Experimenting with glaze

I’m doing a series of tests with glazing and applying it at different stages of finishing. I used to just follow the instructions which is put the glaze on after clear coat with a brush then wipe it off with a cloth right away well it’s still wet. While that worked, it only stayed in the very deep crevices and wiped completely out of any shallow crevices. As shown here on the dog.
So next I went with the Other Extreme which was putting the glaze directly over a naturally stained piece of cedar and let it dry completely before trying to wipe any off. I had to work at it to wipe it off the high spots and it definitely stayed on most Parts the most. Here it is first with no clear on top of it.

Then I rubbed a little bit of the Natural stain over it and clear coated with shellac. The stain rubbed over the glaze helped soften the edges a little.
Next one I used one coat of sanding sealer before glazing. You can see on the shallower parts of the beard, it wiped off, but it still stayed fairly heavy. I used the same technique to finish. A light rub of stain again and shellac.

Here they are side by side.
The final test. Glaze over clear gloss, but allowed to dry. This took very long to dry because it couldn't be absorbed like directly on wood or on sanding sealer. Here is the process.

First I stained with golden oak. Then built up the poly clear coat. Then I painted on the glaze (see picture) with a small brush only on the eagle. I wiped it off the head area right away, but left the rest dry. After about 18 hours it was starting to get about 50% dry, I wiped it off the high points. If you don't let it get mostly dry, it's too easy to wipe it off the shallower parts. Then I let it get about 90% dry (30 hours or so) and gave it a bit more wiping. It took 48 hours to dry completely.

Here is the Glaze I used from Home Depot
One More example.

First I stained this and clear coated.

Next I liberally applied glaze and let it sit for about an hour.
Then I wiped off the excess and I’m left with this