

# He Deserves all the Glory

By

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*Text:*

*“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” (1 Cor. 4:7).*

## **We are just instruments of His grace**

Certainly, we have no reason for personal boast. What we are and everything we have was received. We are not even of our own selves but the sheep of His pasture (Ps 100:3), and owe everything we have to Him, the I AM.

Even so, we are not a nondescript homogenous species like mass-produced uniform goods possessing the same abilities and talents. God created us with unique talents and abilities and even diverse personalities for our mutual enrichment and enjoyment for which we should be thankful.

<sup>4</sup> *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:*

<sup>5</sup> *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

<sup>6</sup> *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith (Rom. 12:4-6).*

We are enabled. It's not an inherent power in us. We are “one body in Christ” who have been “given” grace to perform various spiritual tasks. Let's not for once give glory to the instruments (ourselves) at the expense of the instrument maker—God the giver of grace!

## **Unquantifiable gifts dripping with heavenly excellence!**

There's nothing we have, no blessing we have, that wasn't received from the Father of lights from whom “every good gift and every perfect gift” comes and “with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (Jam. 1:17).

First is the gift of life which He preserved for us every day throughout the year:

1. He holds our soul in life (Ps 66:9).
2. He watches over us all the time, both when we are going out and coming in (Ps 121:4, 8).
3. He preserves our souls and delivers us from the hand of the wicked (Ps 97:10).

Another is the holistic blessing of the LORD that reaches to the very core of our being, enriching both body and soul, even blessings “that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Tim. 4:8).

As our “wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption”, we can’t take the credit for anything spiritual and godly in our life (1 Cor. 1:30-31). It’s all by His grace. For we can only do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Php. 4:13). It’s He who causes us “both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Php. 2:13). It’s because of Him that you and I kept on the straight and narrow this year. He kept us from falling by the power of His love and might (Jude 1:24; John 10:28-29).

But not only did He guard our souls, He also took care of our everyday needs; our bread and butter issues. He’s made the provision for our daily needs in His Word. We face challenges and difficulties occasionally, but we are never overwhelmed. There always opens a way for us, and we get on in life. It always seems a miracle after the event, and we can never fully explain how we survived and made progress. It’s the grace and power of His word at work in our lives—the same Word that provided for Israel in the wilderness:

<sup>2</sup> *And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.*

<sup>3</sup> *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

<sup>4</sup> *Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years (Deut. 8:2-3).*

Man shall live, survive, eat and drink, wear and keep warm “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of ADONAI”. The obedient has his/her needs miraculously met by God. It’s never by our strength. We offloaded our worries onto Him according to His word, and He didn’t disappoint (1 Pet. 5:7; Heb. 13:5). So let’s be careful to live in humility and thankfulness before Him—mindful of past difficulties and incidents of dread and how He miraculously saw us through them all.

Thus Yah reminded the children of Israel:

<sup>10</sup> *When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which He hath given thee.*

<sup>11</sup> *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:*

<sup>12</sup> *Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;*

<sup>13</sup> *And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;*

<sup>14</sup> *Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;*

<sup>15</sup> *Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;*

<sup>16</sup> *Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;*

<sup>17</sup> *And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.*

*<sup>18</sup> But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day (Deut. 8:10-18).*

It's equally our collective testimony today. The Lord has kept faith with us, in our common experience of life in its various dimensions. It's tempting to forget when the going is good, but dare not forget!

Honestly speaking, who among us slept on an empty stomach during the year? Who did the Lord leave in difficulty and didn't show him the power of His love? How many of us didn't He heal and deliver from the snares of the enemy? How many didn't witness the power of His mercy in our lives this year?

If He did all these wonderful things, there is no reason to hold back the praise! Let the praises of your mouth burst forth. Ps 100:4 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name".

It's time to take "the cup of salvation"—not an empty one but one full of blessings—and call upon the name of the LORD. Pay your vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people (Ps 116:13-14). It's in fulfilment of an implicit agreement with the Lord for His kindness towards you. To wit: "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: <sup>15</sup> And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me" (Ps 50:14-15).

So at this fund-raising service, you have come with the joyful song of the Psalmist in your heart, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?" (Ps. 116:12).

It's your token of gratitude for His goodness. Only give with a cheerful heart, for "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). Amen!