Four Faces of One Glory

Lion Ox Man Eagle

When heaven is opened you do not first see furniture. You see four living creatures. Each one has a face.

> As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.
>
> **Ezekiel 1:10**

> And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.
>
> **Revelation 4:7–8**

Those four faces are four parts of one glory. They can be read as four parts of Christ, and as four basic temperaments in a man. The four Gospels carry the faces. The soul carries the same four as dispositions that color how life flows out of the spirit.

> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.
>
> **Ephesians 3:17–19**

> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
>
> **Romans 8:29**

> And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
>
> **Mark 12:30**

Most of us already live in one of these four. That is normal. The problem is treating the one we have as if it were the whole of Christ. Heart, soul, mind, and strength are four parts of one command. Breadth, length, depth, and height are four parts of one prayer. The four faces are the same four parts seen from the throne.

Lion

Gospel
Matthew
Temperament
Outgoing. People. Looks around. Present.
Love with
all thy strength
Eph. 3:18
Breadth

Ox

Gospel
Mark
Temperament
Goal-centered. Looks ahead. Near future.
Love with
all thy heart
Eph. 3:18
Length

Man

Gospel
Luke
Temperament
Introspective. Looks within. Past.
Love with
all thy soul
Eph. 3:18
Depth

Eagle

Gospel
John
Temperament
Visionary. Looks beyond. Far future.
Love with
all thy mind
Eph. 3:18
Height

Matthew · Breadth · all thy strength

1. Lion — the outgoing temperament

Focus	Looks	Time	Key word
People oriented	**Around**	**The present**	**Expression**

This is love in action. In Matthew, Jesus is seen bold as a lion, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. We are to love the Lord with all our strength. That expresses the glory of His name — what He does. It expresses the breadth of God's nature: outreach.

> And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.
>
> **Luke 4:14**

In Christ

He is born King, and He is worshipped as King.

> Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
>
> **Matthew 2:2**

He enters Jerusalem as King. The same verse that calls Him King also calls Him meek.

> Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.
>
> **Matthew 21:5**

All authority is His. He uses it to send people out.

> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
>
> **Matthew 28:18–19**

In the believer

Those who receive grace reign in this life.

> For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.
>
> **Romans 5:17**

The believer is already seated with Christ.

> And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
>
> **Ephesians 2:6**

The Spirit given is not fear. Power comes with love and a sound mind.

> For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
>
> **2 Timothy 1:7**

Matthew 7:1–12 — love in action

The word therefore in verse 12 sums up verses 1 through 11. Do not judge from a beam in your own eye. Ask. Seek. Knock. Give good gifts as a father gives them. Then the sum: treat other people the way you want to be treated. That is the law and the prophets for this temperament. Expression under God.

> Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
>
> **Matthew 7:1–12**

The picture — spirits come out

This is illustrated in the casting out of demons. Every later casting out of evil spirits is the same work: God’s love in action. That work heals the outgoing temperament. Satan looks for a means of expression. He possesses people so that he can express himself through them. Casting out spirits is the proper expression of God’s love through this temperament.

> And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.
>
> **Luke 4:31–36**

> He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
>
> **1 John 3:8**

The temptation of this temperament is to draw attention to itself. God’s intent is that the same bold expression be used to set people free. The principle is two-fold. It heals the one showing God’s love, and it heals the one who had the demon. Love in action heals this temperament. Hate in action perverts it. That is why this is the medicine God chose for it.

If this is the only face formed in you

You will run people and call it leadership. You will want to be seen.

If this is never formed in you

You will work and care and still have no courage to stand when something has to be stood against.

Mark · Length · all thy heart

2. Ox — the goal-centered temperament

Focus	Looks	Time	Key word
Goal centered	**Ahead**	**The near future**	**Motivation**

Motivation is staying on the road. This is perseverance to a goal. In Mark, Jesus is the servant, the ox. We are to love the Lord with all our heart. That expresses the glory of His Word — what we have through promise and prophecy. It expresses the length of God's nature: commitment to a goal.

> And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.
>
> **Acts 20:32**

In Christ

Isaiah names Him Servant before Mark writes a word.

> Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.
>
> **Isaiah 42:1**

The whole city is at the door. He does not send them home.

> And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.
>
> **Mark 1:32–34**

He came to work, and to give His life.

> For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
>
> **Mark 10:45**

In the believer

The mind that was in Christ took the form of a servant.

> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.
>
> **Philippians 2:5–7**

Freedom is given so a man can serve other people.

> For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
>
> **Galatians 5:13**

The work is not wasted. Stay with it.

> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
>
> **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Matthew 7:13–14 — enter in, and find it

The first half is perseverance. Enter ye in at the strait gate. The second half is satisfaction of attainment: few there be that find it.

> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
>
> **Matthew 7:13–14**

> Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.
>
> **Proverbs 13:12**

Hope is desire crying out for fulfillment. When the desire comes, the sick heart is healed.

The pictures — the fever, the road, the woman who pressed through

Simon’s wife’s mother is a housewife hindered from her goal of serving her guests. Jesus heals the fever. She rises and does what she was there to do. Then the picture turns to Christ Himself. He has just stated His goal in Luke 4:18. He is a friend of this house. He could have been pulled off the road. He heals her and goes on. The next morning the people try to keep Him. He does not turn left or right for a good thing or a bad thing. He stays the course.

> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
>
> **Luke 4:18–19**

> And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.
>
> **Luke 4:38–39**

> And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.
>
> **Luke 4:42–43**

The second picture is the woman with the issue of blood. She presses toward Jesus. She reaches the goal. Power goes through her. She is healed outwardly of the issue, and inwardly of the sick heart that hope deferred had made. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all keep the record.

> And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 9:20–22

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

Mark 5:25–29

If this is the only face formed in you

You will take every load until there is nothing left, and then resent the people you serve.

If this is never formed in you

You will see what ought to be done and never put your hand to it.

Luke · Depth · all thy soul

3. Man — the introspective temperament

Focus	Looks	Time	Key word
Inner-person oriented	**Within**	**The past**	**Sensitivity**

Sensitivity is sensing your own inner state, or another person's. This is penetrative perception. In Luke, Jesus is the Son of man. We are to love the Lord with all our soul. That expresses the glory of His life — who He is in us. It expresses the depth of God's nature: quality.

> And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.
>
> **John 12:23–26**

In Christ

He is laid in a manger.

> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
>
> **Luke 2:11–12**

He sees a widow. He is moved. He touches the bier.

> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
>
> **Luke 7:13–14**

He came to find the people who are lost, and save them.

> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
>
> **Luke 19:10**

In the believer

Put on the same inward life He showed the widow.

> Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.
>
> **Colossians 3:12**

Kindness and a tender heart are commanded because they have already been given.

> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
>
> **Ephesians 4:32**

Share another person’s joy and grief.

> Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
>
> **Romans 12:15**

Matthew 7:15–20 — see what is inside

Beware of what is inward, not only what is worn. A tree is known by its fruit. Verse 20 is accuracy of full knowledge: wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
>
> **Matthew 7:15–20**

The pictures — dropsy, and the man who could not hear

Dropsy is fluid collecting in the tissues, usually from a failing heart or kidney. The face and limbs swell. Breathing is hard because fluid presses the diaphragm. The outside is bloated because something inside has failed. Jesus takes the man and heals him.

> And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;
>
> **Luke 14:1–4**

Speech is the communication of knowledge. The man in Mark 7 could not speak well because he could not hear. What he once knew about speech had been lost. Jesus opens the ears first. Then the tongue is loosed. Then he speaks plain.

> And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.
>
> **Mark 7:32–37**

> **If this is the only face formed in you**
> You will comfort people and never tell them the truth that would free them.

> **If this is never formed in you**
> You can be right in what you believe and still walk past the person who is hurting.

John · Height · all thy mind

4. Eagle — the visionary temperament

Focus	Looks	Time	Key word
Presence oriented	**Beyond**	**The distant future**	**Consciousness**

Consciousness is a keen awareness of God. This is obedience to the Father's will, and then the covering that rests on a life that obeys. In John, Jesus is the Son of God, the flying eagle. We are to love the Lord with all our mind. That expresses the glory of His presence — who He is with us. It expresses the height of God's nature.

> I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
>
> **Psalm 16:8**

In Christ

John starts before creation. Then that Word takes flesh.

> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
>
> **John 1:1**

He does not act on His own. He does what He sees the Father doing.

> Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.
>
> **John 5:19**

He names His own origin in words that belong only to God.

> Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
>
> **John 8:58**

In the believer

The life is hid with Christ. The mind is to follow.

> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
>
> **Colossians 3:1–2**

The church's true life is already in heaven.

> For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
>
> **Philippians 3:20**

What can be seen is not the measure. What cannot be seen is.

> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.
>
> **2 Corinthians 4:18**

Matthew 7:21–23 — do the Father's will

Not everyone who says Lord, Lord enters. The ones who enter do the will of the Father. Prophecy, casting out devils, and wonderful works are not enough if He never knew them.

> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
>
> **Matthew 7:21–23**

Matthew 7:24–27 — the covering

The man who hears and does builds on a rock. The foundation covers him from the shifting sand of living for himself. The rain is judgment from heaven. The floods are the judgment of the world around the house. The winds are the attack of Satan. The house stands because it is founded on the rock.

> Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.
>
> **Matthew 7:24–27**

The pictures — the viper, and the fever in the house

Paul is on the island because he is doing the will of God. He is fulfilling the commission. A viper fastens on his hand. He shakes it off and feels no harm. The islanders watch. Their view of him is lifted from a doomed man to a man under God. Obedience lifts consciousness to the heavenly level.

> And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
>
> **Mark 16:17–18**

> And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.
>
> **Acts 28:3–6**

Then Publius receives them. Paul goes in and heals the father of a fever and a bloody flux. Like the house on the rock, Paul is covered from the rain, the floods, and the wind he has already been in.

> In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.
>
> **Acts 28:7–8**

> If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
>
> **John 13:14**

> **If this is the only face formed in you**
> You will talk about God and not come down to the room you are standing in.

> **If this is never formed in you**
> You will work and feel and still live as if this present world were the whole story.

Close

> And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.
>
> **Revelation 5:14**

The four living creatures do not keep one face and hide the others. Paul does not give you that option either. He prays you would take in the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and so be filled with all the fulness of God.

Outgoing expression. Goal that stays on the road. An inner life that can see. A mind set where Christ is. Most people will know which one they already have. The work of the Spirit is the other three.