

What are we Waiting for? "

S. Kay Young, May 24, 2020

In the second reading, Paul spoke in his letter to Peter about a fiery ordeal, and attack by the devil himself! Not just a personal ordeal, but one that all of our sisters & brothers suffer with us. The times sound pretty bad... and we're in challenging times now.

We ourselves may not be suffering sickness; but don't belittle that we are suffering from isolation, loneliness, and powerlessness. I spend part of my every day contacting family & friends (yes!, some on facebook) just to check in. Calling or writing ...Are you doing this too? I have actually set alarms to remind me of time – so the day doesn't just leak away. It helps to hear from others doing the same; a little cleaning, a little sorting, cooking with what's on hand. Making do, keeping busy. Paul said that after a little suffering, God himself will restore, strengthen & establish us, through Christ's own Glory. I find that comforting.

The Gospel today uses the word glory and glorified 5 times. It confused me.

I did a quick look-up of the word "Glory" and I felt like Alice falling down the rabbit hole.

So what is GLORY?

In Genesis, Moses wants to see God and Yahweh says NO. Moses is hidden from God's glory under God's hand as he passes by, and even so he had to veil himself because he actually shone. Maybe not every minute. Expectant mothers, newlyweds, we just get a peek at their love. Have you ever met someone who actually glows – veritably vibrates with love? Glory has to do with that light; it is visible. According to an article on Barabbas.com, _____* ↓
Glory is the manifested presence of God. God sheds glory wherever He goes. Jesus is glorified as God's own son.

In today's gospel, Jesus prays to the Father that we be glorified as God's children, having been taught by Jesus Himself. We should accept his for what it is: A great honor from God. Indeed, the Hebrew word (Kah-Vode) means a heaviness or burden, as with reputation or importance.

So how is this? I have seen God's Glory, but people? Us? I believe that our burden, our job, is to reflect this glory as if we were diamonds; as if eternal life is truly ours. A present reality. Not an escape from suffering; Not an escape from flames or joining angels in the far distance. NO. John sees eternal life as a union of knowing that is available now; to love & be loved, to be fully known and fully know. To shed the fear that such knowledge would make us less loveable and

WHAT EXACTLY IS "GLORY"?
* Article By: Professor Thomas A.
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<http://www.barabbas.com/glory/>

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less loved. John believes that this love is ours. What are we waiting for?

Do not be discouraged! We are doing this right now. We are reaching out to each other in our alone-ness. We are wearing masks and making masks, carrying food & sending messages of encouragement. We are keeping prayer chains open – indeed opening our hearts to strangers who are suffering is a very real ministry as we sit praying in our monastery homes. We know. We have been given the burden of God's glory; to love as Jesus loved. To reflect God's glory to each other and back to Him. To be one. Now.