Devotion #283

**Honored by God**

**1 Samuel 2:30 (NASB)** *“For those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.”*

If you have ever had the wonderful privilege of being honored for something in your life you know how special that is. To be recognized by peers for outstanding work in your field of study or to be honored by a coach or some organization for an achievement is a great motivator and very humbling at the same time. But nothing compares to being honored by the Creator of the universe. And that is what God says He will do for all people who honor Him.

One of the main ways God honors us is by allowing us the privilege to enter His Kingdom, which has no comparison. But God honors us in different ways beyond entrance into His Kingdom as well. He also honors us by filling us with His Spirit at the time we repent of our sins and put our trust in Him as Lord. (Luke 11:13) He also honors us by giving us a new mind and new spirit so we have the privilege to think godly and not be swayed by the world’s ideologies. (Titus 3:5) He also honors us by giving us the desire to follow Him. (John 10:27)

Each of those ways of being honored by God is more than humbling and is more than enough honor for a lifetime, but God doesn’t stop there. He also honors us in the little things of life, the things that you and I don’t think He will. For example, God said He will provide everything in this life that we need. (Philippians 4:19) And how many times have we watched God honor us by helping us with an unexpected bill or with a health issue that we can’t resolve on our own. I was just in a local supply store yesterday to pick up something for our house, and I had the most wonderful conversation with one of the employees who told me that he had just gotten out of the hospital after suffering from a mild stroke. He had surrendered his life to the Lord years ago but still was as overwhelmed by God’s honoring him as he was when he was first saved.

Thankfully God is a God who does honor His people, but by default God says he will not honor those who despise Him. Eli was the High Priest in Israel at one point, who had two sons who were not following the Lord. In fact, they were doing disgusting things as priests, not caring about God or the things of God. And Eli did nothing to correct them. He fussed at them but did not remove them from the priesthood. Eventually God took the life of the two boys. (1 Samuel 2) But not only did God remove the two ungodly sons but eventually God would also remove the line of priesthood from Eli.

Too often we miss the blessings of the Lord because we do not pay attention to the details of life. I’m talking about the big details and the small details of everyday living, specifically the details of our hearts. And for that God is often dishonored, which precludes people from receiving honor from God. I’m not talking about losing our salvation but losing blessings that God wants to give us.

It is amazing to think that God would honor His servants. Most servants in biblical days and even now in some parts of the world are not honored for anything, but they are treated as property and nothing more, certainly not as human souls that have redeeming value. But not our God. He delights to honor His people.

So, what is your need today? I don’t have the mind of God and neither do I understand His ways, but I can say that God will honor you if you honor Him. He never forgets what is done for Him and never misses an opportunity to honor us.

Perhaps you have some other difficult issue you are facing. Live your life honoring God, and He will make sure your needs are met. He may take you home to be with Him or in some way only He can provide, but still He will honor you. That’s what He said. Can you imagine being honored by the living God? It’s true. All because He loves you and takes great delight in you honoring Him.