

What does “Glorify God” mean? How do we give God glory?

1. **Who Receives and Who Gives God Glory?** V1, “Not to us, O Yahweh, not to us.” We are not the recipients of glory. God alone is the one to whom the glory should go, V1. There is no glory in Israel. Any glory we boast of is in vain. All good originates from God, He deserves all glory.
 - Is. 42:8, God does not share His glory with another. His name reveals His character. Honor follows His name.
 - The dead do not give glory to God, none of those in silence, V17-18. Ps. 6:5, “In Sheol who will give You thanks?” Ps. 88:10-12, do departed spirits rise and praise you? Is. 38:18, “For Sheol cannot thank You, death cannot praise You.”
 - God alone is the recipient of glory, and those who are spiritually alive give Him glory.
2. **For What Reason Does God Receive Glory?**
 - Context of Psalm 115: This is one of 6 Hallel psalms (113-118) that were sung by Israel as they left Egypt and are sung at Passover. Israel had this song even as they were carried off into exile under Babylon and returned partially in 536 BC under Cyrus the Great, the Persian.
 - 1) God does what He pleases, God is in the heavens, V3. For many centuries Jews have been mocked by those saying, “Where is your God?” Ps. 42:3; 115:2, Joel 2:17, Micah 7:10.
 - 2) God is the heavens, because He made them and everything else, V15-16. God has given the earth to men to care for, but it is still His, Gen. 1:28-29. He gave it to men by His own will. Pagan gods and idols have nothing to give, Yahweh upholds it all, Col. 1:16-20. We own nothing.
3. **Why is God’s Glory Superior?** V4-8, idols are made by men’s hands, God is the Uncreated One.
 - a. They have mouths but can’t speak. V5, God created the heavens and earth by His Words, Gen. 1:1, John 1:1, Ps. 33:6.
 - b. They have eyes but can’t see. V5, God sees all, even when man tries to hide himself, Jer. 23:23-24, Ps. 139:7-8.
 - c. They have ears, but can’t hear: V6, Yahweh made the eyes and ear, and can hear all things, Psalm 94:8-11.
 - d. They have noses, but can’t smell: V6, God smells the offerings made unto Him. He commands and receives worship, Gen. 8:20-21.
 - e. They have hands, but touch no one: V7, God touches the mouth and gives words, Jer.1:9.
 - f. They have feet, but can’t walk: V7, God walked with Adam in the Garden and among us as Jesus, the Son of God, Gen. 3:8.
 - g. God speaks, idols are silent. The Word of God created everything, John 1:1-3.
4. **How Does God Receive Glory?** V9-11, “Trust in Yahweh.” Col. 1:13, God has rescued us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.
 - a. We give God glory when we trust in His word and do all He has told us to do.

Further Discussion and Application

As we consider our strength, our health, our skills, our talents, and all that we possess, how do we properly give God honor and glory for what He has given us? As we have matured as believers, how have we learned how frail and weak we are? What happens to our strength, skill, talent and abilities? What would you tell a younger man and woman about what happens as age and wisdom are gained?

2 Kings 19: 8-19, 35-37 gives the end of the story of Sennacherib. As you read through the story what arrogance is displayed by Sennacherib? What assumptions does he make about Israel and his strength and power? Why as humans do we judge others at their weakest point when we are filled with pride at our seemingly strongest? What is the proper view of life and service towards the Lord? What should we be thankful for each day? What should we use our strength to do each day?

If you were to make a list of what the Christian life is, what would be on that list? What are the most important aspects of this Christian life? How simple is the list? How do we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Yahweh is a shield and help for those who trust in Him. V9-11 gives a promise to those who put their faith in Him. There are a few guarantees in life: death is one. Why must we receive the hope of an Eternal God who is in control of everything? Hebrews 11:6 speaks of the imperative of faith to please the Lord. How have you trusted and believed in the Lord in your life? What is our greatest hope when this life is over?