

Overflowing

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The life of a believer is not meant to be lived from pit to pit

- His desire is for us to live from glory to glory

We should be so full of God that others get blessed from the overflow in our lives

The truth is that right now you are as full of God as you want to be

God wants you blessed even more than you do but we must realize that He has already done everything through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Four keys to leading a life that is overflowing

Romans 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- Here we see four steps we can take to either draw closer to God or walk away
- This is true for salvation as well as every area of provision in our life available through the gospel

If you are not experiencing God's blessing in some area of your life or no longer sense His presence it's because you took steps that led you away from hearing His voice

- *They didn't Glorify Him as God*
- *They were unthankful*
- *They became worthless in their thoughts and imaginations*
- *Their foolish hearts became darkened*

Before you lose the benefit of anything the Lord has done in your life you must pass through these four steps

It's not too late to reverse your steps – repent

Start to...

- Glorify God
- Be thankful
- Recognize the power of your imagination – (*dreams and visions are the language of heaven*)
- Have a good heart

Depending on how you walk out these steps in your everyday life, you decide whether or not you stay full of God

1 – Glorify God

- Glorify (**Romans 1:21**) – “*to render (or esteem) glorious*”
- Esteem – “*to value, to prize, or to reverence*”

What do you place value and importance on?

You cannot esteem God and everything else!

2 – Be Thankful

Last week we talked about magnifying God, which is to glorify or esteem Him

- Consider this verse

Psalm 69:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

- There is no better way to magnify God than to thank Him
- Magnifying, glorifying, and thanking God are all intertwined
- In order to magnify God, you must be thankful
- Being thankful is reminding yourself of what He has said and done
- As you think on the Lord this way He becomes bigger and more powerful in your life

Unthankfulness is one of the blights of our generation

2 Timothy 3:1, 2, 4 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy

⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

- Unthankfulness is listed here along with being unholy, blasphemous, and lovers of pleasure more than God
- They simply don't acknowledge the goodness of God

Being thankful involves our memory and humility

You can't be thankful without remembering the good things that God has done for you

A proud person doesn't believe anyone else has helped them do anything

- They think they've accomplished everything on their own
- They have a popular concept that "*I'm a self-made man (or women)*"

Psalm 103:2 (NKJV)

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

- God commanded us to not forget because He knows we will if we don't make a decision to remember Him, we won't

This is also why the Lord had the people in the Old Testament build memorial markers and piles of stone

- It was to stir up their memory of God's faithfulness
- It's good for us to remember God's faithfulness and stir ourselves up through thanksgiving

This is why the Lord instituted the special Jewish feasts as well as communion

Luke 22:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "*This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*"

You can't function without memory

Story:

A man and woman in a car accident shortly after they were married

- They are both severely injured but she almost dies
- She pulls through yet can't remember anything from the last twelve months
- She remembered her parents and her name as well as old friends
- She remembered everything up until the time she met her husband, fell in love with him and married him
- They tried to have a physical relationship, but she just couldn't handle it

Finally, they had to break up, move out and start courting again because she couldn't maintain a relationship without her memory

If you couldn't remember just think of what it would do to your life

- What would it do to your marriage, children, work, and church situation?
- You can't function without memory, yet very few people remember the goodness of God

In order to maintain the things that God does in your life you have got to be a thankful person

- You've got to constantly go back and rehearse your victories and encounters you've had with Him

For many Christians, every day is a brand-new day with no history

- When they get up in the morning they don't know if they'll be serving Him by that evening
 - It just depends on how things went that day
- They desire to remain faithful, but they can't guarantee that they will
- If their put in a compromising situation they just don't know what they'll do

We need to remember where God brought us from!

Isaiah 51:1 (NKJV)

“Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the LORD: Look to the rock *from which* you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug.

- We need to simultaneously look at who we are in Christ while remembering where He took us from
- If Satan put pressure on me to renounce God
 - I wouldn't do it
- If someone tried to get me to deny the Lord
 - I couldn't do it

When you live a life that is wholeheartedly seeking God you just can't go back on God and His promises

No matter the pressure, you are in the habit of remaining faithful to the things He has taught you and done in your life

I remember where I was when God touched my life!

- There's nothing that could tempt me to ever turn away from God
- My heart is fixed on God and I continually remind myself of His faithfulness
- I'm in the habit of glorifying and thanking God
- There's something powerful about going back, rehearsing your victories and being thankful

Your memory can stir you up!

2 Peter 1:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*

2 Peter 1:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

2 Peter 3:1 (NKJV)

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of which* I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder)

- If you don't stir yourself up you'll settle to the bottom
- Maybe you're wondering – “*God do you love me?*”
“*Where are You?*”
- If you would just sit down and remember how good the Lord has been to you, your entire outlook would change

The problem is most Christians have a vacuum on the inside

We aren't in the habit of filling ourselves up with thankfulness towards God

- The pressures in life just crush us

Empty can experiment:

The devil wants to get you thanking that no one has ever faced the pressures and trials in life like you

- That simply is not true

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

- The temptations you face are common to everyone
- They may be packaged a little different, but have the same contents

Don't fall for the lie that you are the only one that has faced what you're going through

- If you start to think that way you'll throw in the towel
- You don't have any pressure that's beyond God's ability
- It's your vacuum within that's the problem
 - You aren't using your memory to remember what God has said and done
 - Learn to rehearse your victories and be thankful

Psalm 100:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. ⁵ For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth *endures* to all generations.

- Remember when you were born again?
- What was it the Lord has saved you out of?
- Remember the joy and peace that flooded your entire being?
- Remember the vision you had for your life?
- What words has He spoken to you?

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint

- Many of us have lost the vision for our lives because we've forgotten the things God has done and said to us
 - NLT – Divine guidance

We've allowed our situation to become louder than God's voice

- We've become complacent because we've become unthankful
- For every five minutes you spend griping and whining, spend ten minutes thanking and praising God for His goodness
 - When you do that, your grip will become smaller and smaller
- No one has the right to gripe and complain
- No one will stand before God and say, "*God you let me down*"

Light Affliction

2 Corinthians 4:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory

- Paul wasn't saying he didn't have problems
- He said, “*outwardly I perish, but inwardly I am renewed day by day*”
- Paul experienced some extremely harsh situations yet considered them “*light*”

2 Corinthians 11:23–28 (NKJV)

²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—
²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Acts 14:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead. ²⁰ However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

- When the Jews stoned someone, they didn't stop until they were dead
- So, it is very likely that Paul was raised from the dead

Paul's afflictions were much more in quantity and intensity than any of the things you've experienced

If he could say his afflictions were light than you have no right to complain

- Your problems don't even come close to what Paul endured

Hebrews 12:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

- Consider what Jesus suffered for you
- Until you have suffered to the point that it costs your life you have no right to complain
- If you're alive you should be shouting praises to God

Psalms 150:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Remember His Goodness

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

- If you're depressed, discouraged, and losing your joy you aren't looking at the Lord and His word
- If the things of God aren't fresh in your life then you aren't esteeming eternal reality
- You're placing a higher value on the natural realm and magnifying physical things instead
- That's where your discontent comes from
- A negative attitude towards life will cause you to be depressed
- Your emotions effect your body
- They'll cause wrinkles and even cause your hair to turn grey
- It will even bring on premature death

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

- You can't react differently than your dominant thought
- You are what you think
- You will be drawn in the direction of the things you think about – your imagination is powerful!