

Self-Glorification & Honor

Those who search for worldly distinction and glory make a sad mistake. **It is the one who denies self, giving to others the preference, who will sit nearest to Christ on His throne.** He who reads the heart sees the true merit possessed by His lowly, self-sacrificing disciples, and **because they are worthy He places them in positions of distinction, though they do not realize their worthiness and do not seek for honor.** - {God' Amazing Grace (AG)67.3} (Note: God has only a few who He places in positions of distinction. While many clamor for notice and distinction, there are only a few who He calls to live in high visibility. These are so close to Him that they can witness for Him and not get any of the deadly self-glorification on themselves. Most, He calls to serve quietly, below the radar where the deeds they do for Him go unnoticed. For both groups, the only way they can hear the voice of God saying, "Well done child. You did what I wanted you to do and I'm so proud of you," is for them to kick the habit (through Christ) of seeking praise and honor.)

God places no value on outward display or boasting. Many who in this life are looked upon as superior to others, will one day see that God values men according to their compassion and self-denial. . . . Those who follow the example of Him who went about doing good, who help and bless their fellow men, trying always to lift them up, are in God's sight infinitely higher than the selfish ones who exalt themselves. {AG 67.4}(Note: Our church is full of people who have learned a thousand ways to promote themselves in ways that are not detected by fellow church members. Like Lucifer, they quietly promote themselves as "super Christians." But, when the Father looks at them, He sees the motives behind their self-promotion and it hurts His heart. He knows that by feeding this demon of self-exaltation they are choosing to separate themselves from Him. They are addicted to the "look at me everybody, look at me" demon and don't even understand how this demon quietly hinders their relationship with their Father at a deep level.)

God does not accept men because of their capabilities, but because they seek His face, desiring His help. God sees not as man sees. He judges not from appearances. He searches the heart, and judges righteously. . . . {AG 67.5}(Note: While you may try to gain the notice of other people and build your sense of worth on this sand castle, God looks past your contrived good works and sees the motives of your heart. There, at the heart level, you are exposed for who you really are and when your Father sees who you really are, His response is, "I love you child. Now let's clean up that filthy heart so that we can go to an even deeper relationship.")

He accepts and communes with His lowly, unpretentious followers; for in them He sees the most precious material, which will stand the test of storm and tempest, heat and pressure. **Our object in working for the Master should be that His name may be glorified in the conversion of sinners.** . . . {AG 67.6}

Let us rejoice that the Lord does not measure the workers in His vineyard by their learning or by the educational advantages they have had. **The tree is judged by its fruit.** The Lord will cooperate with those who cooperate with Him. {AG 67.7}

Everyone is to keep himself separate from the world, which is full of iniquity. We are not to walk with God for a time, and then part from His company and walk in the sparks of our own kindling. There must be a firm continuance, a perseverance in acts of faith. **We are to praise God; to show forth His glory in a righteous character. No one of us will gain the victory without persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of the object which we seek, even eternal life.** {TM 511.2}

Character does not come by chance. It is not determined by one outburst of temper, one step in the wrong direction. **It is the repetition of the act that causes it to become habit, and molds the character either for good or for evil.** Right characters can be formed only by persevering, untiring effort, by improving every intrusted talent and capability **to the glory of God.** Instead of doing this, many allow themselves to drift wherever impulse or circumstances may carry them. This is not because they are lacking in good material, but because they do not realize that in their youth God wants them to do their very best. {MYP 163.2}

If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence. {SC 101.3}

We dwell too near the lowlands of earth. Let us raise our eyes to the open door of the sanctuary above, where the light of the glory of God shines in the face of Christ, who "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." Hebrews 7:25. {SC 102.1}

It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the **law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven;** that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God; and that **in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.** {DA 19.2}

Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son...A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; yet Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. **Lucifer was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone.** –SR p. 13

Note: In DA it says that: 1) the need for power and control and, 2) the need for self-exaltation sprang up in the heart of Lucifer. These twin demons led to him being envious of Christ and gradually, to feed both of these demons; he began very subtly to take over parts of Christ's job description – authority. Christ never tried to defend His "turf."

The Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son...The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence...His Son He had invested with

authority to command the heavenly host. –SR p. 13 (Note: Christ did absolutely nothing to seek or position Himself to receive any honor. God the Father, knowing what was in the heart of Lucifer and knowing how Lucifer was quietly taking more and more of Christ's authority for himself, forced the great conflict in heaven. He took charge and placed Lucifer in a position whereby his twin demons: control & self-praise, would be exposed.)

If we are Christians we will not seek to be praised or exalted of men, and we will not be drawn away from the work by bribes or any flattering inducement. Christians will not be driven from their post of duty by fear or by reproach, by accusation, hatred, or persecution.
{TDG 316.3}