

The Veil and the Glory

Exodus 34:29-35

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Intro

When Moses had received the Law of God on Mount Sinai, he came down to find the people had fallen into terrible sin by asking Aaron make a golden calf, he became so angry that he threw down the tablets of stone the Law was written on.

God later told him to bring two more stone tablets up to the mountain and he would write the words of the Law upon them again. That is where we find Moses in Exodus chapter 34. Then it came about that as Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai that Moses did not realize that his face was actually shining with the brilliance of God's glory.

I believe this was the condition in which man was originally created. The scriptures tells us that it was only after Adam and Eve sinned did they realize that they were naked. They were in God's presence and they were filled with His glory.

When people saw Moses' face shining with glory, they were afraid to come near him, so Moses decided to put a veil over his face. At first glance it may appear that Moses put a veil over his face so that people would not be afraid, but we learn in 2 Corinthians chapter 3 that the reason for the veil was so that people would not see that the glory was fading away.

There is a tremendous amount of insight that we need from these verses that have to do with both the veil and the glory. It has everything to do with what God desires to do in our lives as believers in Jesus Christ.

I. God's Goal is to Transform Us

A. Into the image of God's Son

- Moses went up on Mt. Sinai and as he was in God's presence he received glory. God's glory was affecting his life because of how near he was to God's presence.
- What people saw was God's glory, not Moses' glory.
- There is something similar that happens in the life of the believer in Jesus Christ. See what Paul says to the church in Corinth.

2 Corinthians 3:7-8, But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be

even more with glory?

- Paul says that the glory that comes into the Christian's life is because the Holy Spirit is there in heart of the one who trusts in Christ.
- The work of the Holy Spirit will then be to glorify Jesus Christ.

John 16:13-14, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. *He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*"

- We all love to read Romans 8:28, but we need to see that it only makes sense in the context of verse 29.

Romans 8:28-29 We are being conformed into His image

B. The Spirit is God's presence within

- God's goal is to transform us into the character, attitude, heart and actions of Christ in our lives.
- So He gives the Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer to bring that transformation. This is very important to understand. Moses' glory was fading when he was away from the presence of God, ***but we have the very presence of God within us.***
- Paul tells us that Moses put a veil over his face so that his fellow Jews wouldn't see that the glory was fading.

2 Corinthians 3:13, and (we) are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

- But the Holy Spirit is an eternal well of life springing up within the soul.

John 4:14, "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

- External changes then are seen in our lives when there is an internal glory, or fire, if you will, that comes from the glory of God's Holy Spirit.

Illus – When Chuck Smith started reaching the hippies of the 60's, he knew that if God could work on the inside, then the outside would follow.

Illus – the external shell of a kernel of popcorn cannot hold back when the inside has been heated and expands. In other words, the outside shell gives way to what is

happening on the inside. In fact what was on the inside was much greater than the shell that was holding it back!

- What a contrast to the bending of the character, the iniquity, that comes to us from our family's past.

C. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God

- God puts His Spirit within us to transform us into the image of His son, Jesus Christ, but how does that happen?
- Paul gave that insight to the church at Corinth when we wrote...

2 Corinthians 3:17, Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. NIV

- 1 Transformation is freedom from the lies of the past, from the oppression of worldly addictions.
- 2 The Holy Spirit is the agent that brings transformation, but He uses the Word of God in our lives to bring about that transformation.
- 3 **In other words, the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to transform us into the image of the Son of God.**
- 4 We must have both the Spirit of God and the Word of God in order for there to be true and lasting transformation.
- 5 Jesus told the Samaritan woman....

John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

- 1 In other words, it's possible to study the word of God and not be changed at all.

App – The Holy Spirit takes the words of God and lifts them from the page and writes them on your heart so that you *experience the truth* of those words and experience the One who is the Word of God.

Illus – Someone gave Jordi and me a gift certificate at a nice restaurant and when we went there it was busy so we took a menu and sat and waited. We read through the entire menu and got hungrier because of it, but then after we read through the menu we didn't get up and leave, we hadn't eaten anything yet!

- 2 You can read about how much God loves you and you can have a pastor tell you how much God loves you, but until you have experienced the love of God you

will not be changed.

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II. The Veil Must be Removed

- 1 Moses kept a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not see that God's glory was fading.
- 2 This becomes an interesting picture of what was happening in their hearts and in fact happens in the hearts of many people today.

A. The Word of God is like a mirror

- 1 In Exodus 29 we were studying that they were to make a laver of bronze in which the priests were to wash their hands before the Lord.
- 2 Later we read that they made this from the looking-glasses, or the mirrors from the women.
- 3 The bible speaks about the Word of God washing us, so how appropriate that they would have the mirror that also represents the Word of God.

4) James 1:22-25 How to be a doer of the Word

- 1 How do we come to the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit writes it upon our hearts? Paul gives the answer to the church in Corinth...

2 Corinthians 3:18, But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- 2 Moses used a veil because he didn't want them to see that the glory was fading. People put a veil over their lives when they don't want others to see what is really happening in their lives.

B. We must come to God with no veil at all

- 1 When we come to God with a veil over our hearts, we separate ourselves from the work of transformation that God wants to do through the Holy Spirit.
- 2 We put a veil over our hearts when we don't want God to see, and frankly, because we don't want to see either.
- 3 Self-deception is a great danger. We hide from the truth when we have no hope.

- 7) **Illus – When I was 18 and just starting out 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.**
- 8) **Illus – There is an old saying, “There is none so blind and he who refuses to see.”**
- 9) **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.”**
 - 3 If we come to God with a veil and we are not willing to be real with God, there is no way that God's Word can have any effect and we are not changed at all.
 - 4 He is the Spirit of Truth and will only change us when we willingly desire the truth.

7) **Psalm 51:6, Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being**

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C. Look intently at the Word of Truth

- 1 Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:18, “We all, with unveiled face, *beholding* as in a mirror.” That word means to look intently at what the Word of God is showing you in your life.
 - 2 In James 1 when he wrote that we should not be like a man beholding in a mirror, he used a word that means, “a male.”
- 9) **Illus – a man will only glance at a mirror, but a woman will behold in a mirror. Women may even have a series of mirrors they use to get started in their day.**
- 1 Look intently at the glory of the Lord. Why is this so important? Because we are going from glory to glory. “We are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,” Paul wrote.
 - 2 Don't be satisfied by staying in whatever place you are now, when God says that He has something so much greater for you. Be changed from glory to glory.
 - 3 That happens when you behold Jesus and then His glory comes into your life because he is creating a relationship to you.
 - 4 Look intently and see the glory of His Son.

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.”