

Session 7 The God of Jasper-like Beauty (Rev. 4:3)

I. REVIEW: THE NEED TO ENCOUNTER GOD’S BEAUTY

⁴ One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the House of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD... (Ps. 27:4)

- A. David was the man after God’s own heart. His life focus was to encounter the beauty of God.
- B. The Spirit is orchestrating a global prayer movement that will result in God releasing His power across the nations. This movement is fueled and sustained by the revelation of God’s beauty. The pursuit of the deep things of the knowledge of God is the highest and most difficult reality in the Spirit. It is the Mt. Everest of the Kingdom of God. It takes time and work to mine for gold.
- C. Revelation 4 and 5 give us the highest revelation of God’s beauty in Scripture.

¹ Behold, a door standing open in heaven....the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet...saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place." ² I was in the Spirit and...Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. ³ He...was like a jasper and a sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the Throne...⁴ Around the Throne were 24 Thrones...I saw 24 elders...in white robes; they had crowns...⁵ From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning... ⁶ Before the Throne there was a sea of glass...around the Throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:1-6)
- D. Rev. 4 provides us with a brief description of the majesty and beauty that surround God’s Throne. God gave us this passage to help us meditate on God’s majesty. We deeply value what God says in His Word about God. We fill our minds with thoughts of God by long and loving meditation on what God’s Word says about God.
- E. God gave us this passage as a functional and practical way to meditate on His majesty.

⁵ I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty... (Ps. 145:5)
- F. God is the most majestic, indescribably lovely Person that the human heart can behold. Seeing His soul-satisfying beauty is the greatest source for holy passion. Jesus' full beauty is incomprehensible. It is impossible to fully comprehend or communicate His beauty with the limitation of the five natural senses.
- G. It is not enough to study about God’s majesty, we must talk to God about it. Bible study must create an active dialogue in our heart with God. The power of God’s Word touches us as we declare it back to God. First, ***we thank God*** for His Throne. Second, ***we ask God to reveal*** (*release*) a spirit of revelation about the Throne (Eph. 1:17).

II. WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE: JASPER LIKE APPEARANCE AND A GARMENT OF LIGHT

³ *He who sat there was like a jasper (diamond like) and a sardius stone (deep red) in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the Throne, in appearance like an emerald (green). (Rev. 4:3)*

A. The first thing God reveals about His appearance is that it is a jasper-like light (supernatural diamond-like radiance). The Shekinah glory of God's jasper light fills the Eternal City.

¹⁰ *The holy Jerusalem...¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal... (Rev. 21:10-11)*

B. He shines forth and radiates a beautiful supernatural diamond like light (translucent splendor).

⁵ *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn. 1:5)*

C. God's beauty is seen as His Throne shines forth with jasper and sardius brightness. God's jasper-like light shines forth to manifest the perfection of beauty. This fascinates those near the Throne of God. The Psalmist links God's beauty to that which shines forth.

² *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. (Ps 50:2)*

D. The jasper stone is used in the walls (v. 18) and foundations (v. 19) of the New Jerusalem.

¹⁸ *The construction of its wall was of jasper...¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. (Rev. 21:18-20)*

E. I believe there are many colors to this bright radiance that are reflected by the different precious stones in the New Jerusalem and on the high priest's breastplate. The breastplate spoke of the nearness to God (Ex. 28:17-20).

¹⁷ *...you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row; ¹⁸ the second row shall be a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; ¹⁹ the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; ²⁰ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings. (Ex. 28:17-20)*

F. God's robes are royal jasper-like clothing that radiates supernatural light to the City.

¹ *O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, ² Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment... (Ps. 104:1-2)*

⁹ *The Ancient of Days (Father) was seated; His garment was white as snow... (Dan. 7:9)*

G. God's royal jasper-like glory radiates supernatural light to New Jerusalem

³ *The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem) ...⁵ they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. (Rev. 22:3-5)*

²⁴ *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:24)*

H. Jesus is the light of the world

¹² *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall...have the light of life. (Jn. 8:12)*

I. The Bride in the Song of Solomon spoke of Jesus' shining beauty. Others suggest "My beloved is brilliant". The Hebrew word translated as white can mean radiant, dazzling, brilliant or shining white. Jesus possesses brilliance in His loveliness. The colors, lights, fragrances, and music that surround His Person are stunning.

¹⁰ *My Beloved is white (radiant, NIV, dazzling, NAS)...chief among ten thousand. (Song 5:10)*

1. He is incomparably superior to all people or is "chief among ten thousand." Chief can be translated "distinguished" in as the margin of the NKJ a "banner that distinguishes." In other words, He is one that stands out as a banner is lifted up. Jesus is "distinguished as a banner among a multitude." He is the One that stands out among the masses. A large banner (flag) in a marching army is the center of attention.
2. The phrase ten thousand means incomparable greatness. Chief among 10,000 is a metaphor saying He is the greatest of all. He has no rival. The number 10,000 is not to be understood as literal. It means an extremely large number. Nobody else could compare to Him is the point.

J. The brightness of God's glory

¹⁷ *The Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (Jas 1:17)*

¹⁷ *The Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of...revelation... (Eph. 1:17)*

³ *Being the brightness of His (Father's) glory... the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)*

III. GOD'S COURT IS FILLED WITH BEAUTY

A. God's beauty is seen in His royal court where His Throne is set up. God's Throne is like His "royal palace."

⁶ *Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)*

⁹⁶ *I have seen the consummation of all perfection (beauty and majesty)... (Ps. 119:96)*

¹ *How lovely is Your tabernacle (Your dwelling places, NAS, NIV), O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD.... (Ps. 84:1-2)*

- B. John seeks to bridge the unknown with the known. He refers to seeing One like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance (v. 2) and a rainbow like an emerald in appearance (v. 3). The Holy Spirit uses the word, "like" when referring to Jesus' splendor, because nothing is adequately comparable to it. The 3 main metaphors in creation depicting the splendor of Christ Jesus in Scripture are the mountains, the sky and the sea.
- C. Ezekiel did this same thing when he spoke of the unknown by using the bridge of that which is known. He was lost for words when describing what he saw. Fifty three times when describing God's Throne, Ezekiel used the word like or likeness or appearance. He used the word "likeness" 14 times, "like" 19 times and "appearance" 20 times. Likeness (14x): (Ezek 1:5 (2x), 10, 13, 16, 22, 26 (3x), 28; 8:2; 10:1, 21, 22). Like (19x): Ezek. 1:4, 7 (2x), 13 (3x), 14, 16, 22, 24 (3x), 26, 28; 8:2 (3x), 4; 10:1, 5). Appearance (20x): Ezek. 1:5, 13 (2x), 14, 16 (2x), 26 (2x), 27 (4x), 28 (3x), 8:2 (3x); 10:1, 10).

IV. THE FIRE OF GOD ADORNS HIS COURT

- A. God's beauty is seen in the flaming fire around His Throne and the river of fire that proceeds from it. The fire around the Throne beautifies and makes holy all that comes nearest to God.
- ⁹ *I watched...the Ancient of Days (Father) was seated...His Throne was a fiery flame...10 A fiery stream (river; NAS) issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. (Dan. 7:9-10)*
- ⁵ *Seven lamps (torches) of fire were burning before the Throne ... (Rev. 4:5)*
- ²⁹ *For our God is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:29)*
- ¹⁷ *The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. (Ex. 24:17)*
- B. The Sea of glass around the Throne is like crystal and is covered with flaming fire (Rev. 15:2). This is the place in the Eternal City in which the saints gather to stand together before God.
- ⁶ *Before the Throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rev. 4:6)*
- ² *I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast (Antichrist)...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)*
- C. Ezekiel saw the sea of glass as awesome crystal and Jesus' Throne as sapphire (Ezek. 1:26; Ex. 24:10). Both Thrones are under the emerald rainbow and surrounded by the sapphire crystal Sea.
- ²² *The firmament...was like...an awesome crystal...26 above the firmament...was...a Throne...like a sapphire stone...with the appearance of a man (Jesus) high above it...28 Like the appearance of a rainbow...was the...brightness all around it. (Ezek. 1:22-28)*

V. GOD DWELLS IN UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT

- A. God dwells in unapproachable light that no man has the capacity to see. The light is unapproachable in that it functions as a protective shield to those nearest His Throne. The very light that protects us from God's overwhelming Presence is beautiful.

¹⁵ The King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.... (1 Tim. 6:15-16)

²⁰ He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 22...while My glory passes by, that I will...cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." (Ex. 33:20-23)

- B. The Throne of God is cloaked in unapproachable light. In what sense is God unapproachable? In what way are we limited in how close we can get to Him? He is not unapproachable because of His anger over our sin. We can come boldly to the Father in Jesus (Heb. 4:16). He is not unapproachable because of His lack of desire for intimacy with us. We are limited in how close we can get to Him because our human capacity is so small compared to the fullness of God. For example, it does not work to plug in a 110 volt machine into a million volt electrical current. Our human spirit is unable to receive God's fullness. Our spiritual capacity increases in this age and even throughout eternity. The Holy Spirit wants to enlarge our capacity so that God is more approachable to the ones He so dearly loves and so that He can give more of Himself to us.

- C. Our capacities to engage with Jesus in eternity correspond to the measure of the glory in our resurrected bodies.

⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead... (1 Cor. 15:41-42)

- D. Even the seraphim and cherubim who have the greatest capacity to receive God's beauty fall down overwhelmed under the weight of His Presence. Five times in Revelation, the host of heaven fall prostrate.

- E. Those nearest the Throne continually bow and cover their eyes in response to the awesomeness of the beauty of God's holiness. The living creatures gaze upon God's Throne night and day with fascination. It leaves them overwhelmed and awestruck. They are undone with incessant fascination, never exhausting the endless ocean of God's beauty. As the powerful impact of the revelation of God races through their being, they bow and rise up again and again with new discoveries of God. They cry, "Holy, holy, holy" which means, "Transcendent beauty."

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:8)

¹ I saw the Lord sitting on a Throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" ...5 So I said: "Woe is

me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips ...for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." (Isa. 6:1-5)

⁴¹ These things Isaiah said when he saw His (Jesus') glory and spoke of Him. (Jn. 12:41)

1. The Seraphim respond in two ways. They cover their faces as they are utterly overwhelmed and they cry out "holy," expressing total God centeredness.
 2. When Isaiah witnessed the Seraphim (lit. burning ones), it left him undone and thus gave us insight into how God's beauty can impact us.
 3. We will be undone and God centered by filling our minds with thoughts of God with long and loving mediation. We fill our minds with what God says in His Word about God.
- F. Without protection, God's creation must move back from His unrestrained glory.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white Throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. (Rev. 20:11)

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men...hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the Throne..." (Rev. 6:15-16)

¹⁶ There were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God... (Ex. 19:16-17)

VI. JESUS SHINES FORTH IN BEAUTY

¹⁷ Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)

² In that day the Branch of the LORD (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious... (Isa. 4:2)

- A. Jesus' eyes impart warmth and tenderness. There is a tenderizing affect in the weight of His Presence that emanates out of Him. The hosts of Heaven and the redeemed tremble with tenderness before Him.

¹⁴ His eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 1:14)

¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire... (Rev. 19:12)

- B. Jesus' glory is brighter and stronger than the sun.

²³ The moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)

¹³ At midday...along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ When we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking saying..., 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' (Acts 26:13-14)

⁴ His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand... (Hab. 3:4)

- C. The sun shining in its strength spoke of that which surpasses John's ability to look at it. It is impossible to look directly into the sun in the brightest hours of a sunny day.

¹⁶ His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:16)

² He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)

- D. Jesus is the brightness of the Father's glory.

³ Being the brightness of His (Father's) glory... the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)

- E. Jesus is the light of the world in the full sense of its meaning in the New Jerusalem.

¹² I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall...have the light of life. (Jn. 8:12)

²⁴ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:24)

³ The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem) ...⁵ There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. (Rev. 22:3-5)

- F. Brightness of God's glory

²⁶ On the likeness of the Throne was ...a man (Jesus) high above it...²⁷ the appearance of His waist and downward I saw...the appearance of fire with brightness all around. (Ezek 1:26-27)

⁴ Behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. (Ezek. 1:4)

¹ I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. (Rev. 18:1)

VII. THE FASCINATING GOD CREATED US WITH A NEED TO BE FASCINATED

- A. The fascinating God created us with a need to be fascinated. Thus, there is a craving in every human spirit to marvel and to be fascinated. The desire for holy fascination is placed within each one of us. It creates a gnawing desire for the revelation of the 'deep things of God.'
- B. When God the Holy Spirit reveals God the Son to our human spirits, it brings us spiritual pleasure. It is the deepest and most profound pleasure available to the human race.

- C. The secular entertainment industry has identified this longing and has targeted it commercially.
- D. When we are not fascinated with Him we are bored, spiritually dull, and spiritually passive. Then money, drugs, alcohol, and immorality are far more tempting. God did not create us to grit our teeth in our efforts to say no to a lifetime of inferior pleasures.
- E. A satisfied, fascinated believer is a spiritually strong believer. God revealing God to the human spirit is the most exhilarating experience in the universe. I call this “Divine entertainment.” A fascinated man does not need pornography. God offers us a better alternative than simply gritting our teeth as we seek to avoid evil.
- F. God will answer our craving for awe and wonder by revealing to us the beauty of Jesus as the Bridegroom God. He will liberate His people from the tyranny of inferior pleasures by introducing us to superior pleasures; the revelation of His Son to our hearts. This fascination will serve as a holy protection mechanism from the deceptions of the enemy and will impart to believers a godly motivation to love God with all our heart.
- G. At the end of the age, God’s people will be more fascinated with Jesus than at anytime in history.
- H. People fascinated with God walk in extravagant love for Him. They consider it their glory to give up all to Him. God conquers our hearts through releasing the knowledge of Jesus to us. In revealing His Son, God will fascinate His people beyond anything they have ever known.
³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart..." (Mt. 22:37)
- I. One reason people think they do not have time for prayer and the Word is that they do not know what it means to experience fascination.
- J. They need to spend time with God not as a bargaining chip to earn God’s favor, but as the way to experience spiritual pleasure! It’s the way into power and an enthralled heart!

VIII. FILLING OUR HEART WITH LIGHT

- A. We are called to experience God’s marvelous light and to proclaim it to others. As we meditate on what the Scriptures reveal about God and His light then our revelation of it increases.
⁹ Proclaim the praises of Him who called you...into His marvelous light... (1 Pet. 2:9)
- B. The benefits of God’s light are marvelous to us. God’s light fascinates us. Light and color are foundational to beauty. Satan chose to be counterfeit to God as an angel of light because light is so beautiful. Light causes us to tremble before God’s terrifying beauty. Light imparts wisdom to us. Light in the natural provides life to plants and warmth to animals. It is a great source of health, strength, wisdom and fascination.
¹⁴ Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:14)

- C. The brightness of God's glory is imparted to us as it was to Jesus in His humanity

³ *Being the brightness of His (Father's) glory... the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)*

⁷ *For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:7-8)*

IX. GOD DESIRES THAT HIS LIGHT BE IMPARTED TO HIS PEOPLE

- A. God desires to shine the light of His face upon our hearts. This is the spirit of revelation.

²³ *Speak to Aaron...saying, "This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up His countenance upon you..." (Num. 6:23-26)*

¹⁵ *Blessed are the people who...walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. (Ps. 89:15)*

³ *Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me...to Your holy hill... (Ps. 43:3)*

- B. David understood that connecting with God caused him to experience the inexhaustible flow of God's life which brought David power, joy, spiritual pleasure and revelation. When we experience God's light of revelation, it equips us to experience the next measure of it. When I see some of His light then I see life clearly.

⁹ *For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. (Ps 36:9)*

- C. When God shines on me then I shine before Him. God's light shining on me causes me to know and feel some of what is in God's heart. God's countenance is the revelation of the light on the inside of God's heart and mind.

⁵ *They looked to Him and were radiant... (Ps. 34:5)*

¹⁵ *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness. (Ps. 17:15)*

- D. The language of our mind and spirit is images. Whatever images that we set our mind on, (good or bad), is what we open our spirit to. This determines what is imparted to our spirit and what forms it. If we set our mind on purity, then purity is imparted to our spirit. If on impurity, then impurity is imparted in our spirit. The human spirit is formed and developed by the images that are put into it.

- E. The eye gate of our personality is the place our imagination is fed. If our eyes look upon that which brings us light then our whole body (or person) will be full of light. Our resurrected bodies will express the light that we possess in God.

³⁴ *The lamp (source of light) of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body*

is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light. (Luke 11:34-36)

- F. To allow darkness into our spirit is to give Satan legal access to us. It is like giving him the keys to our heart. With this legal permission, demons will come to afflict us with addictions and torment
- G. Experiencing God's light protects us from the onslaught of Satan's darkness.
¹² Let us put on the armor of light. (Rom. 13:12)
¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory... (Ps. 84:11)
- H. Light always overpowers darkness in both the natural and the spiritual realms. Light cannot be destroyed.
⁵ The light shines...and the darkness did not comprehend (overpower) it. (Jn. 1:5)
- I. Isaiah prophesied that His people would show forth the indwelling God by being filled with brightness (the indwelling light of Holy Spirit) and burning (indwelling fire of the Holy Spirit).
¹ I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isa. 62:1)
³⁵ He (John the Baptist) was the burning and shining lamp.... (Jn. 5:35)
¹⁸ The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. (Prov. 4:18)
²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai...Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. ³⁰ So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him...³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. ³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out...³⁵ And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him. (Ex. 34:29-35)
- J. Walking in the light is our privilege and is what gives us the ability to truly fellowship. In other words, to experience the jasper-like light of God is to equip us to connect in fellowship with people.
⁷ If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (1 Jn. 1:7)
⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. (1 Thess. 5:5)
- K. The saints are filled with light because of the light of the indwelling Spirit.
³ The...wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament...like stars forever. (Dan. 12:3)

⁴³ *The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)*

¹⁰ *He...showed me the...holy Jerusalem...¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:10-11)*

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. (Mt. 5:14)*

X. HIS COUNTENANCE - HIS IMPARTATION TO HIS PEOPLE

- A. God desires to shine the light of His face upon our hearts. God's countenance imparts grace and the spirit of revelation to His people.

²³ *Speak to Aaron...saying, "This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up His countenance upon you..." (Num. 6:23-26)*

¹⁵ *Blessed are the people who...walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. (Ps. 89:15)*

³ *Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me...to Your holy hill... (Ps. 43:3)*

- B. David prayed for a "discernible impartation" of God's light to shine upon His people. When the light of God shines on us, He is imparting His manifest presence into our heart. Peter spoke of the "times of refreshing" that come from the manifest Presence of God (Acts 3:19).

⁶ *LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. (Ps. 4:6)*

- C. The Father wants to impart the graces of godliness. He has an infinite and eternal power to impart godly traits like wisdom, purity, and passion to His people.

- D. Only God has the unique ability to leave a godly deposit in the core of the human heart. Only the countenance of God can release power into the center of somebody's heart.

XI. GOD DESIRES THAT HIS LIGHT BE IMPARTED TO HIS PEOPLE

- A. David understood that connecting with God caused him to experience the inexhaustible flow of God's life which brought David power, joy, spiritual pleasure and revelation. When we experience God's light of revelation, it equips us to experience the next measure of it. When I see some of His light then I see life clearly.

⁹ *For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. (Ps 36:9)*

- B. When God shines on me then I shine before Him. God's light shining on me causes me to know and feel some of what is in God's heart. God's countenance is the revelation of the light on the inside of God's heart and mind.

⁵ *They looked to Him and were radiant... (Ps. 34:5)*

¹⁵ As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness. (Ps. 17:15)

- C. The language of our mind and spirit is images. Whatever images that we set our mind on, (good or bad), is what we open our spirit to. This determines what is imparted to our spirit and what forms it. If we set our mind on purity, then purity is imparted to our spirit. If on impurity, then impurity is imparted in our spirit. The human spirit is formed and developed by the images that are put into it.
- D. The eye gate of our personality is the place our imagination is fed. If our eyes look upon that which brings us light then our whole body (or person) will be full of light. Our resurrected bodies will express the light that we possess in God.

³⁴ The lamp (source of light) of the body is the eye (eye gate). Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light. (Luke 11:34-36)

- E. To allow darkness into our spirit is to give Satan legal access to us. It is like giving him the keys to our heart. With this legal permission, demons will come to afflict us with addictions and torment
- F. Experiencing God's light protects us from the onslaught of Satan's darkness. Light is a weapon.

¹² Let us put on the armor of light. (Rom. 13:12)

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory... (Ps. 84:11)

- G. Light always overpowers darkness in both the natural and the spiritual realms. Light cannot be destroyed.

⁵ The light shines...and the darkness did not comprehend (overpower) it. (Jn. 1:5)

- H. Jesus promised that the light could cause our inner man to shine brightly.

³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light. (Luke 11:36)

- I. Isaiah prophesied that His people would show forth the indwelling God by being filled with brightness (the indwelling light of Holy Spirit) and burning (indwelling fire of the Holy Spirit).

¹ I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isa. 62:1)

³⁵ He (John the Baptist) was the burning and shining lamp... (Jn. 5:35)

¹⁸ *The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. (Prov. 4:18)*

²⁹ *When Moses came down from Mount Sinai...Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. ³⁰ So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him...³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. ³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out...³⁵ And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him. (Ex. 34:29-35)*

J. Walking in the light is our privilege and is what gives us the ability to truly fellowship. In other words, to experience the jasper-like light of God is to connect in fellowship with people.

⁷ *If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (1 Jn. 1:7)*

⁵ *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. (1 Thess. 5:5)*

K. The profound lack of connection that many have in the Body of Christ with one another is due to the lack of true fellowship. Many mistake socializing as fellowshipping in light. We must walk in light to fellowship. Much socializing is devoid of light and is reduced to speaking with judgment, cynicism, and criticism or with silly talk and course jesting (Eph. 5:4).

L. The saints are filled with light because of the light of the indwelling Spirit.

³ *The...wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament...like stars forever. (Dan. 12:3)*

⁴³ *The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)*

¹⁰ *He...showed me the...holy Jerusalem...¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:10-11)*

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. (Mt. 5:14)*

XII. HIS COUNTENANCE - HIS IMPARTATION TO HIS PEOPLE

His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. (SONG 5:15c, d)

A. His countenance" – speaks of the impartation of God to His people. David prayed, "Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us" (Ps. 4:6). This prayer is for a "discernible impartation" of God's light to shine upon His people. This is a prayer that God would intervene with the impartation of discernible manifestations of Himself to His people. When the light of God shines on the human heart, God is imparting things into the heart. Peter spoke of the "times of refreshing" that come from the manifest Presence of God (Acts 3:19).

1. The Father wants to impart the graces of godliness. He has an infinite and eternal power to impart to you godly traits like wisdom, purity, and passion. The wonderful power of the countenance of God on our souls is satisfying, excellent, and pleasurable. Only God has the unique ability to leave a godly deposit in the core of the human heart. We cannot impart anything unless the Holy Spirit moves. Only the countenance of God can actually release something into the center of somebody's heart. It is a very powerful and unique thing that only God can do in terms of righteousness. Obviously, the devil can release torment, anxiety and fear, but the impartation of God is "like the fragrant cedars of Lebanon" that are "excellent as the cedars". His impartations are always good.
- B. SUMMARY — When God shines His countenance on your heart, He is imparting His manifest Presence. There is nothing more satisfying and pleasurable to the human makeup as the release of the countenance of God on the soul.