created and placed here in God's image. A loving creator planned from before time to adopt us into this relationship He has within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to glorify Him!

The Apostle Paul tells us that God has made his light shine in our hearts so that we see the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor 4:6) Jesus is truly what man and God was meant to be, together, whole, glorious! He glorified His father by being (becoming) one of us, living here among us as God and man, dying our death, and being resurrected so that in being lifted up all men might be drawn to Him. (John 12:32)

Be true to who you are meant to be as a child of God alive in Christ. Live gloriously!

~ Steve Schantz