**COVENANT CHILD FELLOWSHIP**

**CCF UNILAG**

**TENURE: THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S GLORY**

**THEME**: The Glory Of The Latter End

**TOPIC**: The Pathway to Glory

**TEXT**: Numbers 14:21, Habakkuk 2:14

**INTRODUCTION**

From our text we see a prophecy that God has prophesied concerning this earth. That in the end, before this present creation is rolled away, the whole earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord! The glory of the lord cannot rest upon the earth without the knowledge of the glory, **knowledge precedes glory**. For this prophecy to be fulfilled, Satan who is currently the god of this world, and the prince of the powers of our air space (2 Cor 4:4, Eph 2:1-2 ) will have been displaced from having dominion of the earth, because he is the reason why all men cannot see the glory of God. Satan cannot be displaced from being the god of this world, if the church doesn’t grow up to dethrone him by our consistent disobedience to his established system on the face of the earth (Rev 12). For the earth to be filled to be filled with glory of God, the church must first be carriers of glory! It is therefore important that each individual member of the church must be full of the glory of God, hence the need to teach the **pathway to glory.**

**THE JOURNEY UNTO GLORY**

The journey of glory begins at the new birth. There is no hope of glory without first of all a quickening from the dead. The new birth is what gives us the platform and capacity to journey to the obtaining of the glory of God. At the new birth, even though we came into a small portion of glory that separated us from unbelievers by the signs that follow them that believe (Mark 16:17-18), we didn’t come into the fullness of the glory of God! We were called to obtain the glory of God (2 Thess 2:14, 1 Peter 5:10, 2 Peter 1:3).

The fullness of the glory of God couldn’t rest on us at the new birth because our soul, the part of us that will express the glory of God was not automatically redeemed from the fallen nature that was wrought in it. It is important to know at this point that man is tripartite (1Thess 5:23), He is a spirit (the inner man (Eph 3:15)), he has a soul (the inward man (2 Cor 4:16)), and he lives in a body (the outward man (2 Cor 4:16)). At the new birth, our spirit was quickened from the dead, joined to the lord and became complete in him (Eph 2:1, 1 Cor 6:17, Col 2:10-13). Our souls and bodies were purchased by the blood of Jesus, and added to the church to be restored and redeemed (Acts 2:41,47, Acts 20:28, Eph 1:14) due to this imperfection yet present in our souls, we cannot fully express the glory of God exactly like our lord is (Heb 1: 3)

Our lord Jesus desires a glorious church! This will not happen until there is a cleansing and purging of every filth in us, not in our spirits, for our spirit is complete in him, but in our souls and bodies (Eph 5:25-27)

**THE BEGINNING OF REDEMPTION**

Our spirit was regenerated at the new birth (2 Cor 5:17), and our soul was purchased to be redeemed (Act 20:28, Eph 1:14). Our souls also became new born babes in the things of God (1 Peter 2:1-2). One major characteristics of a baby in Christ is that babies are carnal (1 Cor 3:1-3). **A carnal Christian cannot obtain and express the glory of God on the earth!**

What makes a Christian carnal? **A Christian is carnal when he still walking (living) as men (unbelievers) (1 Cor 3:3).** He is still walking (living) like unbelievers, not just in terms of him actively engaging in filth of the flesh and outward sins of the body. For all this should be done away with at new birth after he has repented towards God from his former conversation and lifestyle that is not becoming as saints (Eph 5:3-7).

Eph 4:17-18 shows us the clear picture of how men walk. **Therefore a carnal Christian is one who is still vain in is mind, which leads to his understanding being dark, and his heart blind to the deep things of God.** To be vain in the mind means you cannot think past vanity. The thoughts, hope, dream, pursuit of a carnal believer is vain, earthly, and will pass away. He is not different from unbelievers in his thinking, he still hopes for what they hope for, and pursue what they pursue.

The beginning of the redemption of the soul of a believer is to change what he sets his mind on, what he hopes and aspires for, and what he lives for and pursues after with all his heart. **There is no glory in the end for a believer, without a change of hope and pursuit** (Romans 8:5-7, 2 Cor 4:8, Matt 6:31-36)

Redemption of the soul starts when the believer knows and sees the hope of his calling, the reason why he is born again in the first place and begins to pursue and live only for that hope (Eph 1:15-18, 1 Peter 1: 3-4)

**NO SUFFERING (CROSS), NO GLORY!**

After the hope of God has been clearly painted to the soul of the believer, which is the glory of God, he now begins to journey unto it. The actual working of salvation in the soul from its unredeemed nature begins when a soul is journeying towards God.

It has been established earlier that at the new birth the soul wasn’t redeemed, even though the spirit is now seated with Christ in heavenly places, the soul still retained its former life, desires, affections, choices, philosophies all which cannot make it inheriting the glory of God, not to talk of expressing the glory for all men to see. **What is contained in the soul is what will be expressed through the body for all to see. For the soul to be the brightness of Gods glory, it has to be the express image of his person.**

The soul cannot come to the Glory of God, even after his hope has been changed, without the faith of the Son. The faith of the son is the power that brings the soul to the glory of God (Heb 11:6, Heb 12:1-2). The faith of the Son is the Life of the son that leads to God (John 14:6). The faith of the Son is the cross of Christ applied to our soul, that delivers us from the world and our self (1 Cor 2:1-2, Phil 3:16-19, Gal 6:13-14)

A believer cannot give up his former life in his soul without submitting himself to learn the life of the Son. It is the life of the Son that destroys the former life in us that doesn’t qualify for glory (Matt 11:28) As the believer begins to learn the true life that is found in our Lord Jesus, he must now begin to give up his former lifestyle constituted by his former ideologies, philosophies for living, concepts and definitions that are patterned after fallen men (Isaiah 55:6-9, Luke 9:23-24) until the only life that completely remains in him is the life of the son (Gal 2:20) This daily giving up of one’s entire life for the life of Christ is called suffering.

Suffering in scripture is not just an external thing but internal. When you are not allowed by the lord to have you own way, when you cannot express your own life, but lose it to gain his own life. Though the lord also arranges external dealings and tribulations many times to bring us to the place of relinquishing our life for his (Acts 14:22), but we must keep in mind that the goal is to deal with something inward. **The suffering of Christ is the learning of Christ, and the giving up of our own carnal life for his.**

We must be ready as believers to endure these sufferings of Christ in us, because without them, the glory of God cannot be revealed through us (1 Peter 1:11, 4:13, 5:1 1 Peter 4:1-2) we must know that if we deny him, his life, his sufferings, his cross, we deny ourselves of his glory (Matt 10:33, 2 Tim 2:12), but we must also know that the sufferings of this present time cannot be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18)

**CONCLUSION**

God has prophesied that the earth will be filled with his glory; this cannot be achieved without the church. Each member of the church must be a carrier of Gods glory which he will in turn express on earth. The new birth is the beginning, but the actual journey to Glory doesn’t start until there is a change of our hope, until our hope becomes the Hope of God for us. When the glory of God becomes our hope, we move towards it by the learning of Christ and him crucified, and the giving up of our life for his until we are fully changed into his image, then the glory of God will rest upon us first as a church, then it will find full expression on earth.