“Bring Back the Glory”

Manley Beasley used to say, “Bring Back the Glory.” As we look at Jesus’ prayer to His Father in John 17:1-5, I think Jesus was saying the same thing.

John 17:5 “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

Here Jesus tells us there was a time when He had a glory with the Father that He no longer has. When he took on flesh, some of the glory of God was veiled.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus “unzipped” Himself and let the disciples see His glory and He “shone like the noonday sun.” And their response was to stay there and build three tabernacles.

We know there was a time man experienced the glory of God. Adam and Eve were naked but not ashamed because they were clothed with the glory of God.

But when they sinned, they lost their covering and the flesh now covered them and shut out the glory of God.

Sonny Holland said this:

1. Adam said he was afraid, he lost the power of God.

2. Adam was naked, he lost the purity of God.

3. Adam hid himself, he lost the presence of God.
All of us have lost the power, purity and presence of God.

But that can be restored when we are saved and walking in the glory of God.

How do we walk in the glory of God? How does the glory come back?

In the Temple as described in the Old Testament, the glory of God resided behind “the veil.” The veil was the curtain that separated the ark of the covenant and the people.

But Hebrews 10:19-20 says that Jesus’ flesh was a veil that has been rent so we can go into the Holy of Holies - return back to the glory of God.

On the cross, Mark 15 - when Jesus died and His flesh was torn, the veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom.

Now, with unveiled faces, we can behold the glory of God.

II Corinthians 3: 7-4:2 tells us

1. That if the law had a glory, how much more is the glory of the gospel and Spirit?

2. That glory of the law was passing away, but the glory of the Spirit grows.

3. We have a hope (vs. 12) that this glory will increase.

4. The veil has been taken away (vs. 16)
5. We have a ministry (vs. 7,8,9, 4:1) - note the references to “ministry.” What is this ministry? To reveal the glory of God.

How do we do it?

By the rending of the flesh.

II Corinthians 4:12 “So then death is working in me, but life in you.”

Death must work in us so the life of the Spirit (the glory of God) may be seen through us.

One of my favorite Old Testament stories is the return of the Ark to Jerusalem in II Samuel 6. Oh, may we see the return of the glory of God in our churches and lives.

In 1945, B.B. McKinney wrote these words as a hymn:

Revive Thy people, O Lord! Thy mighty arm make bare;
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead, And make Thy people] hear.

Revive Thy people, O Lord! Create soul-thirst for Thee;
But hungering for the bread of life, Oh, may our spirits be.

Revive! Revive! And give refreshing showers;
The glory shall be all Thine own; The blessing shall be ours.