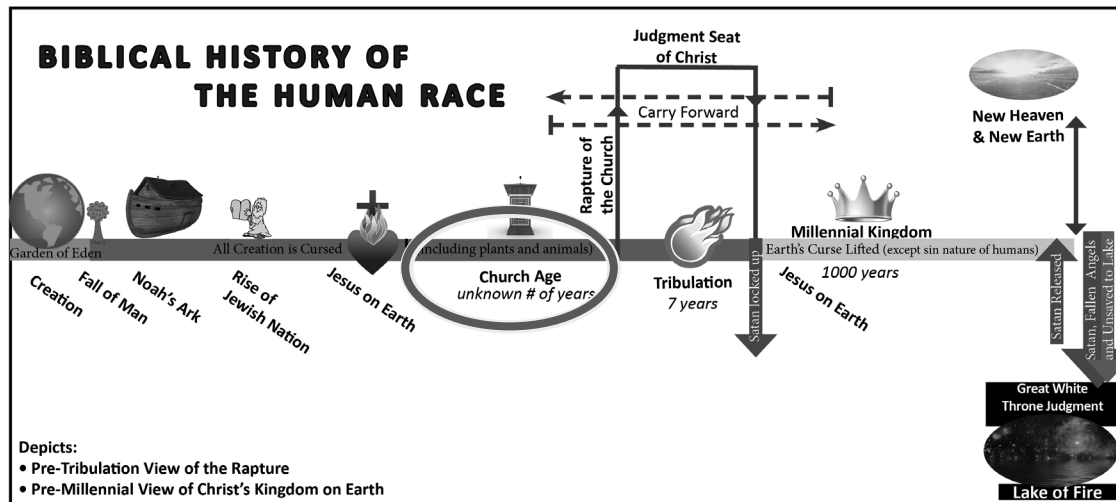


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9 GLORY BOUND: The Upward Calling - Part 2

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See page 183 toolbox for full-page image.

GLORY BOUND Continued...

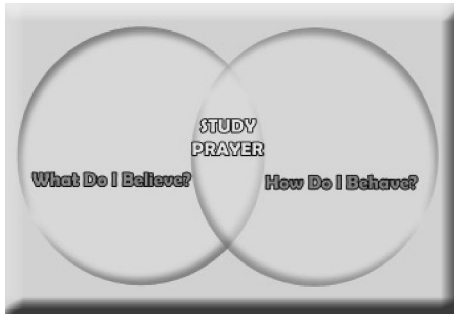
PRAYER

Remember the “deep dive” mentioned on page 128 - on the word **prayer** in *Where to Find it in the Bible?* It lists nearly 200 references to prayer in the Scriptures; 105 times in the Old Testament of which 41 are in the Psalms and 85 times in the New Testament of which 29 are in the Gospels. **Needless to say, prayer is a “big deal” to God.** Jesus modeled it extensively.

Unfortunately, like regular Bible reading, other than the liberal use of “bullet prayers” (when we “shoot up a quick prayer or request” to God), modern Christians largely ignore prayer. I believe we will find this behavior very problematic for us at the Judgment Seat of Christ. By that, I mean there will be multiple negative consequences revealed on that day -- we will have forfeited many rewards He intended us to earn.

The good news is that ALL believers are invited and encouraged to pray for themselves and for others - it is **ONE REWARD that we ALL have regular access to.** Pay careful attention to this chapter.

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Regular Bible Reading/Study and Prayer begin the crossover between Phase 1 and Phase 2 - they straddle both phases and include components of both *What Do I Believe* and *How Do I Behave*. What we believe crosses over and begins to shape how we behave. So, ask yourself this question: “Do I believe that it is possible that regular intentional Bible reading and prayer might have a significant effect on my bema rewards? Am I willing to try it?” Obviously, Jesus found value in the Scriptures and in prayer.

³⁵*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, _____ . Mark 1:35*

¹²*One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Luke 6:12*

Like Scripture reading there are multiple types of prayer that should be regularly practiced to successfully participate in the maximum reward earning process. Here are a few to consider:

PRAYER TYPE #1: Directed - preferably daily - time spent totally alone with God. We are to pray to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, _____ , just as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1*



Note that the request is not “teach us HOW to pray,” rather it is “teach us TO pray.” What do you think about that request? What do you think Jesus did/said about this request. Is it a request we all need to make? Discuss this with the group.

I know, I can almost hear you groaning and thinking, “You don’t understand...” I’m very sympathetic as I have been there myself. Start at a manageable level -



Kneeling in Prayer: I don’t think this is a requirement, but it helps to indicate a posture of humility and subjection. If you are afraid for some physical reason, consider kneeling on your couch or chair rather than on the floor. Just walk up to it and then “kneel” on the seat with your chest against the back.

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maybe 15 minutes. Get up just 15 minutes earlier, go off somewhere by yourself. If possible, kneel down (I think this is important) and simply acknowledge the greatness of God. Say it aloud - I whisper it, but it is audible. (A one-year Rx for this may be found at the back of this study guide.)

Prayer should begin with praise and worship. He doesn't "need" this - we need to hear it and to say it to anchor it into us for the day. It is okay to say the same things every day as long as we are really thinking about what we are saying and asking the Holy Spirit to make it real to us. Consider this verse - He is all these things.

⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Exodus 34: 6-7

Also consider His - omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, etc. Think and pray these things each day. It's okay to make a list of God's praiseworthy attributes and read what you wrote - saying it aloud - this does not offend God, I promise. Soon you won't need the list.

As you begin to practice this more and stretch out your time with the Lord, you will move on to prayer requests for yourself and others (but don't forget to start in humble, grateful adoration each time - this sets the tone). You may want to "compare" yourself with Him - this is the essence of true humility (Who He is and who I am - or am not as the case may be).

Again, feel free to keep a list of the people and situations you want to be sure to pray for. **And leave some silent time for the Holy Spirit to speak to you.**

After I have prayed for the people on "my list" I ask the Spirit to tell me who He wants me to pray for and then I am silent. When I first started doing this not much happened, but I persevered in silence. After a while

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Pray the Scriptures for yourself, your family and friends and the church in general:

⁹We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1:9-10

*¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that you may know him better.** Ephesians 1:17*

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He began to bring people (groups mostly, but a few individuals I don't even know) to my mind. I simply prayed for them. I asked that the greatest blessing a person could have might be given to them. **I asked agapáo for them: I asked that they might be saved according to the Scriptures, and then that He send someone to them to help disciple them:**

⁸*When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about _____ and _____ and _____:*
John 16:8

²*He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2*

He harvests, we disciple (work the field).

I also ask Him to give them everything they need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

The more I practice asking the Holy Spirit to show me how **He is praying for others** and then follow His lead, the more He reveals His desire for them to me so we (the Holy Spirit and I) can pray in agreement. Consider Romans 8:26.

I will tell you that the various groups of people have been quite surprising, but I can clearly see why He would want me to pray for them. **This is my highest honor** - higher than "serving them" in the flesh or even preaching to them (not that those aren't good and necessary as well). **There is no greater honor than being invited to come alongside the Holy Spirit and Jesus in intercessory prayer.** It reduces me to tears EVERY TIME. I know this happens because His heart is breaking for them as well. My heart is joining His in its brokenness.

¹⁰*I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, Philippians 3:10*

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DISCERNMENT: There are times when something is revealed to me about someone I know (sometimes by the Spirit, but sometimes by another person). This calls for discernment and wisdom. I learned a long time ago that **the purpose of discernment about people is primarily to know how to pray for them.** It is not (usually) a license to speak to the person about it - and it is certainly not a license to tell others (**gossip! NO!**). I am to keep my mouth shut, except in reverent prayer.

Work up to about an hour of regular alone time with the Lord. Use this time to praise Him, thank Him, and then petition Him for yourself and others. (See Rx in the toolbox.) We will cover intercessory prayer as one of the BIGGEST opportunities for rewards in the final chapters.

PRAYER TYPE #2: Endless and without ceasing prayer.

This type of prayer is the opposite end of the spectrum from the first one but extremely important and necessary as well.

*⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—
_____. Philippians 4:8*

This type is to keep the Lord on our minds just about all the time. We keep thinking, keep wondering, what would please Him in the situation we are in at any given moment. No need to close our eyes (not recommended for sure if we are driving). But we can certainly pray for the other drivers on the road, even aloud if we are alone. We begin to look at the world and its inhabitants as if Jesus were right there with us. I can pray for 18-wheel drivers, that they stay safe and awake (as well as for their spiritual needs). I can pray for firemen and policemen going to emergency situations - again for safety and their spiritual needs.

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I can pray for soccer moms, school bus drivers and the other drivers in general. Driving is a great time for “endlessly and without ceasing” prayers.

Remember those old WWJD bracelets (What Would Jesus Do)? - that’s not a bad question to ask ourselves regularly. **Start looking at the world through Jesus’ eyes and ask Him (which is what prayer really is - communication with the most High God) how He wants us to act in any given situation.** Sometimes He wants us to pray for them, right then and there. Sometimes He wants us to interact with them in some way. Trust Him, He will tell us IF we practice obedience to what He says.

SIN

If He reveals His displeasure to us (we have sinned against Him or someone else, grieved or quenched His Spirit, etc.), we must immediately STOP and utilize the remedy He gave us:

⁹If we _____, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Failure to do so can close off the communication channel between us and the Holy Spirit. Take a bit of time sometime soon to study that whole chapter (1 John 1) - it is for BELIEVERS - not unbelievers.

Failing to confess and repent of our (current) sins does NOT take away our salvation, they were paid for at the cross - just as much as the ones committed prior to our salvation moment. But it can **stop the rewards-earning process in its tracks.** We should continue our “discussion” with the Holy Spirit in a bit more depth within 24 hours asking Him to reveal more to us about the specific sin and how to avoid it in the future. This is the *Sanctification* process (graphic on page 199 in the toolbox).

Can you now see how we have begun the transition from **WHAT DO I BELIEVE** to **HOW DO I BEHAVE?** We are moving from intellectual assent into true belief

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which dictates our behavior and will ultimately shape our character into the image of the blessed Son of God.

PHASE 2: HOW DO I BEHAVE?

Behavior follows belief. As we continue on our journey through life as believers, our actions that benefit the Kingdom should increase (remember that is what reward is all about – obeying Him and benefiting His Kingdom as a result).

A dominant part of the Lord's training program in that regard is the use of **Testing or Trials** that cause us to realize **our need of the Holy Spirit** to shape us into His image, the ultimate goal for our lives. I prefer to think of them as "opportunities" rather than Testing or Trials, but that's what the Scriptures call them, so we'll stay with that.

²Consider it _____, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be _____ and _____, not lacking anything [teleios]. James 1:2-4*

⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:48*

*perfect = teleios means complete, mature, lacking nothing. In this context it **does not mean sinless.**

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

A "test or trial" is anything that distresses us. It can be an illness or the death of a loved one. It can be someone treating us unkindly or unfairly at work. Or maybe it is something as simple as a traffic jam or that thing you went to the store for isn't available. Maybe the weather isn't what you wanted for some event you planned. Sometimes these are "good things" like a wedding or the birth of a child or a graduation event.

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We often think of sin as the “visible” (the Ten Commandments, for example) but the Lord sees worldliness as just as sinful. Here are just a few examples of worldliness noted in the Scriptures:

- jealousy
- selfish ambition
- strife
- envy
- bitterness
- unforgiveness
- conceit
- wrath
- criticism
- gossip
- being judgmental
- unkindness in general

We may be able to hide these from people, but not from the Lord.

These “good times” can be stressful too. The gamut is far and wide. It’s life on this earth! Remember, we live in the “halfway house” - (see *Halfway House* graphic on page 207 in the toolbox)..

Here’s the deal - as Christians we are always on display. Like it or not, people are “watching” and all too often delight in our failure to act with Christ-like grace and mercy because it helps justify their own behavior. But they aren’t the only ones watching. The Spirit, the Son and the Father are watching too. **They don’t delight in our failure - they delight in our success.** It is what they want and what our Lord will reward for when the time comes.

Using the faith we have right now, we can begin to respond differently to events happening to and around us to earn future approval, commendation and reward from our Savior. **If we began to view the challenging things of life from His perspective, rather than our own or that of the world, could we, would we begin to act/respond differently?**

For example, could we **exhibit** mercy and compassion for people who are hurting us rather than lashing out at them or avoiding them, even if we don’t feel it? Could we respond in a way that honors the Lord and shows the world what we believe about Him? It should.



I remember a preacher once saying, “Be careful what you ask for. If you ask the Lord to make you more loving, He is likely to put the most unloving person you ever met in your life or even right next to you at church!” Of course, that got a laugh. But it shouldn’t. Because that is exact how He will do it, through testing and trials (opportunities).

WARNING: if our attitude and behavior towards others is pretty much the same today as it was when we were first saved (unless that was very recently), we might ask ourselves why. If we don’t see any change in our attitudes and behavior as a result of

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our faith in Christ, there is a problem brewing.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.

²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are _____ .

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Perhaps the issue isn't just behavior so much as it is belief/faith which precedes behavioral change.

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in _____, ¹⁷so that the servant [man] of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The problem could be that we need **training, encouragement and accountability**. The Corinthian believers Paul is addressing are saved but **still acting "worldly."**

HOWEVER, it is possible that the problem could be that you aren't actually saved. And therefore, aren't experiencing **the influence of the Indwelling Spirit in our life**. This is worthy of careful consideration. If this is you, find a believer you trust and talk with them about this just to be sure.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. 2 Peter 1:10

PUTTING PHASE 1 AND 2 TOGETHER RESULTS IN PHASE 3

1. **Read/study the Scriptures** frequently, asking God to change who we are as a result of feeding on His Word and listening to the voice of His Spirit found there.
2. **Pray, including asking God to test our hearts for confession and cleansing** and help us **want** to make positive changes in our behavior. It is in the testing that our faith becomes strong.
3. When a trial begins, **stop and pray**, asking the Holy

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"Suffering has value.

My philosophy on suffering is that God is trying to teach me something. I know that in the end I get to keep those lessons and the pain goes away."

Dave McIntyre
Alone
Season 2 winner

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Spirit to **keep us from sinning** and show us how to **honor Jesus** in the situation we find ourselves in. Don't forget to confess sin and repent if needed - ask Him if repentance is in order. And don't worry, He will test us again, **because He loves us**.

PHASE 3: WHO DO I BECOME?

This is from where the greatest amount of reward comes. **It is WHO we become in Christ IF we are intentional in our walk.** It doesn't happen organically; it requires **effort** and **persistence**. This is when the Holy Spirit can use us in the greater work He is doing. Although the process of getting to this point isn't "organic," as we become more and more Christ-like we begin to function in the Spirit more and more. This is what our Lord wants. **It is how He will decide who will serve at the various levels of His government in the Millennial Kingdom.** It provides proof of who He can trust to carry out His will. It is whose character is most like His own.

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2 Peter 1:3-4*

*Knowledge = epignosis is recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment

We ask the Holy Spirit to continuously change us through this process. He is delighted to hear the request and will honor that request as it honors our Savior, the Lord Jesus. The actions of the first two phases are mostly our part (through obedience). Phase 3 is the Holy Spirit's part. And remember, this isn't a stopping place. It is a continuous process as long as we are alive. Look again at the *Glory Bound* graphics in the Toolbox,

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²²*Do not merely listen to the word, and so _____ yourselves. Do what it says.*
James 1:22

¹⁴*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14*

WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK LIKE?

LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD

All too often we search for things that are already plainly seen. We seek “big things” when an accumulation of “small things” produces greater results. Let’s look at **His will for all believers** that will result in reward earning and some practical ways they may be manifested in our lives.

In his excellent book, *Heavenly Rewards, Living with Eternity in Sight*, Dr. Mark Hitchcock says, “As I’ve mined God’s Word in the course of my own study, I’ve identified fourteen types of actions in this life that God has promised a reward in the future. These are what the Lord will be looking for when we stand before Him someday.”¹

Here is a summary taken from this book. You may also want to watch a 5-part sermon series by Dr. Hitchcock presenting this at www.BemaBuilders.org/videos.

1. **“How we treat other believers:** The Lord will graciously reward us based on how we treated other people on this earth, especially our fellow believers. Let’s lovingly minister to the needs of God’s people. He will never forget our labor of love.

¹⁰*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown _____ as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10*

2. **“How generous we are with our money:** During our brief stay on earth, we are given some of His assets to manage. How we manage them will follow us to heaven. Giving to those in need is a specific area of sharing that the Lord promises to reward, as long as

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our motive is right.

²⁰*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:20-21*

¹*“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have _____ from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4*

3. “How we support others in the ministry: Jesus will reward us for our secondary involvement and influence through our support of ministry of others.

⁴⁰*“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” Matthew 10:40-42*

4. “How well we accept mistreatment and injustice: If we suffer for our own foolishness or negligence, then that’s on us, but suffering for standing up for the truth brings reward. Not only are we to endure the insults from today’s culture, but we are to love unbelievers and do them good.

¹¹*“Blessed are you when people insult you,*

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*persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you _____.*¹²

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

- 5. “How we endure suffering and trials:** Patiently enduring and persevering in the dark valleys of life will bring the Lord’s praise someday when you stand before Him.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. Revelation 2:10

- 6. “How we spend our time:** Every person has 168 hours to spend each week. Much of that time is spent sleeping and taking care of mundane yet necessary responsibilities, yet the Lord expects a return on the investment of our time. He expects us to make the most of the time He’s given us. We need to count our days and make the most of them.

¹²Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of _____. Psalm 90:12

¹⁶making the most of _____, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16

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7. “How we run the race God has given us: According to the Scriptures, each believer has a race to run. I have mine, and you have yours. Our responsibility is to run our race with endurance and stay in our lane.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, Hebrews 12:1

8. “How effectively we control our body: We all faced temptations of the flesh: sexual immorality, lust, and **gluttony**. How well we discipline our bodies and bring them under control is one of the questions we must answer for in this life. There is no substitute for discipline. That’s not a popular word nowadays, but there’s no substitute for old-fashioned self-control and self-discipline when it comes to sins of the flesh. We must rigidly apply ourselves daily by spending quality time in the Bible, in prayer, and in fellowship with God’s people.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

²⁶Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be _____ for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁹If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand

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causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. Matthew 5:29-30

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9. “How many souls we witness to and win for Christ:

Every believer is called to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ. We are His ambassadors to this world. Sharing the gospel with others and leading them to faith in Jesus brings us reward. We all lack courage at times when it comes to sharing our faith. We need to pray earnestly for opportunities and boldness to share the good news with lost people around us. It is our responsibility to proclaim the gospel, and **it is the Holy Spirit who does the work of convicting and winning unbelievers. Only He can open a human heart.** Our job is simply to tell others the good news, and to tell it simply.

²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

¹⁹For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰Indeed, you are our _____. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

10. “How faithfully we look for Christ’s coming: The second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned more than 300 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament - that comes out to 1 every 30 verses. Jesus himself referred to his second coming at least 21 times. People are exhorted more than 50 times to be ready for the return of Jesus Christ. **Looking for Christ’s coming and preparing for it by living a Godly life will bring reward to us.** He is looking for people who are looking for Him.

⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed

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for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8

³⁵“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. Luke 12:35-38

- 11. “How passionately we pray:** Prayer is hard, humbling work. A lot of what we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer. In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called His followers to persistent prayer with a pure heart with the promise of reward. As always, motives matter. **Devoted prayer done in secret will be rewarded by the Lord when He comes.**

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:5-6

- 12. “How hospitable we are to strangers:** Every believer in Christ is charged to be hospitable to one another without complaint. Showing hospitality to strangers and those in need may not seem like much in the larger scheme of life, yet the Lord highly honors hospitality. In Luke 14:12-14, Jesus isn’t saying we can’t invite our friends, family, or the wealthy to our home; He is saying don’t invite only them. He is

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saying we need to reach out to the needy and disenfranchised as well. How hospitable are you? With neighbors? With people at your church? With foreign students at the local college or university? With those in need? Never forget Jesus promises to honor the hospitable.

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."
Luke 14:12-14

- 13. "How faithful we are in our vocation:** If you're an adult with a full-time job, then you are spending more time in your occupation than any other endeavor. The manner in which you fulfill the responsibilities of your job can bring rewards in the future. How you do your work will be reviewed by the Lord and rewarded where appropriate. How you do your work now will determine the nature of your work forever.

²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, _____, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:22-24

- 14. "How humble we are:** Jesus said humility will be greatly rewarded. Humility is a beautiful virtue every believer should desire, yet it's a slippery one to possess because as the saying goes, the moment you begin to think you have it, you lost it. Humility is elusive. How do we become humble? **The secret**

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¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: **The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.** ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So **let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**
Romans 13:11-12

is this: “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and he will exalt you.” It’s in the presence of God that we humble ourselves. Seeing who He is in creation and in the Bible gives us a proper view of who we are.

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
James 5:10

⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the _____ in the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 18:4*”¹

Don’t delay my friends - carefully consider how short our time is to show our Lord our gratitude and faithfulness in tangible ways that are pleasing to Him.



UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

1. Did you apply anything new last week from Chapter 8? What was it, how did you apply it?
2. How does the list of *Rewardables* presented here compare with your prior thoughts about earning rewards? Consider dividing the 14 items Dr. Hitchcock presented as “rewardables” between the group members to discuss practical application of each one.
3. As you consider the 3-parts of **Glory Bound** presented in Chapter 8, does the list of *Rewardables* presented in this chapter give you hope that you will hear “Well done good and faithful servant” from our Lord? _____ Does it encourage you to work through the **Glory Bound** process more? _____ If so, what will you begin doing now? - be specific, even consider writing a brief plan of action to help you achieve goals. Discuss your plan with the group.