

THE COMPLEX GLORY OF GOD

By James Mullen

The glory of God and its four components are:

1. **What God is within Himself**
2. **The manifestation or display of that**
3. **The communication of His glory to the creature's understanding**
4. **The proper, reasonable, emotional, responsible reply reflecting upward in praise and adoration, and lived out toward others**

(Exodus 33:18-34:8; Isaiah 6:1-8)

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to Him?’”

Romans 11:33-35

- I) **What God is within Himself, the intrinsic gravity and weight of who He is in His own Godhead (Isaiah 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; 1 Chronicles 29:11).**
- a) He is one Being (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6).
 - b) This one Being eternally exists in three, distinct Persons (Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 48:16; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:18-20).
 - c) Each Person in the Godhead has all the attributes, characteristics and qualities of God, is called God and is worshipped as God (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-18; John 20:28, 14:13; Psalm 139:7-10; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18).
 - d) God is an infinite (Psalm 147:5; Job 11:7), holy (Isaiah 6:1-4; Revelations 4:8), invisible (1 Timothy 6:15-16; Colossians 1:15), triune Spirit (John 4:24; Matthew 28:18-20) who is present in fullness everywhere (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Genesis 28:15; John 1:48; Psalm 139:7-10).

“For of Him (from Him) . . .” Romans 11:36

II) **The manifestation, exhibition or display of Himself (Ezekiel 10:4, 43:2)**

- a) Displayed through creation (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20)
- b) Exhibited in history/providence (Hebrews 11:1-40; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 9:1-11:32)
- c) Manifested immutably in His Word (2 Thessalonians 3:1; Psalm 19:8, 119:130, 138:2)
- d) Shown most clearly in the Incarnate Son, the God-Man (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15), and His Person, Offices and Work (Hebrews 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 2:8)

“. . . and through Him . . .” Romans 11:36

III) **The communication of that to the creature's understanding (Exodus 33:18-19)**

- a) In salvation (2 Peter 1:2-3; Philippians 3:3; James 1:18; John 3:3, 5)
- b) By providence/history (Hebrews 11:1-40; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Psalm 136:1-26)
- c) Through the Word illuminated by the Spirit (Exodus 33:18-19, Jeremiah 13:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- d) As seen in Jesus when He is understood and known (Ephesians 3:14-19; Hebrews 12:2-3; John 15:7-8)

“. . . and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory forever. Amen” Romans 11:36

IV) **The love and joy consummated in praise and adoration, giving God the glory (Psalm 50:23; Isaiah 48:9-11)**

- a) Upward in worship (Psalm 100; Luke 1:46-47)
- b) Outward in loving fruits of service to others (1 Peter 4:11; Philippians 1:9-11)
- c) Evangelism (Psalm 117, 105:1-3)
- d) Godly habits and lifestyles, which display His glory to all (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12; Hebrews 5:14)

This experience of participating in God's glory (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) will be made full when we are glorified (Philippians 3:21; Romans 8:17-18, 2:10; Colossians 3:4).

Challenge: Pursue knowledge, love and joy in God's glory through His Word by meditating on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2-3; Colossians 3:1-4, 16-17)