

## From Gory to GLORY

I have heard the phrase "from glory to glory" in several songs including Zach William's "Rescue Story" and Graham Kendrick's "Shine, Jesus, Shine". It is a phrase used in 2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV): "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from *glory to glory*, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

But as I begin my Lenten journey, the phrase "**GORY TO GLORY**" comes to mind. One cannot read of the Old Testament sacrifices - all that blood thrown on the altar and on the people - and not think *HOW GORY!* The sin and the guilt offerings **REQUIRED** a blood sacrifice. Atonement required blood and it was GORY.

Fast forward to the New Testament - For God so loved the world that He sent His Son (John 3:16) - THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US (John 1:1) - and for us He suffered (in our place) a very GORY death - **GORY** both physically and mentally as whips, thorns and nails ripped his skin and friends ripped his heart.

**BUT**, Christ is not left on the cross - there IS more to the story; the empty tomb of Easter morning - Easter **GLORY**.

While I am not in glory yet, I am seen by God as holy and redeemed because of what Jesus Christ did for me by His death and resurrection. By God's grace my "goriness" has been re-dressed with the robe of righteousness. Christ will return in glory to bring me and all believers into the glory of His eternal kingdom. Because our Savior went from **Lenten GORY to Easter GLORY**, we can be sure that we too, by God's grace alone will go from the "goriness" of our present life to the promised glory of a life without end. Which leads us back to 2 Corinthians 3:18. Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday amidst the suffering, through the Good Friday gory, but ends with "Alleluia" on Easter as we celebrate the gift of eternal life - **Because HE lives I too shall live** (John 14:19)



Dear Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I am but dust - I confess my gory sins to you. Forgive me and raise me up to give you the glory as I live as one forgiven and restored. Thank you for your abiding love and your faithful promises. I pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.