

Brightness of His Glory

Characteristics of the Risen Lord

Introduction

- Heb 1:3 – ...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person



Brightness of His Glory

- Christ is the visible glory of the Father
- Christ is co-essential with the Father – Creed
- Eternal Light → Eternal Brightness



St. Athanasius Quotes

- Who is mindless to doubt the eternity of the Son? For who can see Light without Brightness or shine?
- He is inseparable from the Father as the brightness is inseparable from the light
- Who wouldn't see that brightness is inseparable from light, for this is the case by nature, they exist together, and not following each other

St. Athanasius Quotes

- How can the Son not be the same in essence as the Father, while He is the Image of the Father and His brightness?
- The Lord Jesus said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Since the Son is the Word of the Father and His wisdom, how can it be that there existed time while the Son did not exist?

Moses a Type of Christ

- **Exodus 34:35** - 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.
- Christ's glory was veiled and hidden while in the flesh



Moses a Type of Christ

- Shone more strongly when speaking with the Father (Transfiguration, predicting His crucifixion)
- **John 12:28** – "...Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."



Express Image of His Person

- ?a?a???? – “kharacteero” – express image
- Means “engraved” or “stamped” – like an imaged stamped on wax
- Christ is the exact representation of the Father as an image is to the stamp that made it



Express Image of His Person

- **Colossians 1:15** - He is the image of the invisible God
- **John 1:18** - No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
- We do not see the Father, only His representation in Christ
- We do not see the actual form of the sun, only the rays coming from it

Christ is the Way to the Father

- In the OT, they did not know God as Father
- They knew the commandments of God, but not God Himself
- Christ revealed the way to the Father – He is now approachable
- **John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Do We Think We Know God?

- To the man born blind who did have a personal experience with God they said: "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?"
- **Romans 1:21** - because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Knowledge of His Word

- **John 5:39-40** - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- Does our knowledge of the Bible and Church Fathers draw us closer to God?
- Do we imitate or memorize?



Church Rites + History

- “You shouldn’t think that the Lord wants you as a religious person, to fulfill duties or obligations. Not at all! God doesn’t give you duties or obligations, but wants you to love Him the same way as He loves you.” – **HH Pope Shenouda**
- Does our understanding of the Liturgy translate into a deep spiritual experience each week?



Fasting



- **Zechariah 7:5-7** - When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me? When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink for yourselves? Should you not have obeyed the words which the Lord proclaimed through the former prophets
- Do we mourn for our sins or the fact that we are fasting?

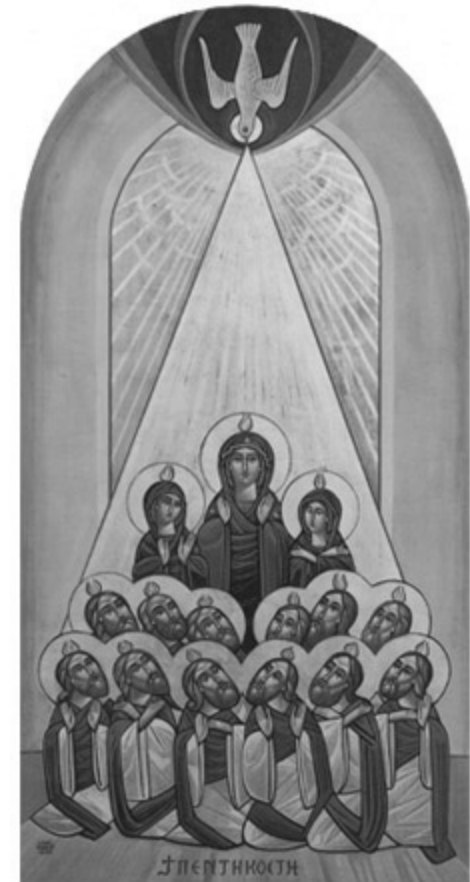
Spiritual Practices

- **Luke 18:11-13** - ...God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess....
- **Isaiah 58:6** - Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?
- Do we put on a spiritual show for others or even ourselves?



We are the Original Church

- **Matthew 3:9** - and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
- Just because we share a common faith with the apostles, doesn't mean we have a common spirit or zeal.



I Am a Servant

James 3:1 - My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

It Happened That Night

As for you my friend, you were not devoted to the ministry but you served the world.. All your spiritual ministry was just one hour every week in the Sunday Schools...And sometimes your service in other fields made you give God another hour...For those two hours then you want to be with the apostles, the prophets and the priests in the city of the ministers?

It Happened That Night

But I see in the city some of my colleagues the teachers of the Sunday Schools who did the same service like me' - Here, the angel replied, 'No, they are not like you...Though they served one hour or more in the Sunday Schools, they spent the whole week getting ready for that hour...

It Happened That Night

They considered the spiritual ministry their main work and other worldly affairs as secondary...This does not mean that they neglected their responsibilities and worldly duties; No, for they were very faithful and successful in performing them. Such worldly affairs even comprised some service! Thus God counted them consecrated'

It Happened That Night

I pitied you much, my dear human friend...I pitied you more when you were in the world...and particularly at the times you suffered from self-righteousness...As you looked at your numerous services you thought of yourself an example of ministry while you were not counted as a minister at all...You may remember many other faults you made.

It Happened That Night

For example, yours was a formal service... You used to go to the Sunday Schools as a weekly habit...and to lead the prayers, take down the names of the present and the absent, and give prizes to the pupils who attended regularly and neglect the absent as if he was not in your charge...Your service was void of the Spirit and love and so could not touch the hearts of the children.

It Happened That Night

Your words and acts were not coming from your heart...your chanting lacked the spirit of joy...your prayers were not humble, meditative or imploring and your orders lacked the spirit of love...Thus your service was not effective...Even when you preached in the church, you did so because the priest asked you, and you promised and had to fulfill your promise...

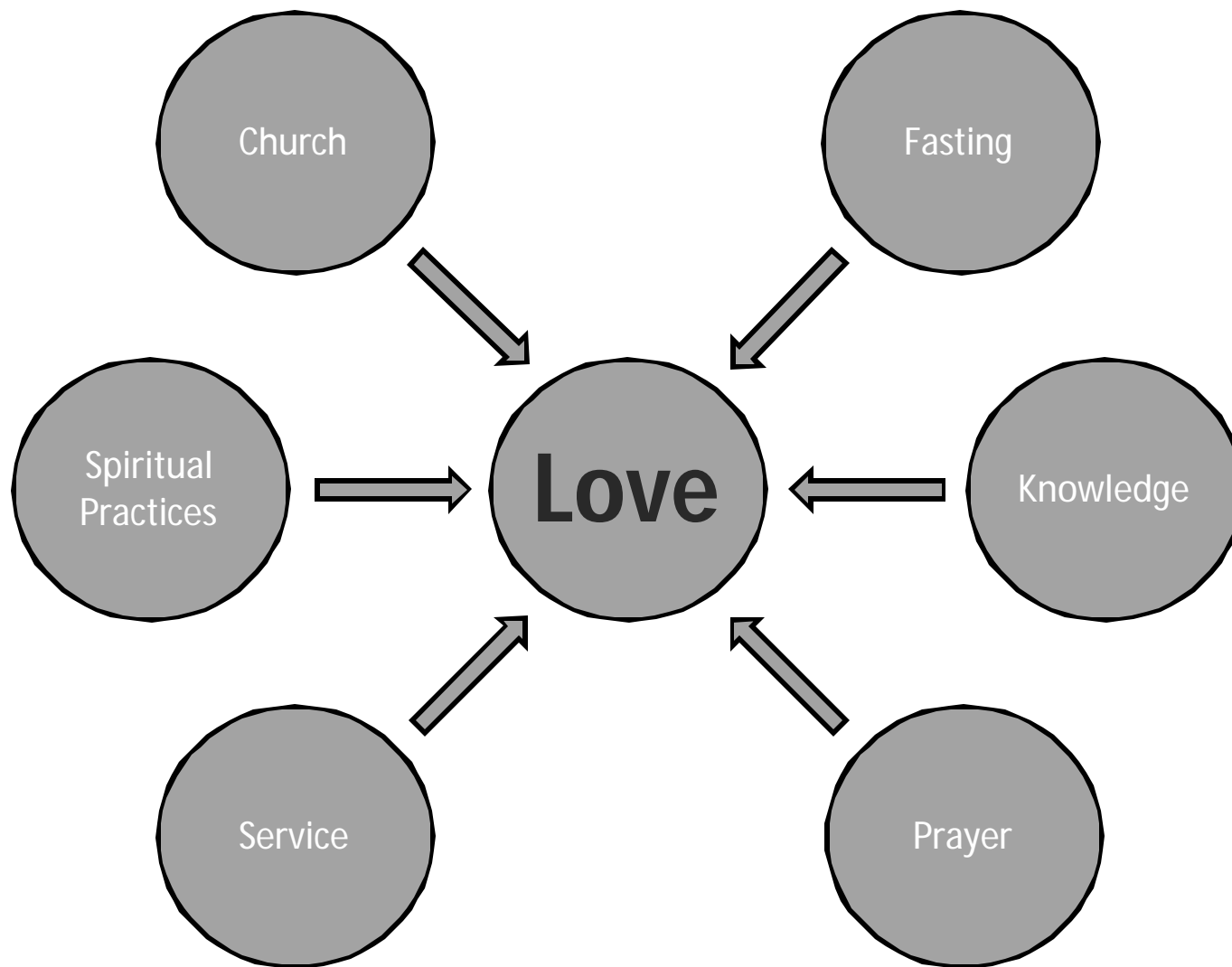
It Happened That Night

Your main concern was to divide the subject into sections and put them in order in such a form that might attract the admiration more than gain the salvation of the souls... Your voice-though being loud, harmonious and clear-was cold and had no life in it...

I Am a Servant

- **Matthew 18:6** - "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."
- Do we teach one thing with our words, but another with our actions?





Sun of Righteousness

- **Malachi 4:2** - But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.
- The brightness of Christ brings healing to those who really seek it (fear His name)
- The power of the resurrection can only be felt in those that identify their sins, and then watch the transformation.
- Realizing the harsh truth about ourselves is the first step to healing

Conclusion

- Christ and the Father are one
- Christ is the Way to the Father
- Do we know God?
 - Knowledge of His Word
 - Church Rites + History
 - Fasting
 - Spiritual practices
 - Original Church
 - Servant
- Sun of Righteousness - Healing