

Embracing the Glory

Peter shared this quote of John Eldredge at Kingdom Living Community today:¹

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?” Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn’t serve the world. There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us...And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. (Nelson Mandela²)

When I first read this quote, I thought, No, that’s not true. We don’t fear our glory. We fear we are not glorious at all. We fear that at bottom, we are going to be revealed as...disappointments. Mandela is just trying to make a nice speech, like a sermon, to buoy us up for a day or two. But as I thought about it more, I realized we do fear our glory. We fear even heading this direction because, for one thing, it seems prideful. Now pride is a bad thing, to be sure, but it’s not prideful to embrace the truth that you bear the image of God.³ Paul says it brings glory to God. We walk in humility because we know it is a glory bestowed. It reflects something of the Lord’s glory.”

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For Kingdom Living Community (Canberra)

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1 – John Eldredge (2003) “Waking the Dead” [kindle] p:63-64

2 – **NOTE:** This quote is not one of Mandela's [See “‘Deepest fear’ quote not Mr Mandela’s”]

(www.nelsonmandela.org/news/entry/deepest-fear-quote-not-mr-mandelas)

3 – 1 Corinthians 11:7