



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - 10

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Searching for God's Glory

God's glory cannot be fully known by the human race. He does, however, share some of it with us (Isa. 60:1, Rom. 9:4). When the scripture says that God will not share His glory with another, He is pointing to idols and not His people (Isa. 42:8). Every disciple should search for God's glory. Every day is full of miracles, if we have eyes to see them; for in Him we live and move and have our being. Some days, however, are meant to be glory days. That is when extraordinary supernatural events take place, the manifest presence of the Lord surrounds us, and we see unusual miracles. When talking about glory in our lives, I am not simply talking about feelings of rapture during worship, but rather a visible demonstration of God's power that supersedes the natural laws.

God has assigned glory for everyone, but many do not know how to find it. Searching for those days when we experience the miraculous intervention of God's power is a disciple's greatest pursuit. Do you look with focused anticipation for glory days?

Peter experienced many glory days. Every day with Jesus was a glory day. Then being with the resurrected Jesus was even more glorious. The day of Pentecost and his visit to the house of Cornelius were just a couple of monumental glory days in his life. Those days were not just for Peter. Every person present at those events received a glory day in their lives; they all witnessed the power of God.

Glory days often come during times of great trouble. Daniel had a glory day when he was rescued from the jaws of the lion, but first he had to face the beasts. Jonah had a glory day when he was rescued from the belly of the fish, but before the rescue he was in a living nightmare. Paul and Silas had a glory day when an earthquake snapped their chains and the jailor and his family turned to Christ, but the pain of their imprisonment felt terrible at the time.

When trouble surrounds us, it is time to search for God's glory. Peter had some disastrous days, and many who are reading this study are facing insurmountable challenges right now. Peter learned to look beyond disaster and he often found God's glory.

In Acts 12, we read that James the brother of John, was taken and beheaded by Herod. The next day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Herod imprisoned Peter. It happened exactly 10 years, to the day, since Jesus was laid in the grave. Besides the regular prison guards, 16 additional soldiers were ordered to watch over him. They were positioned at 4 different stations and two of them were bolted to him by chains.

Before ascending up on high, Jesus had passed the ministry baton to Peter. He told him to strengthen his brothers, feed His sheep, witness to the ends of the earth, follow His footsteps and be ready to drink the same cup of suffering that He had to drink.

No doubt, Peter could see the martyr's path. He thought he was about to die on the 10th anniversary of his Lord's death. Herod had just beheaded James. This Herod was the 1st grandson of Herod the Great.

He was nephew to the Herod that beheaded John the Baptist. A blood-thirsty, murderous generational spirit ruled the Herods and its devilish talons were holding Peter with a vise-like grip. Peter did not panic; he was ready to die. He prayed and went to sleep.

The church also prayed and an angel was sent to rescue Peter. His chains fell off and the angel led him past the prison guards and out onto the street. We can be sure that not all 16 guards, plus the regular ones, were fast asleep. Peter must have been made invisible. The next day, the guards were executed and soon after, Herod died. Peter's disastrous day become a glory day.

Peter had to be rescued; he still had 2 monumental things to finish before going to heaven. If your life is miraculously spared, God has a reason. After his rescue, Peter's name is only mentioned 7 times in the Bible, but God still needed him. First, Peter had to attend the Apostolic Counsel (Acts 15) to help define and release God's gospel for the gentile world. Secondly, he had to write his famous letters, 1st and 2nd Peter.

No one knows when their glory days will come, but Peter's life

teaches us to search for and expect them. Here are 3 things that he did:

1. Peter was Always Sold Out

When Jesus told Peter that He must suffer and die, Peter rejected the idea and said, *"Even if all fall away on account of you, I will never."* Mt. 26:33

Jesus told him that he would disown him 3 times but Peter replied, *"Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."* Mt. 26:35

Peter did not have the power to hold firm until after Christ's resurrection but even before, when they arrested Jesus, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. With everything he had he was sold out. The Lord knew Peter. He knew that Peter was sold out and if we want to see glory days we must be sold out for Christ as well. This is not something we decide on after trouble strikes, it is our predisposition. A true disciple is always sold out for Christ. If you want to see glory days you must be sold out.

2. Peter Always Went to the Edge of Faith

Peter followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and always reached beyond the restraints of logic or sensibility. He lived the faith life. He walked on water, stood up and preached, for the first

time, to more than 3,000 people on the day of Pentecost. He took hold of the hand of the crippled beggar and pulled him to his feet (Acts 3:7). He publically challenged Ananias and Sapphire and they fell to the ground dead. When God speaks, do you always reach out to the edge of faith? That is how you find your glory days.

3. Peter Never Quit

After Christ's crucifixion, Peter became dissolutioned. He fell into self-pity and discouragement. Jesus met with him to bring him back into the ministry. We all need Christ to do this for us. After Jesus adjusted him, Peter refused to quit. This is proven by the end of Peter's story. He faced the Jewish Sanhedrin and the Romans who imprisoned him, but he would not quit. In the end, he was crucified upside-down. He would not quit. If you want glory days you must have the predisposition that you will not quit. Nothing should make a minister quit. Do not give up because of insults, rejection, persecution or even your self-caused personal failures. Glory days belong to those who will not quit.

Reach far beyond the superficial and search with the eyes of faith for glory days. They belong to you. **AO**



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