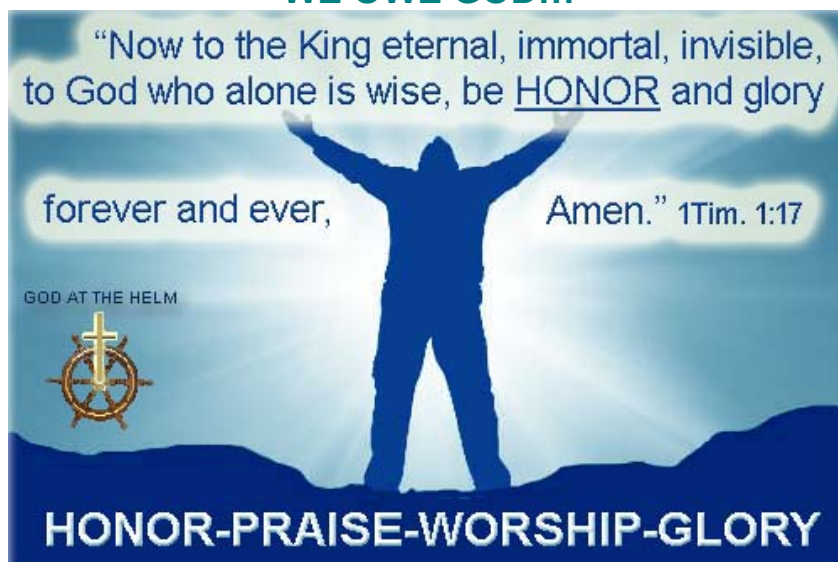


## WE OWE GOD...



We read in the bible that we owe God Honor, Praise, Worship, and Glory. Let's start with honoring God; what does it mean? Honoring someone is defined as to live up to the terms and conditions of our commitments.

As believers in God and Christ, we made a commitment to submit to God, take up our cross daily and follow Christ. In essence, salvation is an agreement between God and us where we admit our sinful nature, repent, surrender our lives to Christ and commit to follow Him. Therefore, honoring God is to abide and live by that commitment.

From the beginning of creation, God laid out the responsibility that applies to mankind; “What does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deut. 10:12) Additionally, Rev 4:11 declares, “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” Honoring the One who created all things and gave us life should be at the very core of our hearts. Should we expect God to grant us eternal life in His presence, if we refuse to commit to honor Him?

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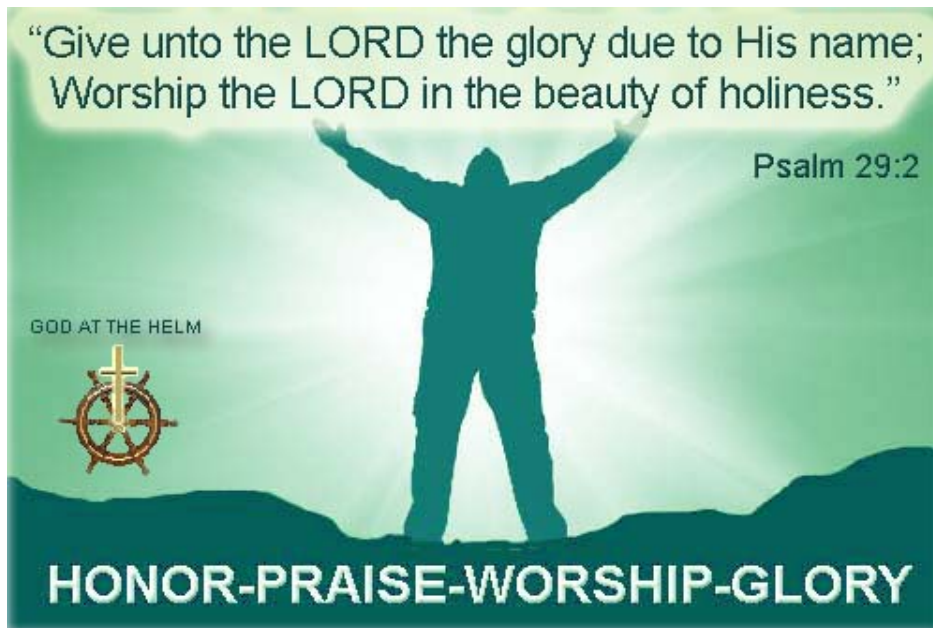
Praise is defined as an expression of approval and admiration, expressed in celebration of grateful homage in words or song. In other words, praise is expressed to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments.

In relation to God, mankind is expected to offer praises for all His accomplishments, starting with creation, as well as His glorious power, love, righteousness, and holiness. Paul, in Hebrews 13:15 said, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name." In other words, we owe God praises continually, in admiration and thanksgiving for His divine nature and power beyond our understanding.

Additionally, as man disobeyed God at the very start, none of us deserve to live. Yet God, in His infinite love, has provided us with an offer for salvation, if we will simply commit to surrender and follow Christ. In Col 3:16 Paul said, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Praises to God aren't conditioned on our situation, but rather are due because of who He is and what He has accomplished for us.

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Worship is defined as an expression of reverence and adoration towards a divine being with supernatural powers. Obviously it is reserved for God only, and we must not worship nature, animals or idolize and worship people.

Jesus, when tempted in the desert, was asked by Satan to worship him, and in return Satan would give Him the kingdoms of this world. Jesus answered him, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." Luke 4:8

This clearly describes that we are to worship God only, and that worship encompasses much more than words, but must have its source at the very core our hearts, so it is followed by action and service to God. That's why, in John 4:24 Jesus said, "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Worship then must have its source in our hearts recognizing God as our Creator, and our very lives should reflect our worship to Him. When the apostle John saw an angel, as described in Revelation 14:7, he heard him say "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Does our life presently reflect a heart disposition of worship to God?

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In our world, we highlight people who accomplish extraordinary discoveries that benefit us. We praise and recognize them for such accomplishments, but we also realize that they used sources of knowledge and used talents that God imparted them with.

To glorify means that we provide praise and honor to an extreme degree, for greatness that is beyond mankind's powers and abilities. It incorporates awe, great beauty and perfection, as well as extreme power that belong only to God. That's why Revelation 4:11 says; "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." In other words, glory is God's only because He is THE source of all creation, of which we are part of. Paul in Rom. 11:36 said, "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever."

Can we add to God's glory? Obviously, since glory belongs to God only, we cannot give what we don't possess. However, our duty is to celebrate and behold God's glory in spirit, and through a submitted life to God and Christ.

The reason Paul said: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory OF God." (1 Cor 10:31)

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