

# Longing for The Glory of God

The Believers Original and Eternal Clothing

Herb Paynter



We were not designed to live like this

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## *Introduction*

When God made the statement “Let us make man in our image...” He was speaking to the other members of the godhead and was decreeing that man would be created in a manner unlike any other of God’s creation. Man alone was to have a three-part configuration like the Trinity; a body, a soul, and a spirit.

There was from the beginning of recorded time, a purpose for man totally unlike that of any of God’s other creations. Man alone was to communicate directly with His creator and enjoy unbroken fellowship with Him forever.

### ***Psalm 8:4-6***

*What is man, that you are mindful of him? And the son of man, that you visited him? For you made him but little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; You put all things under his feet.*

As the Bible records early history, man was created, positioned just below the godhead, given all glory and made governor overall of God’s creation. The highest position in all of creation was his. Fast forward to Eve casually conversing with the serpent in the lush Garden in the midst of Eden; perhaps one of many such natural chats common between man and animals in that extraordinary world. Today’s topic of conversation would include a curious question about the “fruit of the forbidden tree.” What could it be that made that one tree so deadly? Why was that delicious-looking fruit off the menu?

Curiosity and imagination are two of Satan’s most deceptive and dangerous pry bars. There was no need for Satan to take to the offense and sell her on disobeying God, he had only to listen to Eve express her curious attraction to the forbidden fruit and then cunningly questioned her understanding of the quarantine. Perhaps God thought that Eve shouldn’t know the whole truth about good and evil.

What if that tasty fruit would actually make her smarter and even more powerful?

One simple question did everything necessary to contaminate and corrupt Eve's mind. Once the spark of curiosity was exposed to the volatile fuel of her human imagination, the unquenchable fire of sin was set ablaze and totally destroyed man's innocence. In a single moment, mankind descended from the highest pinnacle of God's favor to the depths of His repulsion. Even His love for His unique human race could not overrule His holy justice. Sin cannot ever exist in God's presence, and neither can sinful man.

## *The Long Road to Recovery*

In the process of this disobedience, man lost both his honored position and godly provision. Man's once-purposeful life changed completely from its original purpose and design.

The massive loss experienced by man in the Garden is contrasted with the recovery opportunity God offers to all believers in this study.

### ***Psalm 42:1-2***

*As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?*

In man's most worshipful moments, there is a longing deep inside his heart to be surrounded by the presence of God. There is very little explanation as to the reason for such a longing, but we all feel it. Our worshipful hearts can be completely overwhelmed by the knowledge of God's presence. It is not unusual to get choked up in worship services as we sense that something intimate is missing. Our sinful heart longs desperately for intimacy that he senses is missing.

We know that "walking in the light" is the process of allowing God's Holy Spirit to direct our attitudes and actions. But isn't it strange that a person who chooses to walk in the light at one moment, may at other times deliberately choose to walk in darkness. What is at the base of this paradox? What we will learn from this study is that man was originally created clothed in God's glory. God's glory was man's appointed garment. Man was meant to wear God's glory forever.

## *In the Beginning*

Man was created “complete.” He was made in the image of God and made completely for God’s glory. It was a perfect situation. God created within man a need for God Himself. It was a perfect plan. Man needed God, God was glorified in fulfilling that need, and man felt complete in the process. The creation of man was God’s joy. Man was created in God’s image and was clothed in God’s glory. This cycle of fulfillment was the God-ordained process of walking in the light, the very same principle that believers enjoy today.

We cannot so much as imagine the beauty of God’s original creation or the purpose that Adam and Eve lived in. Our human minds cannot conceive of, nor is there a medium created on this Earth that can adequately describe, the relationship that they experienced as everyday life.

### ***Genesis 2:25***

*The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

But something went terrible wrong. Man, who was created to delight in God’s will, willingly disobeyed God’s will. Man was seduced in the midst of God’s garden of innocence by the father of lies. God’s creation had always been nurtured in perfect love, honesty and provision. There had never existed within man the thought of personal desire. Need and greed were concepts never known by man. They knew only of God’s love. Need simply did not exist.

Man that day made a deal with the Devil for an empty promise and a worthless IOU. Man was created in innocence, but with a free will. God created man with the freedom (and the curse) of human curiosity and the ability to make choices. It apparently never occurred to man to desire more than what God was providing. The lifestyle of obedience provided man with so much truth that questioning God’s will never occurred.