



CHAPTER 1

THE GLORY OF GOD,
HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. Ephesians 1:17

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Isaiah 60:1

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes the Father as the source from whom all divine splendor, beauty, holiness and perfection proceed in their manifestation. Isaiah the prophet saw the glory of God as light and penned these words above for you and me. We must arise out of our discouragement, lukewarmness and comfort zones and, by seeking God with all of our hearts, allow Him to clothe us with His glory.

LIVING IN HIS GLORIOUS PRESENCE

GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE

For forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites experienced the manifest presence of God in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night!

For forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites experienced the manifest presence of God in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. There were many other manifestations of God's glory. For instance:

When Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony ... , the skin of his face shone. Exodus 34:29

When this happened, Aaron and the other children of Israel were afraid to even come near Moses. He lived much of the time in the presence of God and talked with Him "face to face" (Exodus 33:11).

The prophets Elijah and Elisha exhibited this same glory. Even in his tomb, the glory was still so heavy upon the corpse of Elisha that when a dead man was thrown in upon it, the dead was restored to life. This shows that there is resurrection power in

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God's glorious presence. Death cannot exist in that very weighty presence.

THE GLORY UPON JESUS

This same glory was upon Jesus. The Scriptures say of Him:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost [God's presence] and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

This is the reason the lame walked, the blind received their sight, the dead were raised and the oppressed were delivered everywhere He went. The glory of God that was upon Jesus was being visibly revealed through His love. The power He had was nothing less than the very presence of the living God upon Him.

When soldiers came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked them, "*Whom seek ye?*" (John 18:4). "*Jesus of Nazareth,*" the soldiers replied. "*I am he,*" Jesus said (John 18:5). The moment He spoke those three words, something very powerful happened:

They went backward, and fell to the ground. John 18:6

The glory of God was so great upon the very words of Jesus, our Lord, that those powerful soldiers could no longer stand.

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HIS HIGHEST PRIORITY WAS TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER

Jesus' highest priority while He was here on earth was to be in the presence of the Father at all times. To accomplish this, He arose early and spent much time alone with God. He was totally dependent upon the Father and was continually led by the Holy Spirit. If Jesus needed that, how much more do you and I need to spend time in the presence of our Lord and King, Jesus! We need to start each day with a quiet time with Him. If we did this more consistently, our lives would surely be transformed.

THE GLORY UPON PAUL AND PETER

Paul, describing his own life-changing visitation from the Lord, said to King Agrippa:

At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me.

Acts 26:13

On an earlier occasion, he gave further insight into his experience:

And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

Acts 22:11

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That was a powerful demonstration of God's presence.

At times the glory of God was so great upon Peter that even those who came under his "*shadow*" were healed (Acts 5:15). His release from prison came because God's presence and glory were revealed in that place:

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light [the glory] shined in the prison And his chains fell off from his hands. Acts 12:7

GOD CHOOSES WHEN AND WHERE TO DISPLAY HIS PRESENCE

God is omnipresent, meaning everywhere:

Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.
Jeremiah 23:24

There are moments, however, particularly during times of intense worship on our part, when His presence seems to become so heavy, so great, that it can be seen and/or felt with the natural senses. This is what we call the glory of God, and it is His manifest presence. God's glory reveals His splendor, His beauty and the magnificence of His personality. We particularly see it in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

I EXPERIENCE THE GLORY OF GOD

When I had known the Lord for only a few months, I

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had an experience with the glory of God. Pattie and I were attending a church service, and it was now over, and yet many of us who had attended were still lingering at the altar, some praising God in English, but most of us praying in other tongues. I myself was worshiping the Lord through singing in tongues, and as I continued to do this, the presence of God began to envelop me. Soon my hands began to shake and vibrate. I felt God's glory all around me. I have felt that same glory often through the years when I sing in a heavenly language.

What we call "the anointing" of the Holy Spirit refers to the empowerment given to us at salvation and, much more so, when we are filled with the Spirit. This anointing empowers us to testify, preach and teach. It also gives us wisdom, courage and motivation to do the work of the Lord.

The glory of God includes the anointing, but it is a far greater manifestation of it. In the glory, the nature and character of God in His holiness and power are much more fully revealed. His glory can be seen and felt, and in the glory, there is beauty, peace and joy. God's glory is the very atmosphere of Heaven—His glorious presence.

THE GLORY UPON JOHN LAKE, THE FAMOUS HEALING EVANGELIST

The great healing evangelist, John G. Lake, experienced this glory. He said, "Often, when I would shake people's hands, they would fall out under the power of God. At other times, it happened when they came within

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six feet of me. I knew the purpose was to make Christ real to everyone watching." (Copeland, Kenneth, 1994. *John G. Lake, His Life, His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith*, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kenneth Copeland Publications, Page xxiv).

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE GLORY OF GOD

Years before I became a born-again Christian, I knew there was something distinctly different about the great American evangelist Billy Graham. I could see it in his face and hear it in his words. What was it? I wasn't sure, but it seemed to me that it must be the presence of God.

Indeed, this was the case. Rev. Graham preached in that glory, and He lived in that glory. Therefore, the character of Christ radiated forth from his life.

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THAT WOMAN WHO CHANGED MY LIFE

God gave me a beautiful gift in my lovely and talented wife, Pattie. Soon after we met, it was she who challenged me to seek a greater reality in life.

"Jack, can you answer these questions?" she said to

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me one day. And the questions she posed to me were: “Who are you? And what is your purpose in life?” Each of us needs to be able to answer both of these questions. One of the saddest things in life is to never know one’s purpose for being here in the first place. God has a plan to bring meaning and significance into our lives, and He desires to reveal our purpose to us.

I tried to ignore both questions and quickly changed the subject. But, in God’s timing, I would find the answers, and in the process, I wound up, to my complete surprise, finding God Himself.

WE HAD A “FULL” LIFE

God gave Pattie and me four beautiful children. We loved each other and our children deeply. We were blessed with money, hobbies and social position. What more could we ask for? I wondered. Nevertheless, I often said to myself, I know there’s more to life for Pattie and me than this.

We both had a desire in our hearts for an unknown “something,” something that was clearly missing. We were faithful church members and “good” people. We didn’t know that what we were actually searching for was God, but we later learned that He’s the only one who can fill the void in each of our lives.

The Holy Spirit was leading us in a direction that would change us forever, and He desires to orchestrate life-transforming events in your life also. Will you let Him do it?

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OUR FIVE-YEAR SEARCH FOR THAT UNKNOWN “SOMETHING”

In the late 1960s, Pattie and I began a five-year search for that unknown “something” that had eluded us until then. I began trading on the stock market, I added a real estate division to our insurance business, and I obtained a second master’s degree. But none of these filled the empty spot in my life. Only an intimate relationship with God through His Son Jesus could bring the fulfillment for which we were searching.

Through a series of divine connections, I was about to find out the reason for my existence—why I had been born.

THAT SAME PRESENCE (GLORY OF GOD) AGAIN

On June 17, 1967, at a Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship International meeting in our town, the glory of God radiated from the face of a young lady. Her name was Ruth Heflin, and she got up and sang and testified in the meeting. She had so much joy and peace, and I could feel the love of God flowing from her. I was experiencing the same presence of God I had felt years ago while watching Billy Graham preach.

At the end of the meeting, we were able to speak with her, and I said, “Ruth, I would love for you to come over and have dinner with Pattie and me and share with us about your awesome experiences with God.”

“I would like that,” she said, and then she boldly

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added, “perhaps, at that time, you’ll also desire the baptism in the Holy Spirit.” What in the world is the baptism in the Holy Spirit? I thought to myself. Well, I would soon find out.

RUTH CAME TO OUR HOME FOR DINNER

The following Saturday we spent a remarkable evening with Ruth Heflin. She told us of her experiences traveling from nation to nation by the voice of God, by dreams and visions and prophecies and how large numbers of people were being saved, healed and transformed as a result. Wow! I knew in that moment that I was hearing truths that would change my life forever.

“Ruth,” I asked her, “do you mean God actually speaks to you about where and when to go, leads you to the people He wants you to meet and even gives you the finances you need?”

“Yes, He does, Jack,” she as-

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sured me. "He desires to direct each step for all of our lives."

I stood there in amazement that God was really doing such things in these days. And then I asked the million-dollar question: "Could God use Pattie and me in such a fashion? Will we be able to hear His voice like you do? Will we see God heal the sick through us? Will we be able to really come to know God as you do?"

She grinned broadly. "If you desire it enough," she said, "yes, you can!"

When I heard those words, an excitement rose up within me, and I began to hunger for what this young woman had. Through her, the Lord was wooing us, directing us and guiding us step by step into our divine destiny.

PATTIE'S BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

"It's getting late, and I'm going through jet lag," Ruth said eventually. "I must get home and get some rest."

"But, Ruth, you can't leave just yet," Pattie said to her. "I want more of God. Please pray for me."

Ruth laid hands on Pattie and prayed the simplest prayer: "Jesus, make Yourself real to her." Soon tears were streaming down Pattie's cheeks. Jesus had come into her heart, and she was born into His Kingdom just like that.

As God's presence grew stronger upon Pattie, Ruth excitedly said, "Speak out those strange words that are on your lips!" With this encouragement, soon words in an

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unknown language began to pour out of Pattie's mouth. She was speaking in other languages, or "*other tongues*" as the Bible calls them (Acts 2:4). Before long, she began praying in a second language and then a third. God had mightily baptized my darling wife in the Holy Spirit.

After Pattie had been praying in the Spirit for about fifteen minutes or so, I excitedly asked, "Pattie, how do you feel? What happened?" I couldn't wait to hear her reply.

"Jack," she said, "something awesome has happened. I felt the arms of Jesus go around me, and I can still feel His presence. I had a number of visions while I was praying, and I feel a peace I've never known before."

Wow! This is amazing, I thought. I knew that God was changing our lives and our future.

MY TURN

But the evening wasn't over yet. I said to Ruth, "It's my turn. Don't leave now. I want whatever Pattie got!"

"Wonderful!" she said. "Would you like me to pray for you now?"

"Please do," I replied.

Ruth laid hands on my head and did what we now call leading someone to the Lord. I received Jesus into my heart and soon I, too, heard strange words coming out of my mouth. I also had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Something deep was happening on the inside of me. I felt both peace and excitement being birthed within me.

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I knew our lives would never be the same again. Pattie and I were on a Holy Spirit journey that would take us through decades of further changes in our lives, and it would also take us to over forty nations of the world.

We were beginning to live in God's presence, in His glory, and we now had a passion to know Him intimately and to fulfill His call upon our lives.

HUNGRY SEEKERS

Many people doubt that they can so easily be blessed by God. They've failed Him many times, and they've been disappointed often. Can they still fulfill God's purpose for their life? They wonder. Can they really live in His presence? It seems too wonderful to be true. But irrespective of your age, education, finances, health or the mistakes you may have made in the past, the answer is yes to each of these questions.

God will resurrect His plans for you. He can bring victory out of every disappointment and heartache in your past. And He will cause all things to *"work together for good"* in your life (Romans 8:28). He will restore the years *"the locust," "the cankerworm," "the caterpillar and the palmerworm"* have eaten away (Joel 2:25).

Jesus paid the price on the cross of Calvary for this to be possible, and now it's up to each of us to seek Him with all of our heart. To have His best, we must give Him our best. He will then enable us to live in His presence and to fulfill the destiny in our lives. He promises that when we draw near to Him, He will always draw near to

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us (see James 4:8). These, too, are the Lord's promises to you and to me:

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the [great] things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Isn't that wonderful—even breathtaking? Awesome years are ahead for each of those who will passionately seek the Lord, and that can include you and me. So, let's do it.

Now, please turn to the Q&A Worksheet for this chapter on the next page. After answering the questions as best you can, go to the following page to review my answers. After you have completed that, let's go on to Chapter 2 and learn the next step of your journey toward *Living in His Glorious Presence*. ❀

Q&A WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTER 1

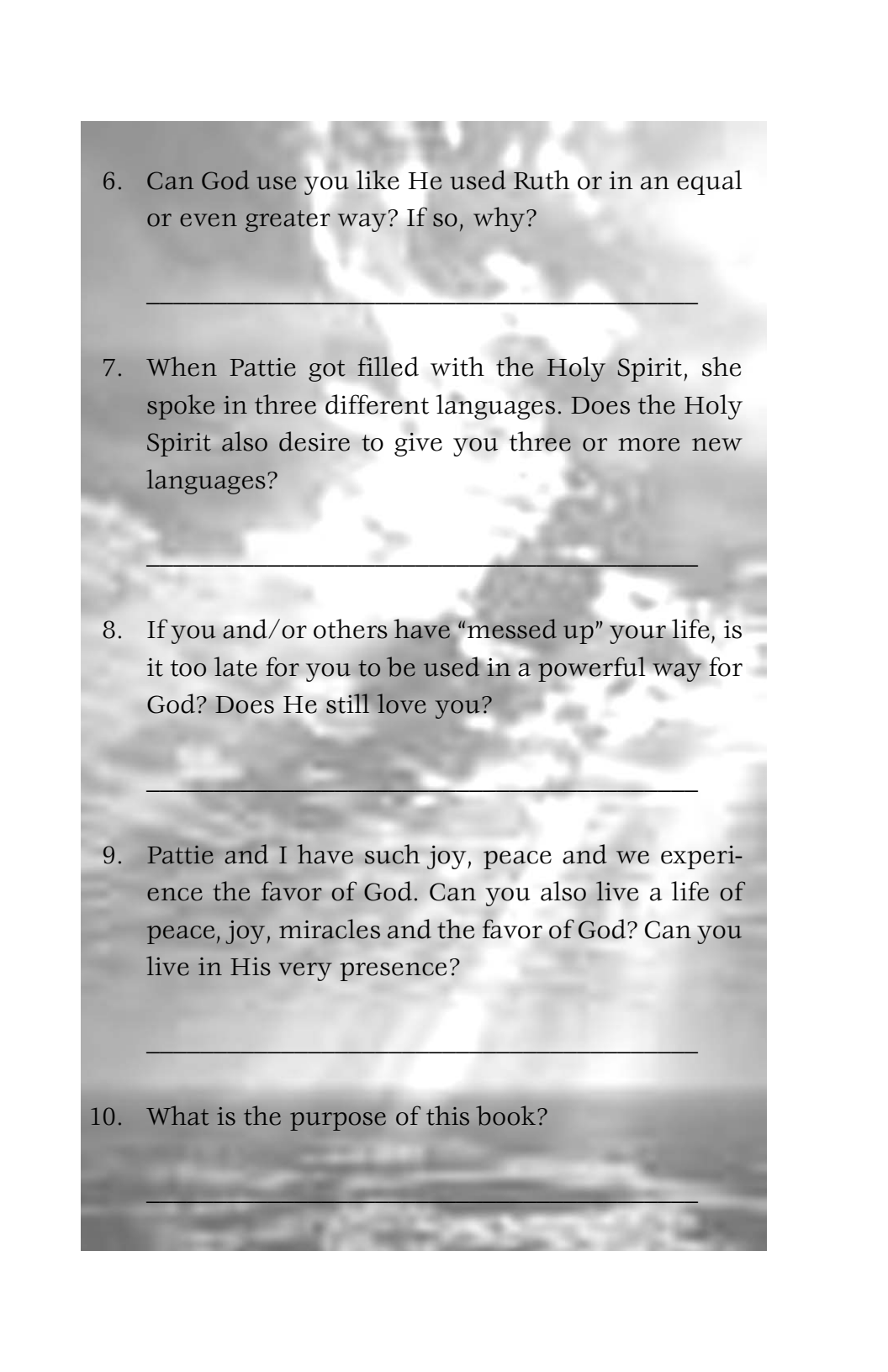
1. What was there about Ruth Heflin that I had already seen in Billy Graham?

2. What is the glory of God?

3. Why did I invite Ruth to have dinner with Pattie and me?

4. Are the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues both important? Is this experience for everyone?

5. After we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, we began to hear God's voice often. Is this also for everyone? Can all of us hear His voice?



6. Can God use you like He used Ruth or in an equal or even greater way? If so, why?

7. When Pattie got filled with the Holy Spirit, she spoke in three different languages. Does the Holy Spirit also desire to give you three or more new languages?

8. If you and/or others have “messed up” your life, is it too late for you to be used in a powerful way for God? Does He still love you?

9. Pattie and I have such joy, peace and we experience the favor of God. Can you also live a life of peace, joy, miracles and the favor of God? Can you live in His very presence?

10. What is the purpose of this book?

MY ANSWERS

1. **What was there about Ruth Heflin that I had seen in Billy Graham?** I was experiencing the same presence of God I had felt years ago while watching Rev. Graham preach. God's glory was radiating from Ruth's face and through her voice. Is that what you want also?
2. **What is the glory of God?** What we call "the anointing" empowers us to testify, preach and teach. It also gives us wisdom, courage and motivation to do the work of God. The glory of God includes the anointing, but is a far greater manifestation of it, in which the nature and character of God in His holiness and power is much more fully revealed. God's glory can be seen and felt. In the glory, there is beauty, peace and joy. His glory is the very atmosphere of Heaven. It is the manifest presence of God.
3. **Why did I invite Ruth to have dinner with Pattie and me?** It was because I knew she had experienced "something" that for years I had been seeking. I believe this is what you're seeking too.
4. **Are the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues both important?** Yes is the answer. They are both life-changing. They bring a

greatly increased anointing and glory into our lives. *Are they for everyone?* Yes. God is no respecter of persons. For more on this subject, see Chapter 3.

5. **After we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, we began to hear God's voice often. Is this for everyone?** Yes, it is. In the days ahead, you also will hear it more and hear it more clearly. Jesus promised: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth"* (John 16:13).
6. **Can God use you like He used Ruth or in an equal or even greater way?** All He needs is your total commitment. He has a unique calling for each of us. It won't be the same as mine or Ruth's, but it will be filled with miracles and the presence of God.
7. **When Pattie was filled with the Holy Spirit, she spoke in three different languages. Does the Holy Spirit desire to give you three or more new languages?** Yes, He does. The first language is like first gear, the second like second gear and the third like third gear. Why not go for overdrive with a fourth language? As you open your spirit more and more to God, more languages will come forth. Why not do it now?

8. **If you and/or others have “messed up” your life, is it too late for you to be used in a powerful way for God? Does He still love you?** Yes, He does still love you, and He has a great destiny for your life. He will restore what has been stolen from your life and even give you a double portion. He can use you in a powerful way.
9. **Pattie and I have such joy, peace and the favor of God. Can you also live a life of peace, joy, miracles and the favor of God? Can you live in the presence of God?** You surely can. He loves all of us equally, and He longs with a passion for you to live in His presence. Although we have now been on this journey for some forty years, we know that our best years are still ahead. No matter what your age is, God has great plans for your life. Your best years are ahead too. Seek God with all of your heart.
10. **What is the purpose of this book?** It has been written to inspire and teach you how to live in God's presence and be transformed by it. You can have His glorious presence radiating from your life. God desires to use you in a mighty way. Begin the journey now in a new dimension by making the decision that you will have God's best for your life. Be willing to pay any price for His highest will. Give Him your best, and He will give you His best.

