

## Unfading Glory

II Corinthians 3: 11-18

1/ 15/ 06

### Intro

In the earlier part of this chapter, Paul is found defending his position as an Apostle with godly authority. He wrote that the “proof was in the pudding.” They are that proof. They were transformed by the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote that his adequacy was from the Lord. It is the Holy Spirit that gives life, it is the Law that kills – these comments were made to address some people who had come into the church with a message that if they were to having eternal life, they must live by the Old Testament Laws.

Paul then takes the rest of the chapter to address the issue of life and power in the Holy Spirit.

The Law came with glory that faded away, but the Spirit comes with an unfading glory. And the Spirit of the living God comes with glory that changes us – that is the point. Moses was changed for a short time, we are changed forever.

### **These are principles of being changed by the Holy Spirit who comes with unfading glory.**

#### **I. We No Longer Need to Hide**

##### A. My glory is not my own

- This analogy comes from the scriptures that describe Moses going up on Mt. Sinai and receiving the law. When he was in God’s presence, he received glory, but it faded.

- Verse 13 tells us that Moses put a veil over his face so that his fellow Jews wouldn’t see that it was fading.
- He wanted them to think he was something he wasn’t. Veils keep people from looking in.

**Illus – Veils over the heart hide the fact that the end of self effort is death. We don’t want others to see it and we don’t want to see it ourselves.**

**John 9:39, And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”**

- The good news of the gospel is that I don’t have to pretend with God. No one gets into heaven by his own glory...

**Psalm 84:11-12, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in You!”**

##### B. Some people don’t want to see

- Self-deception is a great danger.
- We hide from the truth when we have no hope.

**Illus – When I was 18 and just getting started on my own, I let me checking account get overdrawn. Then I noticed that I didn’t open the letters from the bank. I didn’t want to know the truth.**

**Illus – There is an old saying, “There is none so blind and he who refuses to see.”**

**Zechariah 7:11-12, “But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.”**

C. But turn to the Lord and the veil is taken away

- Verse 14-16 – whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- You don’t have to be afraid of the truth about ourselves or the truth about God because He has taken our sins upon Himself and loved us completely.

**Hebrews 4:16, “Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**

**II. Where the Spirit of the Lord is ...**

A. There is great boldness of speech

- Boldness in Christ comes from confidence of faith.
- There is a great strength that comes to us in knowing with all our heart that we are deeply loved and accepted in the Lord.
- But boldness in speech refers to using your words to point to the Lord.

**Illus – What we say with our words matters.**

**James 3:8-10, “But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”**

- That is why Paul writes that this comes from the Spirit within us.

**Matthew 12:34-35, “For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”**

B. There is freedom

- It is important that we understand what Paul is writing to use here, because many have misunderstood this and have concluded that Paul is allowing for worldly living.

**Galatians 5:1, 13, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”**

- Paul is writing about the freedom that comes because we don’t have to wear a veil to keep out the truth. We are now free to receive God’s love fully without any hesitation.
- Jesus said that he came that prisoners might be set free...

**Isaiah 61:1-2, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”**

### **III. God is Transforming Us**

#### **A. Look in the mirror with unveiled face**

- To be transformed is to be changed.
- The key is to be able to look in the mirror with the veil removed.

**Illus – I was listening to an advertisement for eHarmony. It was interesting that every quote was saying, “I am loved for who I am.” Everyone desires to be accepted, but we often look to people for that which only God can do.**

- We need to know that we are accepted by God and loved unconditionally.

**Romans 8:38-39, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

- To be transformed is to be made new.

**II Corinthians 5:17-18, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things**

**are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,”**

#### **B. Continuous beholding brings continuous change**

- The reason that our glory does not end is because He gave us the Holy Spirit as a pledge. He promised that He would never leave us or forsake us.
- We have become adopted as children of God and that is a continuous relationship.
- The key is to stay in close fellowship with the Lord.

**Colossians 3:15-16, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you.”**

- The Word of God will renew our hearts and minds.

**Romans 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

#### **C. From glory to glory**

- Step by step. Not all at once, poco a poco.

**Illus – I remember how God worked on me one day at a time, one step at a time, and He is still doing this today.**

### **Conclusion**

**The best place we could possibly be is the place nearest to the Lord. Anywhere else is empty and lonely.**