



# *“Visions of Christmas”*

Jn. 1:14

*“The Vision of God’s Glory from a  
Personal Perspective.”*



Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made 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.

### Review

We are down to the last few days of a very challenging year. How do we finish strong? Hopefully, “*Visions of Christmas*” will assist us in finishing the year with encouragement.





Our theme this year is...

VISION                      20/20  
HIS VISION.              OUR FOCUS.

We began the Christmas season by looking at **the earthly perspective** of "*The Vision of Glory.*" Last week, we considered **the heavenly perspective**, "*The Vision of God's Glory.*" Today we will focus upon **the personal perspective**. As we focus upon these perspectives, we should have a wonderful vision of Christmas.

This morning we begin looking at...

*"The Vision of God's Glory from a Personal Perspective."*

A faint, dark silhouette of a person playing a violin is visible in the background, centered below the text.



# I. RECOGNIZING OUR PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

## A. The Brutal Honesty Needed

- When a person clearly views God in His glory, the immediate effect is most humbling.

Isa. 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died **I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up,** and his train filled the temple.


5 Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips,** and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: **for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**



Isa. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- The Apostle Paul stated his evaluation of himself:

1 Tim. 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

- A proud, arrogant person is most ignorant of who God is.
  - An honest person is most accurate in evaluating self:
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Jas. 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith,  
**God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ...**

10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

- God honors the humble person:

Mt. 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall **humble himself as this little child**, the same is **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.





Mt. 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and **he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

- Brutal honesty leads to blessed honors:

1 Pet. 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**  
**6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**





## B. The Blessed Honor Noticed

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for **we shall see him as he is.**





1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- *“The Vision of God’s Glory from a Personal Perspective”* produces motivation to reconstructing life.

## II. RECONSTRUCTING OUR PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

### A. Start at the Foundation





- A believer is to “take heed how” a personal life-story is developed.

1 Cor. 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But **let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.**

11 For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**

- The quality of a person’s life is dependent upon the foundation:





Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and **digged deep**, and **laid the foundation on a rock**: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and **could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.**

49 But **he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth**; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and **immediately it fell**; and **the ruin of that house was great.**





- Regardless of any person's spirituality, it is possible to grow cold.

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.**

**5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;** or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- A proper perspective of having a vision of God's glory should be manifested by a perpetual desire for a believer.





2 Pet. 3:18 But **grow** in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **To him *be* glory both now and for ever.** Amen.

- A saved person is one who has seen the glory of the Lord, repented as a sorrowful sinner, lives a “changed” life desiring to honor the Lord by loving Him, serving Him, exalting Him, worshipping Him, proclaiming Him and fellowshiping **WITH** Him.

## B. Strengthen the Faith

- Building a relationship with God is a spiritual phenomenon based upon strengthening faith.



Psa. 27:14 **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:** wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psa. 31:24 **Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,** all ye that **hope in the LORD.**

- Our spiritual strength comes from the Lord.

Isa. 41:10 **Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold** thee with the right hand of my righteousness.



- We are strengthened by His Spirit:

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, **according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Col. 1:11 **Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,** unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;



- The Apostle Paul gave testimony of God's presence and His strengthening power.

2 Tim. 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but **all men forsook me**: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

17 Notwithstanding **the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me**; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.





- The Apostle Paul's life is a wonderful example of an individual who saw the glory of God in the Lord Jesus Christ, repented, and then lived his life to honor the Savior.

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made 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.





## Summary

- Believers are susceptible to backsliding, losing their vision of God's glory.
- The lost has no clue of the greatness of God's glory.
- A proper, spiritual perspective of God's glory begins at the "foundation" – Christ!
- The foundation is the place to build upon according to God's perfect will for our lives – as we grow in grace and live our lives for the glory of God.
- Believers must develop a mindset to *renew, rebuild, and rekindle* their relationship with Christ, perpetually – every single day!
- Such dedication and discipline will create...

*"The Vision of God's Glory from a Personal Perspective."*



## Conclusion

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, **which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what **is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

