

Hello church,

My name is Nathan Pittman. I'm an Equipping Pastor at Calvary Worship Center, in Colorado Springs. I'm here with my AMAZING wife Katherine, and we're so blessed and thankful to Pastor Sandy, Pastor James, his wife Donna, and all of you for letting us come out here, and share the word with you today.

Let's pray...

### **Fresh look**

What's your perspective on life? Are you a "glass half full" kind of person? Or are you someone that just see's the negative? We all know that it's no fun, always seeing the negative, all the time, but there are some people who just who just see life as a drag.

We all have at least one person in our lives that feels like life is dull, and that there's never anything good or exciting happening. Maybe your like...."that's me"... We'll, how do you help someone like that, or help yourself, if that's you? One thing I'm learning is that, a good cure for a dull outlook on life is taking a "fresh look" at life. What do I mean? A "fresh look", means to take something old, and view it as brand new, or to see things at a deeper level.

For example, taking a fresh look at your job will help you see the value of being able to provide for yourself or your family. Taking a fresh look at your marriage will help you rediscover the person you fell in love with, and if your not married, taking a fresh look at singleness will help you see that is not the end of the world, but an opportunity to experience life on your own terms.

The ultimate fresh look at life, comes when you enter into a relationship with Jesus. You never see life the same way again, after that. For example, where people had little value to you, now you call them brothers and sisters, where the darkness of our sin was pleasurable, now the joy of His presence is our pleasure.

As life changing as this is, even believers need a “fresh look”, at their relationship with God, from time to time. Without it, a quiet apathy begins to set in, and suddenly following Jesus becomes, “old news”, or as blues legend BB King once said, “the thrill is gone”.

- You know what I mean. That place where getting into Gods word is a chore, worship becomes a sing-along, and sermons go in one ear, and out the other without any action in our lives. It’s this passionless apathy that keeps the church from moving forward, and being a light in the world.
  - So how does the church overcome this? The answer isn’t going to be found in a new trendy speaker, or another Christian “how to book”, but by taking a “fresh look” at the glory of God.

What is the glory of God? The only way I can even begin to answer such a huge question, is by looking at the characteristics, attributes, greatness, and holiness of God. It’s as we observe these things about Him that, we get an idea of what His glory is.

I believe what were going to be talking about today, is important because taking a fresh look at the glory of God, will not only motivate us to continue growing in our relationships with Him, but impassion us, as the church, to be a light in the world.

- We will be looking at 3 things that happen when we take a fresh look at God’s glory.
  - It will cause us to RISE, SHINE, and MAKE DISCIPLES

We will be studying through Isaiah 60:1-3, but before we jump in, we need to look back at chapters 58-59 to get some context on Isaiah 60

- Chapters 58-60 of Isaiah can practically be one large chapter. The setting starts out with the Jews, who had been fasting for some time, because they wanted an answer from God, but there was no answer, so the Jews began to question Him in [Isaiah 58:3-4](#). They ask God, [“why have we fasted; and you have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls and you take no notice”?](#)
  - Basically they’re asking, “what’s the point of all these religious practices, if God doesn’t respond”?

- In **Isaiah 59:1-2**, God answers these religious Jews, and says, “**behold, the Lords hand is not shortened that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear**”
  - God shows the Jews that He isn't ignoring them, but because of their blatant sin, He would not answer them.
    - Isaiah would later write in chapter 59:9-10 that Israel is in desolation and in Darkness, because of their sin
- In chapter 60 God steps in to redeem Israel from this darkness by revealing His glory, to them.

That where we pick up our first point (Read v1)

As we see in V1...

**A fresh look at the glory of God, will causes us to RISE**

What will it cause us to rise from?

RISE from Sin

When you've done something that grieves Gods heart, have you ever asked the question, “how can I get past this, or how can I walk in victory after I've fallen so many times”?

Paul dealt with this battle in his own life, and he wrote about in Romans 7. In this chapter Paul talks about the battle between doing what honors God, and resisting the flesh. In the end of the chapter Paul gives us the answer to rising above our sin. He says in **Romans 7:24 - O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** And then in verse **25** he says, **I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!** Why?! Because he knew that Jesus has the final victory over our sin nature, not just when we see Him in Heaven but right now.

I want to give you three ways we can be sure of this.

- Jesus has paid the debt of our sin, and is now our advocate to the father.
  - **1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate**

with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- 2) He has given us the power we need to live a life of victory
  - 2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.
- 3) His is with us
  - Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Taking a fresh look at Gods glory will not only cause us to rise from our sins, but it will cause to rise with purpose

Did know that when God speaks here in verse 1, He isn't just addressing Israel, as His children, but He is addressing them as His representatives to the rest of the world? 1 Peter 2:9 - says But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Exodus 19:6 - also says- And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Israel couldn't stay in the depths of their sin, because God had called them to RISE, and when they did, they showed the world what Gods character was like. That He is merciful and wont give up on His people. **This is still true today.** One of the things I remember Pastor Sandy saying when he spoke at my home church was that, "Gods character could be riding on how we respond to adversity in our lives".

Here's how this spoke to me... It's the way I respond to difficult things in my life that will either convince those around me, that God exist or that He doesn't. Or even worse, convincing them that He doesn't care.

- We rise with purpose, because there are people who are watching how we live our lives right now! People looking for REAL hope, and

as a Christian we represent that hope by the way we respond to hardship in our lives.

- You might be thinking, “I haven’t been a very good representative of that hope to those around me”, but that’s ok, because if you’ve fallen, now you get to show them Gods character by getting up again!

Taking a fresh look at the glory of God will cause us to rise from the depths of our sin, and live with purpose to those around us. When we do this we shine (Read v2)

### **A fresh look at the glory of God causes us to SHINE**

Let me ask you a question, with an obvious answer...How important is light? Scientifically, we know that light is necessary for life on Earth. Almost all of the energy used by our planet, is derived from the sun. In addition, without light, the Earth would be completely cold and dark, as even the moon gets its glow from reflecting light from the sun. What is true in the world of science is also true in the in the spiritual. We need light. Jesus said in **John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”**. When someone gives their life to Jesus, they become light in a dark world. This light shines as we reflect the character and heart of God.

I want to identify two areas that desperately need this light...

- Our environment
  - I’m not talking about nature, but I’m talking about your job, home, or community. God has a purpose and a plan for every environment we enter into.
    - **SO ask yourself**, are there people in our jobs, homes, or communities that are in need, whether financially, physically, or emotionally? God has brought them into our environment so that they would see His light in you.
      - Charles Spurgeon once said, “The object of our shining is not that men may see how good we are, nor even see us

at all, but that they may see grace in us and God in us, and cry, 'What a Father these people must have'!

### ○ Our Culture

- We live in a crazy culture! I could spend a lot of time talking about what's wrong with it, but instead I'm going to focus on the remedy for it, which is love
  - Paul knew this, and in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 he explained what our efforts amount to, if we don't have love. He said -  
**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal (Just making noise). 2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing (In other words, "I have nothing to give"). 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing (nothing to show for my effort).**
    - As the church we can make all the noise we want to, but if we were not operating in the love of God, we will never impact the culture
      - This also means engaging the culture

Taking seen fresh look at the glory of God will not only cause us to Shine in our environment and in the culture, but it will cause us to make disciples  
(Read v3)

### **A fresh look at the glory of God causes us to make disciples**

When we shine in our environment and in the culture, people will be drawn to the light. Kind of like, the light at the end of a tunnel, and when they come, we must be ready to not only receive them in church, but disciple them.

- When we hear the word "discipleship", we tend to get scared and think we need seminary degree in order to do it, this is wrong. You don't need a degree to disciple someone, just a willing-ness to be obedient and do life with someone.

Here are 2 key foundational stepping-stones, any believer can disciple another believer in, when they come to Christ.

○ Show them how deep Gods grace is

- Show them that their sins really are gone, and that they are a new creation, because the enemy will try to convince them that they haven't changed

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 says - Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone *is in Christ, he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- We aren't even to judge people by who they used to be, they aren't that person anymore, they are a new creation, that's why its called "born again".

○ Show them how to stand

- 1 Peter 5:8 says - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- Just because people come to Jesus, that doesn't mean it's the end of the story, it's just the beginning. They need to be trained on how to stand against the attacks of the enemy.

- They must know what Paul meant, when he said In Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

In conclusion

When we take a fresh look at the glory of God, What does it cause us to do?

- **It causes us to RISE** - from our sin, and to live with purpose.
- **It causes us to SHINE** - impacting our environment and the culture.
- **It causes us to MAKE DISCIPLES** - Doing life with those that come to the light

- To sum all of this up, taking a **fresh look** at the Glory of God, causes us to take action, but how do we get a fresh look at the glory of God?
  - **First, we must ask for it** - In The book of Exodus Moses saw God single handedly free Israel out of slavery in Egypt. He saw God care for the young nation by providing for them, leading them, and protecting them, as they journeyed through the wilderness, but Moses wasn't satisfied with that, and in [Exodus 33:18](#) he cried out to God **“PLEASE SHOW ME YOU'RE YOUR GLORY”!**
    - Moses was never satisfied He wanted more
  - **Second we must seek it in the word** - [Psalm 119:18](#) **Open my eyes, that I may see. Wondrous things from Your law.**
    - Like is said earlier, we can get an idea of what Gods glory is like by looking at His holiness, characteristics, attributes, and greatness. Which are on full display in the bible! Focusing on these things will move us past the “old news” feeling in our walk with the Lord, to a renewed desire to follow Him.

Maybe you've never known God and your tired of your outlook on life, and you want change, it starts by asking Him into your life.

Pray...