

ENTER IN (John on Patmos) PRACTICING FOR THE MAIN EVENT

H.O.F. 9-15-2000

INTRODUCTION:

Matthew 17 tells of the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain with Peter, James, John, Moses and Elijah.

The word translated *transfigured* gives us our English word *metamorphosis*, which means *a change on the outside that comes from the inside*.

When a caterpillar builds a cocoon and later emerges as a butterfly, it is due to the process of *metamorphosis*.

Our Lord's glory in Matthew 17 was not *reflected* glory, but *radiated* glory from within!

There was a change on the outside that came from the inside as He allowed His essential glory to shine forth. (See Hebrews 1:3)

For this one special moment Peter, James and John saw this marvelous transfiguration. This was not an everyday occurrence – it was a one time event for these three; because, when Jesus came to earth He laid aside His glory. BUT, when He finished His work on the cross, He received back His eternal glory and now shares it with us. (See John 17:22-24)

No wonder John, under Holy Spirit inspiration, would write:

**“And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten
of the Father, full of grace and truth!”
(John 1:14)**

The good news:

We do not have to wait for heaven to share in this transfigured glory!
When we surrender to God, He changes (transfigures) us
from “glory to glory!”

II Corinthians 3:18

“But we all with open faces, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, Are changed from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of God.”

LIVING BIBLE:

**“We wear no veils; therefore, like mirrors,
our faces can/will reflect His glory!”**

It is important that we do not attempt to hide anything from God.
No veils are needed or permitted in His Presence.

Psalm 45:13

“The king’s daughter is all glorious within.”

(pg. 4 missing)

All we have to do is go through the door God has provided.

If we aren’t careful, we’ll get distracted.
Let’s look at three.

I DISTRACTION - Opportunities

Entertainment opportunity

Athletic opportunity

Financial opportunity

Relational opportunity

Investment opportunity

Career opportunity

Business opportunity

Vacation opportunity

The list is endless!

No matter how good they seem – don’t sacrifice the best for the good.

And more often than not, it is good things that have the greatest potential
to distract you from the best thing – entering in to the Glory!

As you struggle with the temptation to squeeze one more “good”
activity into a schedule that is bursting at the seams, ask yourself the
question – IF I DO THIS, WILL I HAVE THE TIME TO ENTER IN?

Work hard to distinguish between the good things and the main things,
the good opportunities and the voice in your heart that whispers,

“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

(Song of Solomon 2:13)

II DISTRACTION – Criticism

If you are passionate about something that is yet to be, eventually someone will criticize you and question your motives.

Criticism causes frustration and anger.

Whatever it is, whoever said it, write it down on paper and lay it on the altar as Hezekiah did the hateful letter from Sennacherib in

II Kings 19:8-19.

Hezekiah prayed:

“O, Lord God of Israel, which dwelleth between the cherubims,
Thou art the God, even Thou alone! Lord, bow down Thy ear
And hear; Open Lord, Thine eyes and see, and hear the word of
Sennacherib.”

And then the battle was really on!

Vent to your heavenly Father!

You are only accountable to the One who has invited you to enter in.

I Thessalonians 5:24

“Faithful is He who calls you; and He will bring it to pass.”

III DISTRACTION – Fear

Fear keeps us out of the glory.

Afraid of wildfire
 the counterfeit
 false professions of faith
 a few teeth might be filled
 someone might see a little gold dust on their skin
 someone might fall out in the Spirit
 or wade in a spiritual river
 or, God forbid, might say they swam or
 were submerged in a spiritual river
 or, worse yet, might fall down, convulsed with
 uncontrollable laughter!

HEAR ME!

Entering in involves an element of the unknown!

Don't allow fear of the unknown to cause you to miss out on what

God has planned for you!

To rob you!

To distract you!

We cannot get so focused on what might be, that we lose sight of what *should* be and *could* be.

If we give in to fear, we begin shrinking back, pulling away.

Don't allow what *could* take place to cause you to back down from pursuing what *ought* to take place.

MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION:

In light of what God has already revealed to you,
should you retreat now?

God with me to Revelation 1, to an Island called Patmos.

It's a dismal, volcanic rock – lonely, barren, inhabited only by the miserable exiles and criminals, who were doomed to wear out their lives there.

Here we find John – one of the most honored servants of God.

He is: Shut in – cannot get out.

Shut up – no one to talk with.

Shut out – away from the fellowship of believers.

Why? For preaching the Word of God and for testifying of Jesus Christ!

It is here, in exile, he has this glorious vision!

YOU may be “exiled” tonight –

Alone,

Circumstances beyond your control,

Dark forest,
Black hole,
Mind wrapped in depression,
Doctor's diagnosis hanging over your head like a black cloud
Unkind words have been spoken *to* you,
Lies have been told *on* you,
Betrayed!

YOU WANT OUT!
YOU PRAYED FOR A WAY OUT!
YOU BEGGED FOR A WAY OUT!

How do you think John felt?
Exiled, Persecuted,
Lied about, Alone.
He no doubt thought, maybe even prayed, about getting out.

But you need to remember –
IT WAS IN EXILE THAT –
1 Jacob saw God at Bethel.
2 Moses saw God at the burning bush.
3 Elijah heard the still small voice.
4 Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord by the River Chebar.
5 Daniel saw “The Ancient of Days.”
6 & here in exile JOHN SAW THE GLORIFIED CHRIST!

God did not give His beloved disciple a way *out*!
He gave him a way *in*!

John said,
“I saw a door; and I heard a voice like a trumpet
saying, ‘Come up higher!’”

God doesn't want you out! He wants you to ENTER IN!

Stop mourning for what cannot be helped!
Stop looking for a way out!

Start looking for the door into the Presence of God, into the Glory!
Why would you not want to leave this hedonistic, materialistic,
neo-pagan, cess-pool of a world
for
the throne room of God's Perfect Lamb!!?

Why would you not want to trade this politically correct madhouse
for one hour in the Presence of Diety!!?

ENTER IN!

Jesus said in Luke 11:9

**“Knock and the door *will be* opened (for) the door *is* opened to
everyone who knocks.”**

Let me encourage you.

John n ot only saw a door, he saw a throne!

He said it “SET in Heaven.”

There is no action of placing it or setting it up.

It is already in place, situated.

Psalms 93:2 “Thy throne is established of old.”

Psalms 45:6 “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

Hebrews 1:8 (The same)

Psalms 89:14 “Your throne is founded on two strong pillars –
the one is justice and the other righteousness.”

GO THROUGH THE DOOR.

COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE!

(Hebrews 4:16)

The throne is secure, immovable, unshakeable.

A lukewarm church has not moved the throne.

Hell hasn't moved the throne.

Satan hasn't moved the throne.

IT'S STILL IN PLACE

AND IT'S NOT EMPTY!!

THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY IS STILL ON THE THRONE!

He is still ruling and reigning

He still has all power in heaven and in earth!

“I AM ALPHA and OMEGA, THE BEGINNING and THE END,
THE FIRST and THE LAST!”

“I AM the same yesterday, today and forever!”

He is Jehovah God; and there is no god like Jehovah!

He reigns supreme!

He is clothed with majesty and with strength!

He is eternal – from everlasting to everlasting!

He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is STILL in authority!

GLORY!

One last thing: John said, “I saw a rainbow!”

A token of God’s faithfulness in keeping His promises.

This signified to John that God’s promises and His Word were still

In effect. Still secure.

“Heaven and earth may pass away, but not my Word!”

What He has promised you will come to pass.

You can trust Him.

You can trust His Word.

Psalm 93

“His testimonies are very sure.”

(promises, words)

The Door is open!

The Throne is established forever!

He who sits on the Throne is Faithful and True!

He keeps His promises.

And, He's saying to you, "Come up higher. Enter in. Experience my glory!

Friend, go with the flow of God's move. Let the fire of God burn in your bones. Don't let all the king's horses, or all the king's men keep you out of the glory. Walk in the light God is revealing to you right now. This can be your finest hour.

Two questions:

- (1) If you don't obey God will you survive?
- (2) And, if you do survive, will God take His hand off of you and replace you with someone who will listen?

"But," you say, "I have so many questions."

In the glory you won't have to seek for answers; they will already be in your heart.

Hebrews 8:10

"I will write my laws (words) in (your) mind so that (you) will know what I want (you) to do without my even telling (you)."

The glory has been experienced in England, Europe, South Africa, Australia, Scandinavia, the Third World, and in Pensacola.

Why not your town? Your church? Your prayer closet? Why not you?

ENTER IN!

COMMITMENT SERVICE: Each lady has brought a towel to the service. Place chairs around the wall in a circle. Wash your sister's feet with tears and wipe them with her towel. Then take your towel spread it out for an altar; then lay down on it and say, "I beseech you, Oh Lord, show me Thy Glory!" Wait for it! It will come!